

## THINKERS &amp; DOERS

## COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT

## Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From July 2019 to July 2021

**Part 1: Statement of continued support by the President of Thinkers & Doers, Ms. Amandine Lepoutre**

I am pleased to confirm that Thinkers & Doers reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Reducing Inequalities and discrimination, Gender Equality and Environment. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organisation has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an international think and do tank organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our various stakeholders using our different channels of communication.

We look forward to working every more closely with other members of the Global Compact, particularly in the Europe and MENA region networks to help us achieve this objective.

Sincerely yours,



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**Amandine Lepoutre,**

*President and Co-founder*

*Thinkers & Doers*

## Parts 2: Description of Actions & Measurement of Outcomes

Pandemic, economic crisis, social tensions, democratic destabilization, wars, boom of inequalities, explosion of extreme poverty ... 2020-2030, **10 years** that should allow us to achieve the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) assigned by the United Nations seem very dark if we observe how the Covid-19 crisis has deepened the **inequalities**.

The situation looks more alarming every day and it is definitely intolerable to note on one hand the enormous opportunities, unmatched in the past, enjoyed by most societies, and on the other hand the lack of action of our governments and representatives.

As a global think tank, Thinkers & Doers **promote socio-economic progress, create coalitions for action and produce concrete and actionable solution reports** that we present to governments, international organizations, and corporates. To accompany the exit from the crisis, communication must fully play its role as a catalyst of the founding principles of **democratic life: dialogue with citizens, transparency, and accountability**.

We constantly strive to strengthen our policies, procedures, and ways of working to ensure that we uphold our values and promote the UN Global Compact principles.

In this Communication on Engagement, we have described some of the actions we have taken to support the UN Global Compact and its principles over the period from July 2019 to July 2021.

### Description of actions

#### Principle 1, 6, 7 & 8: Human Rights, Reducing inequalities and Discrimination & Protecting Environment

Inequalities are the root causes of several major issues putting the world at risk. **Tackling inequalities** will be the challenge of tomorrow, to ensure peaceful, fair, and sustainable societies.

Thinkers & Doers has been working in providing a platform to build a new narrative on inclusive growth and to accelerate business solutions to tackle inequality.

We have been mobilized since December 2020 on a project called the "**Public Policy of Recognition: the question of the first mile**". It comprises of applied research to explore the possibilities of orienting a public policy around the principle of recognition. The objective is to suggest local and national solutions to address feelings of humiliation, relegation,

discrimination and exclusion in society. It is based on a substantial body of philosophical work that is still little known in France. It is supported by field investigations in different cities in France. The ambition is to contribute to establishing **new norms for public action and to reconstruct a more inclusive national narrative.**

We have been actively involved in promoting gender equality. Among the initiatives, Thinkers & Doers has launched the **Equality for 99%** circle in 2019. Its mission is to create a dynamic global community of ambassadors with the vision, courage, and influence to promote inclusive growth around the world. The Equality for 99% Circle chose Abu Dhabi, to host its first regional meeting, on December 11, 2019. This first regional meeting of Ambassadors allowed this new community to work together, during a closed workshop, on the theme of “Inclusive Growth: tools and means for a greater impact”. Together, Ambassadors collectively explored ways to collectively build an effective advocacy program, around the role of business for inclusive growth, and think about the most effective levers on how business and education can cooperate to reduce inequalities.

Every year, Thinkers & Doers organizes, as well, a ranking of the best initiatives and personalities who support change, by publicizing their journey through international media partnerships.

Within Thinkers & Doers’ team, women represent a large majority of the top management positions. We believe gender equality in the workplace is a matter of social justice, which is a condition for sustained market economy development.

Moreover, Thinkers & Doers is committed to promote gender equality and diversity through the events organized. For example, the **General Assembly of Corporate Citizens** in 2019 and the digital international conference Re-act in 2020 were conceived to ensure an all-encompassing representativity of the diversity embodied by the concerned actors. The panel discussions considered:

- Gender equality (having at least 40% of female participants));
- Geographic representativity (Europe, Africa, North America, MENA);
- Professional profiles ensuring a fair representativity of the stakeholders: political and economic decision-makers; institutions; experts; entrepreneurs; top management (multinational corporations, medium-sized and small businesses); NGO...
- Representativity by age group (good representativity of the working population throughout the different geographic areas).

The panels’ diversity enabled a global vision over the issues discussed. It reflected a shared awareness and will to act concretely for the development of inclusive growth in all the economic sectors and institutions, regardless of size, location, and classification factors.

Céline Mas (President, UN Women France), Najat Vallaud Belkacem (Director France, ONE) and Monique Villa (Founder of Trust Conference, TrustLaw and Stop Slavery Awards and the Thomson Reuters Foundation) were part of these conferences.

Furthermore, the Think Tank constantly develops and entertains **strategic partnerships with international institutional entities** (such as the OCDE, IFC) **and operating partnerships** (MakeSense, WAN, FAMAÉ, Great Green Wall Initiative, The Refugee Food ) to empower decision-makers, corporations, and leaders to act for impact and commit to concrete actions in the field of reducing inequalities and promoting gender equality.

Thinkers & Doers was part of the **B4IG board launched by the OECD** to connect business and public actions on inclusive growth, advancing human rights in direct operations and supply chains and strengthening inclusion in company value chains and business ecosystems. We have been working closely for many years with **the Refugee Food**, raising awareness of the situation of refugees, promoting heritage from elsewhere as we actively cultivate a culture that acknowledges, respects and values all dimensions of diversity and we stand with fundamental rights for all.

Finally, Thinkers & Doers has participated in **events aligned with the Global Compact and with making progress toward the SDGs**, including events hosted at the United Nations Conference Center in Ethiopia (Social Enterprise World Forum in October 2019, Addis Ababa) and the World Policy Forum, where our President, Ms. Amandine Lepoutre was part of a panel “The role of civil society and businesses for fostering recoupling”, curated and produced by Global Solutions Fellow, Marc Fleurbaey, Princeton University.

On the field of **environment**, Thinkers & Doers has developed a program “**The S in Action**” in 2021. We are conducting a consultation with 50 of Thinkers & Doers’ members and partners to answer the following question: will finance be the key to effectively fighting inequality, a prerequisite for exiting the crisis? In a study published in April 2019, the Global Impact Investing Network puts forward a more conservative (not to say restrictive) approach, calculating impact investments to be worth \$ 502 bn. Far from the \$ 5000 bn the UN estimate to be needed every year to reach the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The objectives of this program are to understand the stakes and the levers of action in order to identify precise measurement criteria to direct investments towards the “S” of ESG criteria in the logic of recovery after the pandemic.

Thinkers & Doers has also developed a **partnership with some media** including the French Magazine, *Challenges*. Our President is weekly publishing Tribunes and interviews on subjects and people linked to the “Green Economy”.

We have been nurturing a **close relationship with the educational and academic world** to promote all these values and commitments. Ms Amandine Lepoutre, Thinkers & Doers’ president is teaching a graduate course at Sciences Po Paris focused on the economic and political transition, including lectures and interviews which necessitate private sector partnership and engagement.

### Parts 3: Measurement of Outcomes

- The use of Global Compact resources as references in Thinkers & Doers publications furthers public awareness of the Compact while supporting progress toward the achievement of specific SDG targets and ultimately the SDGs.
- We empower communities to take resource management decisions, working within the realities of population pressure, poverty, an increasing demand for energy and resources and the impacts of a changing climate.
- Through our reports, we are gathering our network, highlighting the major trends in the gender equality, environment, and inequalities fields, aggregating experts' visions and mapping key recommendations.
- Beyond specific partnerships, Thinkers & Doers has worked to promote responsible business performance in line with the Global Compact principles.
- Thinkers & Doers is using an Open Consultancy approach method. It consists in bringing out ideas and solutions from diverse actors. Crossing perspectives to bring original and pragmatic solutions. Testing, challenging and refining ideas. These are our objectives. Citizen consultations in partnership with specialized platforms such as make.org to test and validate intuitive solutions. These consultations allow us to question a wider public and use a more quantitative approach.