



ASPIRE CORONATION TRUST FOUNDATION

UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT Communication On Engagement (COE)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement:

September 13, 2019 to September 13, 2021

STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT

September 6, 2021

To our stakeholders,

I am pleased to confirm that Aspire Coronation Trust (ACT) Foundation 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 any feedback on its contents.

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

Sincerely yours,

Osayi Alile

Chief Executive Officer

Aspire Coronation Trust (ACT) Foundation

ABOUT ASPIRE CORONATION TRUST (ACT) FOUNDATION

Aspire Coronation Trust (ACT) Foundation is a grant-making non-profit organization established in 2016 to support local, national and regional non-profit organizations working to address challenges and associated vulnerabilities across the African Continent. We promote broad-based participation/partnership with other institutions and donor organizations aimed at building sustainable communities and to provide innovative solutions to social, economic, and environmental challenges.

VISION: TO LEVERAGE RELATIONSHIPS TO CREATE EFFECTIVE SOCIAL IMPACT SOLUTIONS ACROSS AFRICA

MISSION: TO BUILD SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES BY ENGAGING INITIATIVES THAT UNLEASHES POTENTIAL AND EMPOWERS BENEFICIARIES

FOCUS AREAS

			
HEALTH	ENVIRONMENT	LEADERSHIP	ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Malaria	Water and Sanitation	Leadership	Vocational Education and Skills Acquisition
Maternal and Child Health	Waste Management	Development	Financial Inclusion
Cancer			

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS

The following summaries describe the actions which ACT Foundation has undertaken in support of the United Nations (UN) Global Compact:

a) Supporting the UN Global Compact within our operations, strategies and activities by partnering with and backing social enterprises participating in work that advances the UN Global Compact principles

- ACT Foundation has made progress in support of the principles of the UN Global Compact by adopting them through our key operations, including our grant cycle where the Foundation partners with non-profit organizations across the African continent to implement and support specific projects. Since inception, we have supported over 70 organizations in piloting significant change across four (4) focus areas - Health, Entrepreneurship, Leadership, and Environment.
- Within our internal operations, the Foundation maintains high standards that adopt to best practices in the maintenance of human and labour rights as well as upholding good environmental and anti-corruption practices.

b) Propose, develop and implement partnerships on corporate sustainability and engage with other stakeholders.

- ACT Foundation has made significant partnerships that enable us to improve our initiatives and operations, benefit from sector-specific knowledge from different businesses, increase our social impact and reach and advance overall corporate sustainability, key UN Global Compact objectives and actions in support of UN issues and goals.

c) Engage with Global Compact Local Networks.

- Moreover, ACT Foundation has engaged with several organisations working on Global Compact-related issues – including human, labour, environment and anti-corruption rights.
- The Foundation has continued to build dialogues and partnerships, as well as provide expertise, with companies and NGOs involved in the UN Global Compact to support the adoption of policies and strategies as well as the implementation of initiatives that advance relevant sustainability efforts.

d) Join and support issue platforms and work streams.

- Within our organization, we have managed to develop and carry out substantive projects and workstreams that provide opportunities for capacity development and collaboration among business, non-governmental, civil society and social sector stakeholders. These efforts connect stakeholders with common interests and comparative advantages, and ultimately ensure the sustainability of NGOs, NPOs and CBOs through organizational development, impact measurement, monitoring and evaluation, board governance and support, financial management, communication and much more.
- ACT Foundation has continuously supported major issue platforms within the UN Sustainable Development Goals through investment in social enterprises that reduce poverty, empower women, address climate change, ensure effective water and waste management and further facilitate partnerships for the goals. ACT Foundation has embedded the SDGs into its strategies and operations, as well as its efforts to support societal challenges and priorities.

MEASUREMENT OF OUTCOMES

The following qualitative and quantitative indicators signify the means to measure the outcomes of ACT Foundation's aforementioned activities:

a) Supporting the UN Global Compact within our operations, strategies and activities by partnering with and backing social enterprises participating in work that advances the UN Global Compact principles

- The following breakdown shall highlight indicators of concrete actions and activities within our grantmaking efforts in our four focus areas – Health, Entrepreneurship, Environment and Leadership – that have been taken by the Foundation in support of the Global Compact principles:
 - **Human Rights:** Since 2019, ACT Foundation has supported and implemented over 70 initiatives that respect internationally proclaimed Human Rights and address specific human rights' risks including women and gender equality, children's rights and the rights of Persons with Disabilities.
 - **Labour:** ACT Foundation has partnered with two (2) organisations within our focus area of Entrepreneurship - Stanforte Edge and the IREDE Foundation - that tie in specifically with **Principle 6** of the UN Global Compact through their efforts towards the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and

occupation within Nigerian society. In 2020, Stanforte Edge empowered 50 businesses led by persons with disabilities (PWD) and provided disability inclusion workshops for private organisations whilst the IREDE Foundation aims to train and mentor over a 100 young PWDs through capacity building programs that amount to employment opportunities by the end of 2021.

- **Anti-Corruption:** Through specific projects focused on the development of thought leadership and national development, ACT Foundation has managed to address key issues and risks related to anti-corruption and bribery. Specifically, the Foundation partners with the Corporate Social Responsibility Advancement and Awareness Initiative (CSR-in-Action), a UN Global Compact member, on the GOOD Citizen radio show. Special topics covered within their programming - aimed at inspiring value system reorientation, driven through citizen participation - develop values such as integrity, honesty, hard work, fairness, etc. amongst hundreds of thousands of monthly listeners in alignment with **Principle 10** of the UN Global Compact, and raise awareness on certain anti-corruption issues in order to drive key members of the society, whether it be the individual, private or public sector, to work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.
- **Environment:** To accelerate progress on **Principles 8 and 9** in addressing unprecedented, interconnected environmental challenges in areas including climate change, clean water, ocean health and biodiversity, the Foundation has made efforts to support six (6) organisations – African Cleanup Initiative, Angel Support Foundation, FABE International Foundation, Development Initiative of West Africa, eTrash2Cash Nigeria and LBS Sustainability Centre of Pan-Atlantic University Foundation - in implementing initiatives that promote awareness on mitigation and adaptation strategies, facilitate sustainable waste management and WASH practices and aid climate action at grassroots, public and private levels and contribute to environmental sustainability.
- ACT Foundation maintains high ethical standards and policies that do not tolerate any improper activities including bribery or fraud. Besides maintaining Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) policies that ensure the health, safety and welfare of its employees, the Foundation also adopted environmental protection policies – which include recycling and energy consumption mandates - to ensure it is mindful of the impact of its activities on the environment and that employees reduce pollution, waste and energy consumption while carrying out their duties.
- The Foundation has adopted employment practices, within its policies, that provide equal opportunities for all employees, with respect of human rights, and continues to work on strengthening a culture of mutual respect, trust and openness.

b) Propose, develop and implement partnerships on corporate sustainability and engage with other stakeholders.

- As part of our support for the UN Global Compact's aims, our Foundation has proposed, developed and implemented partnership projects on corporate sustainability and formalized specific partnerships with mutual aims to advance the UN Global Compact principles.
- ACT Foundation piloted its **Professional Volunteer Programme (PVP)** in 2019 to provide expert and quality support to development organizations within its network and contribute to the sustainability of their programmes and implementation processes. This programme, which forges partnerships between the private and social sector, has connected 16 professionals - who have banked up to 20 hours - to volunteer their expertise and services and provide necessary technical support to social sector organisations with areas of need. The Foundation has officially partnered with the pool of employees within British American Tobacco Nigeria and Microsoft Corporation, a UN Global Compact member, to volunteer as consultants for the program in the coming years.
- As part of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, ACT Foundation contributed to Nigerian response efforts by partnering with **Novartis** and launching an initiative that provided 26, 840 units of personal protective equipment (including surgical and cloth facemasks, latex gloves, face shields and hand sanitizers) to primary frontline medical workers as well as the distribution of IEC materials across three (3) selected Nigerian states – Lagos, Edo and Kano - that were hotspots for the virus. This initiative brought about a partnership with another active participant of the UN Global Compact (**Novartis**) that aligns its sustainability strategies, policies and activities with the 10 Principles and stakeholder expectations.
- In 2020, the Foundation joined a technical working group for the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) - a body at the heart of the UN system with a focus on advancing economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.
- The Foundation also became a member of Concordia – an expansive community of institutions and individuals spanning across different industries and geographies - to join greater networks and efforts that address the most complex and challenging global issues and create partnerships with stakeholders that advance our organizational objectives and the UN Global Compact goals.

c) Engage with Global Compact Local Networks.

- Several organisations within the Global Compact Local Network, which the Foundation has supported in the past two years, include CSR-in-Action and Hacey Health Initiative. CSR-in-Action has continued to enable a platform for business and individual networking on sustainable social responsibility and development in Nigeria whilst Hacey Health initiative has provided sustainable solutions to improving the health and productivity of vulnerable and underserved populations by providing access to clean safe water.
- In 2021, the Foundation joined a UN Global Compact participant, the Nigerian Network of Non-Governmental Organisations (NNNGOs), as a sponsor member to contribute to and further strengthen their efforts to build accountable and inclusive organisations, and build the capacity of nonprofits to catalyze economic and social development.
- We publicized our commitment to UN Global Compact amongst our stakeholders, partners and networks to ensure that other organizations can mirror our obligations to the UN Global Compact's principles, and also increase the likelihood of our partners adopting these principles within their organizational strategies, policies and procedures.
- Finally, ACT Foundation contributed to the provision of expertise to further the aims of corporate and public sustainability as well as Global Compact Local Networks in Nigeria and Africa. [The Impact of COVID-19 on Social Change Organisations in Africa](#) was a research report published by ACT Foundation in 2020 based on evidence collected through an online survey conducted to assess the extent and effect of COVID-19 on the services, operations and people of social sector organisations. The research - which considered the survey responses of 434 organisations representing 27 African countries - informed discussions and decisions around recovery, support and shaping the future of the African social impact sector, and provided critical insights on the most impactful ways for funders to allocate resources.

d) Join and support issue platforms and work streams.

- The Foundation also developed special initiatives and work streams - including our annual multistakeholder conference known as *Breakfast Dialogue* and our monthly capacity building trainings for sector leaders known as *Open Conversations* - that ensure sector sustainability and support the UN Compact Goals:
 - The 4th edition of the **ACT Foundation Breakfast Dialogue**, which was themed, "Tech for Good: Fostering Social Innovation and Digital Investments for Transformative Change" occurred on the 29th and 30th of

September, 2020 and virtually engaged an average of 200 participants in a cross-fertilization of ideas on bridging Africa's digital divide and mobilizing technology to address the rising negative impacts and setbacks of the pandemic on vulnerable populations and Africa's overall growth and development. Our upcoming session on the 14th and 15th September, 2021 shall aim to reach over 500 participants with dialogues on the theme of "Reimagining the Future of Development: Learn, Adjust, Thrive!"

- Since our commitment to the Global Compact, we have conducted over five (5) **Open Conversation** sessions, with an average of at least 100 participants per session, providing key insights for participants into trends, new developments and opportunities to drive growth and sustainability for the sector.

- Since 2019, the Foundation has continued to support nonprofit and social enterprise organizations across different parts of Nigeria and Sub-Saharan Africa in carrying out impactful and sustainable programmes. These funded programmes have remained a demonstration of the Foundation's commitment towards achieving the Sustainable **Development Goals 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16 and 17** of the global initiative known as Agenda 2030.
 - The Foundation has supported **twenty-six (26)** West African initiatives that focused on the assurance of good health and well-being for its targeted beneficiaries in alliance with **SDG Goal 3**. These initiatives – which were implemented by organisations such as Youth Empowerment and Development Initiative, Sebecly Cancer Care, Project Pink Blue, Lifebank Technologies, Post-Partum Support Network, VisionSpring in partnership with Eleta Eye institute, Mentally Aware Nigeria, Stand to End Rape Initiative, Hacey Health Initiative, Dr. Ameyo Stella Adadevoh (DRASA) Health Trust, HelpMum, Women at Risk International Foundation, AMEN Healthcare and Empowerment Foundation in partnership with the END Fund and Girlsaide Initiative - have facilitated better health care services for vulnerable and marginalized groups in the challenging areas of Malaria, Cancer (Breast, Cervical & Prostate) and Maternal & Child Health.
 - The Foundation funded **twenty-five (25)** initiatives in the focus area of Entrepreneurship, which invoked entrepreneurial endeavours that have improved the livelihoods of vulnerable and disadvantaged populations through the provision of skills acquisition, financial inclusion and literacy education, and have - through its achieved results – demonstrated commitment to the achievement of **SDG Goals 8, 9 and 12**.
 - Our **twelve (12)** funded initiatives implemented in the focus area of Leadership have – through its achieved results in the development of leadership skills of individuals in governance and economic, organizational,

- and professional development – demonstrated commitment to the achievement of **SDG Goals 11, 16 and 17**.
- Our **ten (10)** funded initiatives implemented in the focus area of Environment have - through its achieved results in guaranteeing environmental sustainability for future generations – demonstrated commitment to the achievement of **SDG Goals 6 and 15**.
 - Within the Foundation's organizational strategy, the aforementioned SDGs linked to our four focus areas ultimately lead to and have a direct impact on the achievement of UN Sustainable Development **Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 13 and 14**.
 - Regarding the issue of women's empowerment, the Foundation has supported **eleven (11)** Nigerian organisations – Adara Empowerment Foundation, Women in Management, Business & Public Service (WIMBIZ), Nuru Nigeria, Lighthouse Women's Foundation, Visiola Foundation, Women at Risk International Foundation, Women in Successful Careers (WISCAR), African Women's Entrepreneurship Project (AWEP), Working to Advance STEM Education for African Women (WAAW) Foundation, Women's Technology Empowerment Centre (W.TEC) and Stand to End Rape Initiative – involved in the promotion of gender equality and the advancement of women's rights in Nigerian society through the development of female entrepreneurship skills and economic, agricultural, educational and financial capacity building programs, as well as the establishment of necessary protections and standards that prevent violence against women and girls, and ensure equal access to justice, safety and security.
 - Furthermore, to empower women who suffered the brunt of the economic and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic within Nigeria, the Foundation partnered with **Unilever's Sunlight Nigeria on Women Empowerment Grants** in 2020 to support **two (2)** women-led organisations – Save our Needy Organisation and Grow with Data Youth Foundation – in empowering and equipping 65 youths and women in Lagos and Adamawa states with necessary skills in technology and entrepreneurship.

ACT Foundation acknowledges that businesses can become vessels for good and therefore will continue to uphold its commitment to advancing the UN Global Compact's goals and principles, and all organisations that do the same towards the good and sustainability of the globe. Important progress has been made but certain effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and increases in climate change have deepened and widened existing inequalities. Therefore, Foundation shall strengthen its efforts to unite with its stakeholders and work harder towards achieving the Global Goals by 2030.