



November 11, 2021

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that the International Association of Jesuit Business Schools reaffirms its support for the United Nations Global Compact and its ten principles in the areas of human rights, labor, the environment, and anti-corruption. This is our communication regarding engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome 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.

As an organization of higher education leaders dedicated to the promotion of ethical business leadership and the formation of future leaders of business around the world who are committed to sustainability, care for our planet, and concern for the marginalized in our world, we are proud to highlight the following two major activities that we have sponsored and/or been actively engaged in during the past year.

Our 26th Annual IAJBS World Forum was held virtually, and organized by our member institution, the ITESO University in Guadalajara, Mexico. The title of the conference, held from July 20-22, 2021, was **The Future of Jesuit Business Education: Serving the World with Inspired Business Education**. Over one hundred participants from around the globe listened to and discussed paper presentations on the topics of re-envisioning and re-creating the economics and business curricula, under the guiding concept that “Economic activity must serve the common good, especially by meeting the poor’s needs and the excluded.” (See <https://www.ignited.global/conferences/26th-annual-iajbs-world-forum-and-cjbe-22nd-annual-meeting>) The conference explored issues concerning “serving the world through innovative and sustainable business models,” such as alternative marketing, social economy, international business and multiculturalism, sustainable entrepreneurship, and financing a better world. (See <https://www.ignited.global/conferences/26th-annual-iajbs-world-forum-and-cjbe-22nd-annual-meeting>)

The conference also promoted and discussed another ongoing activity of IAJBS that involves representatives from faculty and administration from Jesuit higher education institutions around the world, the **New Inspired Paradigm for Jesuit Business Education**. As described on the 2021 World Forum website, <https://www.ignited.global/conferences/26th-annual-iajbs-world-forum-and-cjbe-22nd-annual-meeting>):

“The white paper, A New Inspired Paradigm for Jesuit Business Education, recognizes that despite significant economic progress in recent decades, extreme poverty persists, and environmental degradation continues across the globe. This is especially tragic for millions of people on the margins— the silent and unseen – including women, children, minorities, migrants, refugees, and indigenous communities excluded from the market system's benefits. The paper also addresses the impact of labor market disruptions due to outsourcing, artificial intelligence, and automation replacing work formerly done by humans, feeding into rising inequality.”

“Arturo Sosa, S.J., the superior general of the Society of Jesus, says the global coronavirus outbreak is a wake-up call to recognize the world's injustice that does not let millions of people live a dignified human life. This is an invitation for Jesuit universities, in particular business schools, to reenergize their mission and build opportunities for positive change.”

“The white paper asserts that the responsibility of Jesuit business schools, at a minimum, is to raise student awareness and to provide a framework for reflection while supporting students and faculty as they develop concrete ways in which they can become part of the solution to the world's pains. We must find how Jesuit business schools become instruments of mercy, providing compassionate frameworks to understand the world and change it.”

Faculty in key academic disciplines and administrators from Jesuit institutions of higher education around the world are currently engaged in working committees that are developing creative and innovate ways to teach business subjects that remain faithful to the transformative vision stated above. These participants hope to meet in Rome in the near future to present and to discuss ongoing progress in this new paradigm.

For further information regarding the ongoing development of the New Inspired Paradigm for Jesuit Business Education, please see <https://iaju.org/working-groups/inspirational-paradigm-jesuit-business-education>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Frank LaRocca". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Frank" being more prominent and the last name "LaRocca" written in a more compact, flowing style.

Frank LaRocca, SJ

Executive Director, International Association of Jesuit Business Schools