



COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Submitted by SDSN Association, Inc. on behalf of the
UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

Period covered: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2021

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent

November 4, 2021

To our stakeholders,

I am pleased to confirm that the Sustainable Development Solution Network 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 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. A full description of SDSN's projects and programs is available at www.unsdsn.org. We hope you will visit our site for more information, and to learn how you can get involved and collaborate with us.

With all best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey D. Sachs", is positioned above the printed name.

Jeffrey D. Sachs
President

Part II. Description of Actions

Incorporate the GC principles into internal operations and communicate progress.

The SDSN Association, Inc., which hosts the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, has procedures and processes in place to ensure all staff, sub-award recipients, vendors, and partners follow the 10 principles. This includes respect for human rights; safeguarding labor rights and ensuring zero tolerance for forced or child labor from all affiliates, vendors, and sub awardees; and policies to uphold the principles of non-discrimination. As a mission-driven NGO promoting the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we have a number of policies to promote environmental responsibility in all our activities; this includes the selection of more sustainable office supplies and event materials and the offsetting travel emissions. We have additional procedures in place against corruption, extortion, and bribery. Policies can be shared upon request.

Promote the GC and its principles through one of the following activities (at least one of the following options is required)

Deliver education on topics related to the Global Compact

The SDSN implements a number of education initiatives. The SDG Academy was launched in September 2016 with the mandate of creating and curating the best educational content on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To date, learners in over 190 countries have participated in the current library of more than 35 fully-online courses and over 1,400 video lectures.

To support the SDGs and Agenda 2030, the SDSN is mobilizing its Leadership Council, Thematic Networks, and more than 1,500 university members to create unprecedented educational opportunities for students and practitioners of sustainable development around the world. The SDG Academy aims to provide trans-disciplinary training to the largest-ever cohort of students of sustainable development. Uniquely, the SDG Academy is operated through a consortium of institutions and works with SDSN members around the world to integrate high-quality online education into universities' curricula. You can learn more about SDG Academy courses (and enroll!) at sdgacademy.org.

Global Schools is an initiative of the SDSN in support of [UNESCO's Global Action Program on Education for Sustainable Development](#) (ESD). Global Schools' mission is to create a world where every primary and secondary school student is equipped with the knowledge, values, and skills necessary for effectively responding to the greatest challenges of this century and shaping a sustainable and prosperous world. Global Schools adopts two key approaches in its global strategy to implement Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in schools and classroom: grassroots advocacy and outreach to schools, as well as research partnerships with universities to design localized curriculum. Looking ahead, the Global Schools Program, in

partnership with the SDG Academy, the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens, and UNESCO, will be launching a high-level global task force to accelerate policy and research efforts on Education for Sustainable development across K-12, tertiary and professional education sectors. This initiative is called Mission 4.7, as it will support SDG Target 4.7. Learn more at globalschoolsprogram.org.

Conduct applied research and thought leadership in relation to the Global Compact

The SDSN's core mission is to support decisionmakers through applied research and thought leadership. We publish a number of key inputs to this process. Recent outputs include the [Sustainable Development Report 2021](#), released on June 14, 2021, which tracks country performance on all 17 goals. It shows that, for the first time since the adoption of the SDGs, national scores decreased as compared to the previous year. As members of the US chapter of the UN Global Compact, we also want to share some recent work tracking US progress on the SDGs. We released the [Racial Inequality Index](#) and the report [In the Red: the US Failure to Deliver on a Promise of Racial Equality](#) about the US's failure to deliver the SDGs to certain populations, as well as the [United States Sustainable Development Report 2021](#), which measures the progress of all 50 US states towards the SDGs. SDSN Europe is supporting SDG implementation by connecting the dots between major EU policy initiatives in their report [Transformations for the Joint Implementation of Agenda 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals and the European Green Deal: A Green and Digital, Job-Based and Inclusive Recovery from COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

Other highlights from across the SDSN include updates to the [SDGs Today](#) website; this project aims to make SDG data more accessible and features a wide selection of real-time SDG datasets. Our network [SDSN TReNDS](#) has a number of projects, including one to promote the use of citizen-generated data by national statistical agencies to track SDG progress. SDSN also led a project, Catalyzing country action on Green Finance, with two strong implementing partners; together, they analyzed finance flows and related financial regulations and policies in the global and EU context as relevant for the SDGs and Paris Agreement. The outputs of this project included five reports, a reporting framework, two case studies, a background paper, and a website.

From the SDSN's 43 National and Regional Networks (i.e. local chapters), SDSN Northern Europe's [SDG Impact Assessment Tool](#), launched in February 2019, continues to be a great success story. In the past several months they launched [The SDG Impact Assessment Tool – Guide 1.0](#) and hosted several webinars. The number of users of grew almost 6-fold, from 1,200 in January 2020 to 7,000 in June 2021. Several of the Asian SDSNs are contributing to the ASEAN Green Future Project, which aims to accelerate action for decarbonization to achieve net zero by 2050 for the ASEAN region.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

To date, tens of thousands of learners in over 190 countries have participated in SDG Academy courses. SDSN's research products, particularly the annual [Sustainable Development Report](#) and [World Happiness Report](#), have been downloaded millions of times and cited in dozens of times. These documents, as well as the work of [The Lancet COVID-19 Commission](#) and the [Science Panel for the Amazon](#) have also been covered widely in the popular press.