



## COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement: *July 2019 – July 2021*

### **Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chairwoman of the Executive Board**

18.07.21

*To our stakeholders:*

*I am pleased to confirm that She Matters reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.*

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

*Sincerely yours,*

*Christina Moreno*

*Chairwoman of the Executive Board*

### **Part II. Description of Actions**

We hereby confirm the following actions taken by our organisation, as an NGO in relation to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles:

She Matters main principle and aim is to empower women with a refugee or forced migration background (hereinafter 'female newcomers') to build their social and economic capital, boost their self-confidence and become leaders in their homes, businesses and communities. Our main focus is partnering with private sector companies to provide female newcomers with a career readiness training programme (our Lotus Flower Programme), female mentorship and employment opportunities.

We also aim to raise awareness about the economic empowerment of female newcomers, incorporating the UN Global Compact principles into our outreach efforts. We distribute



newsletters and make blog posts and articles on our website and on the website of our sister organisations – Refugee Pathways, Vrije Universiteit, Refugee Academy and others.

Our flagship project is our Lotus Flower Programme. The main goal of the Lotus Flower Programme is to empower female newcomers with future proof skills, with a focus on digital skills development, female mentorship and employment opportunities. The specific objectives of the project are structured as follows:

1. Initiating, organising, guiding and supporting educational activities in the fields of engineering, business services, ICT, such as classes, courses and workshops;
2. Establishing and fostering the connection between our participants and companies from the industries listed above;
3. Establishing and fostering the connection with third parties as long as they may be meaningful to the mission of our organisation.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are at the core of the project and we focus our work to achieve the above set objectives.

Through our project, we engage private sector companies in the above issues and tackle challenges such as social and economic participation, decent work and economic growth, reduced inequalities, quality education and gender equality. Through the chairwoman's speaking seminars, we further explore and inform about the Sustainable Development Goals and the Ten Principles. We encourage businesses to take further and stronger steps and roles to embrace and follow activities that are aligned with the global values, goals and challenges. We believe the private sector has an opportunity and responsibility to bring great talent and the unbreakable human spirit of female newcomers into the workforce, to strengthening societies and economies. They are the key to systemic change.

In summary, we take up actions and activities to raise awareness of our community, female newcomers, stakeholders, partners; we also have specific and particular project and initiatives to provide materials, outcomes, information and encourage everyone across disciplines to act and embrace their social responsibility.

We engage with the Global Compact Network in the Netherlands by attending and participating in the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit, Inclusive Business Partnerships Virtual Workshop, SDG Flag campaign.

We promote and disseminate the events, initiatives and activities of the Netherlands Network of the UN Global Compact and participate in Global Compact local events of the Netherlands network and initiatives to our participants such as: *'The Young Professionals Program (YPP)'*.



### Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

Expertise provided by She Matters in terms of social and economic participation, decent work and economic growth, reduced inequalities, quality education and gender equality to further the aims of Global Compact Local Network in the Netherlands.

The chairwoman of our organisation has participated as a keynote speaker in 2 in-person and 3 virtual seminars with multinational companies in the past two years related directly to the UN Global Compact Principles. One seminar in particular was Mercer's Responsible Employment Forum held in London whereby some of the top 250 multinational companies were in attendance and resulted in key partnerships for the organisation.

Project partnerships formalised with mutual aims to advance the UN Global Compact principles – we have concluded 3 Lotus Flower Programmes in the past two years related directly to the UN Global Compact Principles and have secured 2 groundbreaking partnerships with private sector companies.

Our work has been featured in national and international publications. One highlight in particular was a multi-marketed documentary by Arte, which showcased our work in the Netherlands, UK, Belgium, France and Germany.

We have raised awareness about the UN Global Compact Principles through our social media channels, which in total is over 4,000 followers.

She Matters is a part of Vrije Universiteit, Refugee Academy's 'Learning Crossroads for Refugee Inclusion' with a focus on promoting the social participation and inclusion of refugees in the Netherlands. The project aims to promote the social participation and inclusion of refugees by making initiatives such as our more visible, sustainable, and whereby similar initiatives can learn from each other.

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