



Carronfoot, Thornhill
Dumfries DG3 5BF
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)1848 331100

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

www.halotrust.org

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: 29th November 2019

To: 29th November 2021

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

Please use the box below to include the statement of continued support signed by your organization's Chief Executive or equivalent.

Dear Secretary General,

The HALO Trust continues to be committed to both the humanitarian principles and the ten human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption principles of the United Nations Global Compact. With the support of our policy team, HALO has continuously pushed these principles during engagement with multilateral forums. This is HALO's Communication on Engagement with the UN Global Compact.

HALO is an international charity with around 10,000 staff working in 28 countries and territories to save lives and restore livelihoods of people affected by conflict. HALO continually assess our actions and is committed to the communities we serve as you can see from our annual reports and website. Over 98% of HALO's global team are recruited from the communities we serve.

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, HALO has continued its life-saving work and continuously supported its entire national and international staff base. Moreover, HALO pivoted our global demining capacity to support COVID responses in marginalised communities.

HALO, as a global employer, is committed to ensuring that all staff are treated fairly and paid a fair wage. HALO ensures that no forced labour is present in our supply chains. Among others, Safeguarding, Equality and Diversity, Anti-Fraud, and Environmental policies are in place.

In recent years, HALO has increasingly linked our mine action work to the global drive to cool the planet and prevent irreversible biodiversity loss. Various examples are explored in HALO's Description of Actions. Additionally, HALO promotes women's empowerment.

This biennial Communication of Engagement is one of the ways that HALO can share our engagement with stakeholders across the world. HALO will also share this on other communication channels, and strive for continual improvement in all areas.

Yours sincerely,

Major General (Retd) J M Cowan CBE DSO
Chief Executive, The HALO Trust

Part II. Description of Actions

Please use the box below to describe the actions your organization has taken in support of the Global Compact. It is strongly recommended that the actions taken are related to one or more of the specific activities suggested. *Please refer to the complete list of suggested activities for your type of organization found [here](#).*

As mentioned in the statement of continued support, the HALO Trust increasingly linked our mine action work and conflict to the global drive to cool the planet and prevent irreversible biodiversity loss.

In the Horn of Africa, HALO is working with Candlelight, a local environmental NGO, to train local people on how to use proven climate risk mitigation techniques on HALO-cleared land. This includes digging soil bunds to catch rainwater to allow for the re-greening of cleared land and reseeded land with native grasses to reduce soil degradation.

In Angola, in the headwaters of the Okavango, landmines make large areas a lethal habitat for people and animals. Making the area safe from landmines not only protects the region's vital biodiversity but will also help Angola to develop a conservation-based tourism economy that provides sustainable jobs.

In Zimbabwe and Afghanistan, HALO has been trialing solar panels as green energy alternative. Remote locations, fuel scarcity and long supply chains make it difficult to establish a sustained supply of diesel to demining camps. A switch to solar power in some cases has provided a more consistent and environmentally friendly source of power.

Additionally, HALO has actively engaged in the recent COP26 conference in Glasgow and held a dedicated event on Conflict, Climate and Conservation with a range of stakeholders to highlight how the global emergency of conflict is directly related to the interconnected nature of climate change and biodiversity loss. HALO continuously stresses that conflict and the planetary emergency can no longer be viewed as separate threats with separate policy responses.

HALO takes great pride in mainstreaming gender and diversity provisions. HALO empowers and trains its national and international female staff to ensure that female leadership is present in both our global headquarters and our programmes around the world. HALO's *100 Women in Demining* project in Angola was launched to train and employ all-female demining teams, creating a space for women's empowerment whilst clearing landmines and making land safe. Several of these 100 women have already taken up leadership roles.

Furthermore, HALO is proactively exploring and endorsing innovative finance solutions for the mine action sector. There is a severe global shortfall in funding for legacy landmine contamination and ongoing conflicts. HALO is exploring how other sectors have harnessed capital markets and impact investing to advance their sectors and hopes to pursue similar approaches for mine action.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

Please use the box below to include the most relevant qualitative and/or quantitative indicators to measure the outcome of the activities described in Part II above.

With the above-mentioned examples of HALO's partnership with the Angolan government, a partnership with a local environmental NGO in Somaliland and the use of solar panels in various locations, HALO is highlighting the need to combine mine action and environmental activities and encourages other actors to do so as well. A recently published paper on Conflict, Climate and Conservation can be found [here](#) which outlines the basis for HALO's ambitious policy work in this area.

The empowerment of women in all areas of HALO's work is crucial and is being championed continuously in the UK as well as internationally. HALO supported the recent publication [Women Managing Weapons](#) and offers a range of training programmes to its female staff.

HALO has partnered with Social Finance and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office to explore Innovative Finance opportunities for the mine action sector. Since the publication of the [Innovative Finance for Mine Action](#) report, HALO has taken further steps and held various side events on the topic including at party conferences in the UK and the 19th Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in The Hague, aiming to bring in experts from outside the mine action sector.

Lastly, together with like-minded NGOs, HALO has formed a new Action and Conflict Alliance in the UK, addressing human rights and environmental issues. HALO also acts as the Secretariat of the newly formed All Party Parliamentary Group for Action on Conflict and Global Britain which follows the objective of ensuring that the UK places Action on Conflict at the heart of its international strategy alongside climate change and COVID recovery.