



COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE) WITH THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT

Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations (AACCSA)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement: October 2019- September 2021

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive

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ADDIS ABABA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND SECTORAL ASSOCIATIONS

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To our Members and Stakeholders

Re: Communication of Engagement

Dear Members and Stakeholders,

I am pleased to confirm that Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations (AACCSA) 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 (COE) with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this COE, we have described the activities that our organization has taken in the past two years starting from October 2019 to September 2021 to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for business associations. We also commit to sharing this information with our members and stakeholders using our primary channels of communication such as our newspaper, television program, and website.

Sincerely yours,


Getachew Regassa
Secretary General



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Part II and III. Description of Actions and Measurement of Outcomes

AACCSA has taken the following major actions to support the UN Global Compact principles and to engage with the initiative during this COE period.

1. Awareness raising workshop on corporate governance and the UNGC principles was organized in cooperation with the Confederation of Danish Industry (DI) for businesses in the dairy value chain and for stakeholders on October 8, 2019 where 24 participants have attended and out of this 7 (close to 1/3) were women. The composition of participants includes businesses in the dairy value chain, pertinent government regulatory bodies, higher academic institutions, and non-profit business associations. The workshop introduced businesses, which had never heard about the UNGC, with the UNGC principles.
2. Because AACCSA aspires to host the Secretariat for a UNGC Local Network in Ethiopia, two AACCSA staff has participated in an experience sharing work visit to the Global Compact Network Kenya at Nairobi from November 19-20, 2019 with the support of the DI. AACCSA was invited to attend the UN Global Compact Network Kenya's Annual General Assembly as an observer and to participate at the UN Global Compact Value Proposition Workshop that was presented by the UNGC Participant Engagement Senior Manager. During the work visit, the Global Compact Network Kenya Secretariat arranged an exclusive experience sharing meeting with the AACCSA team and the Executive Director of the Network has made an in-depth explanation about the Network. The experience sharing work visit helped AACCSA to develop a plan to attract new participants to the UNGC and in the long run to host the Secretariat for the Local Network in Ethiopia.
3. AACCSA has organized a conference and panel discussion on the World Anti-corruption Day in cooperation with the Federal Ethics and Anti-corruption Commission (FEAC) and the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) on December 5, 2019 where 100 participants have attended the event. During the conference, three papers were presented and panel discussion was conducted based on the presentations made by three panelists from CIPE, FEAC, and a private consultant. The dialogue enhanced the understanding of the business community about the devastating impacts of corruption and encouraged them to take measures against corruption.
4. Newspaper coverage to introduce the UNGC was given on January 2020 under the Chamber's monthly newspaper in Amharic language called ንግድና ልማት (Nigidina Limat) which literally means Business & Development. In addition to this, following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, an article on the role of the private sector to control the pandemic was published in the same newspaper on February 2020.

5. AACCSA has been working on awareness raising activities and creating platforms that enables its members to engage in combating corruption from the grant it has received from its partner CIPE under a project that aimed at fighting corruption through the collective action of the business communities since September 1, 2020. Under this project AACCSA was able to publish 2000 awareness raising posters, provide 2 training on mitigating corruption, send ethical reminder short messages (SMS) to its members, and undertake other related activities to date. Through the awareness raising activities of this project, AACCSA has reached out to many businesses and stakeholders on the issue of anticorruption.
6. An awareness raising webinar on the UNGC and Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) was organized on September 16th, 2020 and 17 participants attended the event from the business community and DI invited guests. During the webinar three presentations were made focusing on introducing UNGC by the then Senior Manager of Global Operations of the UNGC, experience sharing of best practices from DI, and from Danish dairy industry.
7. AACCSA has developed a training module on Responsible Business Conduct with the support of DI in December 2020. The development of the module laid a foundation for providing training RBC as one course in its training program.
8. AACCSA has organized five training sessions on Mitigating Corruption Risks for Businesses in Global Value Chains including the last training that was conducted on August 3 & 4, 2021, in cooperation with CIPE. This training helped businesses to evaluate their companies' policies and compliance programs using the tools developed by CIPE.