



CDAC Network
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H.E. António Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017, USA

18 October 2021

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I am delighted to confirm CDAC Network's continued commitment to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles with respect to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. In this Communication on Engagement, we set out the activities that the CDAC Network has undertaken to support and engage with the UN Global Compact and its Principles over the past two years. We commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders, and we welcome feedback on its contents.

Yours faithfully,

Marian Casey-Maslen
Executive Director
CDAC Network

CDAC Network Communication on Engagement

Period covered: 26 September 2019 to 25 October 2021

Description of Actions and Measurement of Outcomes

The CDAC Network is a global alliance of more than 30 humanitarian and media development organisations – including Media Development and specialised communications entities, UN agencies (IOM, OCHA, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, WFP, WHO), the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, NGOs committed to reversing the focus of humanitarian and nexus decision-making – moving from global to local – using a communication and community engagement approach for better accountability and participation.

The CDAC Network remains fully committed to operating in a socially, environmentally and economically sustainable and responsible manner. The ten principles of the UN Global Compact are in alignment with the Network's organisational values and are therefore embedded in our culture, our new 2022-27 Strategic Plan, our policies and our programmes globally. We will continue to uphold the UN Global Compact's principles in all that we do and seek to encourage the organisations with which we engage to do likewise. These include our members as well as our donors and those with whom we engage in the private sector.

Since the CDAC Network became a signatory to the UN Global Compact, there is much that we have achieved that is relevant to the Ten Principles. Our [Annual Reports](#) detail the granular actions we have taken, but below we summarise some of our key activities and achievements from the past two years in relation to the principles.

Human rights

- **Principle 1:** Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
- **Principle 2:** make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

The CDAC Network is committed to supporting and respecting the protection of internationally recognised human rights in the ways in which we operate. We adhere to a robust Children and Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy that reflects best practice, both with regards to protecting children and vulnerable adults, and to treating everyone with respect and dignity, regardless of their age, ability, gender, civil status, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation. All CDAC Network staff and consultants sign up to these policies, and we cascade their application through our programmes, ensuring adherence among our members and partners.

The protection and promotion of human rights for people affected by crisis is also fundamental to the vision and mission of the CDAC Network, and we work hard to ensure that the rights of people affected by crisis – in particular, the right to be heard and have a say in decisions that impact their lives – are protected.

Since the CDAC Network's commitment to the UN Global Compact was first declared in September 2019, the CDAC Network has continued to take significant action to ensure its international programmes uphold human rights and do not risk becoming complicit in human rights abuses.

Labour

- **Principle 3:** Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
- **Principle 4:** the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
- **Principle 5:** the effective abolition of child labour; and
- **Principle 6:** the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

The CDAC Network strongly supports the labour principles under the UN Global Compact, and these are embedded in a number of the key policies including our Dignity at Work policy, that dictate the ways in which we operate. We are proud to be an equal opportunities employer and are fully committed to treating all of our employees, prospective employees, consultants and those who work with or for us equally.

CDAC is committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking within its own business. In March 2020, the CDAC Network Board adopted a statement on Modern Slavery, which outlines the steps taken to ensure its procurement processes and supply chains are at very low risk of supporting modern slavery of any kind. CDAC's staff are employed or engaged in the UK and are not in any category which is seen to be vulnerable to modern slavery or human trafficking. CDAC also views the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking through employment or contracting as low risk as it has policies in place that include provisions for background screening, assessing candidates' right to work in the UK, equal opportunities, anti-bribery and whistleblowing. CDAC encourages employees to report any potential instances of modern slavery or human trafficking to management.

While not directly involved in labour rights negotiations, the CDAC Network also actively promotes and facilitates collective action among crisis-affected people, through which we advocate for equal access to employment, training and livelihood opportunities.

Environment

- **Principle 7:** Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
- **Principle 8:** undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
- **Principle 9:** encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

CDAC Network (CDAC) is committed to ensuring that the people it works with and the people it serves are protected from potential adverse impacts of all programmes and projects supported or implemented by CDAC. CDAC seeks to comply with all local and international laws and regulations. While we are aware that CDAC's areas of work around ensuring more effective participation and accountability using a Communication and Community Engagement approach, falls outside the

remit of UK and EU Regulations and legislation requiring it to undertake Environmental and Social Impact Risk Assessments for its CCE projects, CDAC believes that it has a responsibility to the environment beyond legal and regulatory requirements. We are committed to reducing our environmental impact and we will encourage our members, associates, suppliers and other stakeholders to do the same.

The work of the CDAC Network is guided by our Environmental and Sustainability Policy, which outlines how the CDAC Network reduces its carbon footprint, by practicing the three “Rs”:

- **Reducing** consumption – not just of electricity, but of water and all natural resources and consumer goods
- **Reusing** items as long as they function, or find new uses for them, before replacing them
- **Recycling** our waste

In 2019, the CDAC Network began reducing the size of its headquarters, and adopting technologies that allowed staff to work from home. This shift served us well during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we were able to continue working at full capacity throughout.

In our programmes in Fiji and Vanuatu, and those in Burkina Faso, Sudan and Zimbabwe, we give careful consideration to the environmental sustainability of the projects, and the longer-term impact on environmental sustainability.

Anti-Corruption

- **Principle 10:** Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

The CDAC Network’s Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy is one of zero tolerance. This policy builds in the CDAC Code of Conduct which all staff are obliged to sign in relation to the prevention of Abuse of Power, Fraud, Corruption, and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. The Network believes that fraud and corruption is contrary to our fundamental values of integrity, transparency and accountability, and undermines organisational effectiveness.

The Network conducts its business in a legal and ethical manner. All staff and any other associated person acting on the Network’s behalf, including board members, are responsible for acting honestly and with integrity by ensuring that their activities, interests and behaviours do not conflict with these obligations, regardless of their seniority.

CDAC takes the most serious view of any attempt to commit fraud or corruption by members of staff, contractors, their employees and agents acting on behalf of CDAC, and others. Staff involved in impropriety of any kind will be subject to disciplinary action, including prosecution, if appropriate. CDAC treats attempted fraud as seriously as accomplished fraud.

CDAC is committed to the prevention of fraud and corruption and to the promotion of an anti-fraud and anti-corruption culture.

CDAC Network is committed to responsible fundraising to support the achievement of its global mission, and to this end instituted an Ethical Fundraising Policy in March 2019.

In addition, the Network has a robust system of due diligence both when applying for funds and grants from donors, and sub-contracting entities to assist with programming.

We continue to strive for the highest levels of transparency and accountability, and encourage our member organisations and those entities with which we partner to do the same.