

UN Global Compact

Communication on Progress (CoP)

Gehl

20
21

2020-21

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CEO Statement of continued support

Cities are facing complex, systemic urban challenges such as climate change, social mobility and social justice, faltering transportation systems, growing insecurity and societal unrest and declining health impacted by lifestyle diseases. At Gehl, we believe that the public realm can be part of the solution.

Public life is created when people connect with each other in public spaces – like streets, plazas and parks. It's about the everyday activities that people take part in when they spend time with each other outside of their homes, workplaces and cars. With a prolonged global pandemic and upon the pivotal moment of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, it is now more than ever that nations and cities require a robust 'public life'.

At Gehl, we are both humanists, urbanists and environmentalists - and as a company we strongly support inclusive and resilient urbanization at all levels of scale, public transportation and public spaces. By focusing on people's needs, their behavior and their desires we have always been able to find common denominators and shared values, working across political divides or stakeholders of various beliefs and backgrounds.

We are experiencing a rapid increase in awareness of climate issues among our clients, thus bringing the UNSDGs into concrete action in our strategy and design consultancy, proving the benefits of our holistic human centered approach in addressing systemic urban, health, social and environmental challenges. As professionals, we look forward to deepening the focus on sustainability and connecting it to the life of the citizens in the year to come through responsible partnerships across the world.

We believe our values, business advisory and internal behavior have generally promoted and respected UNGC's Ten Principles for many years. Becoming signatories last year (Nov 2020) was a deliberate act to sharpen our focus on how to continuously ensure we embed the principles in our strategy, culture, services, interaction with clients and stakeholders, communication, and the day-to-day operations of our company.

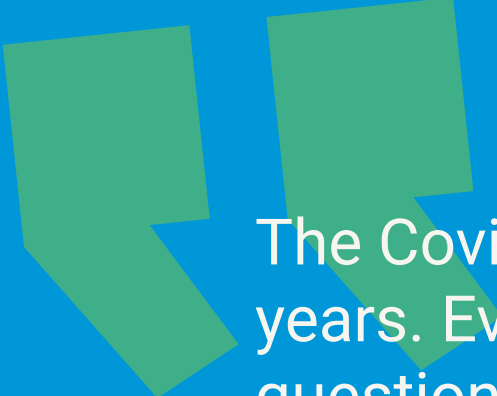
A year has passed, and we have taken initial actions to implement the Ten Principles as described in this Communication on Progress. Admittedly, we have just commenced the journey of developing internal assessment tools and criteria to document improvements. We are, however, determined to unfold the ambitions outlined to progress in the coming year, and with Blaine Merker stepping into the new Head of Climate Action position at Gehl, we hope to enable both action across projects, increase the ambition level of our clients as well as sharing what we learn.

I am thus pleased to express our continued support to the work and ambitions of the UN Global Compact, and to engage in advancing the broader development goals of the United Nations, particularly the SDGs. We will in 2022 uphold our basic responsibilities to people and planet when we work for cities and communities to be equitable, healthy and sustainable places for all.

Helle Søholt
Founding Partner & CEO



Photo: Oskar Cornelius



The Covid pandemic is the plot arc of the last two years. Every company is dealing with massive questions about the future of work, the future of commuting, the future of their products and services, the future of everything. There's no return to normal. There's a revealing of new possibilities and realities, and big opportunities for those companies who can make the right pivots. I think we need some more space to see how things will turn out, but there's been no time in our lifetimes when everything has connected like this.

Blaine Merker
Partner, Head of Climate Action

Gehl — What we do

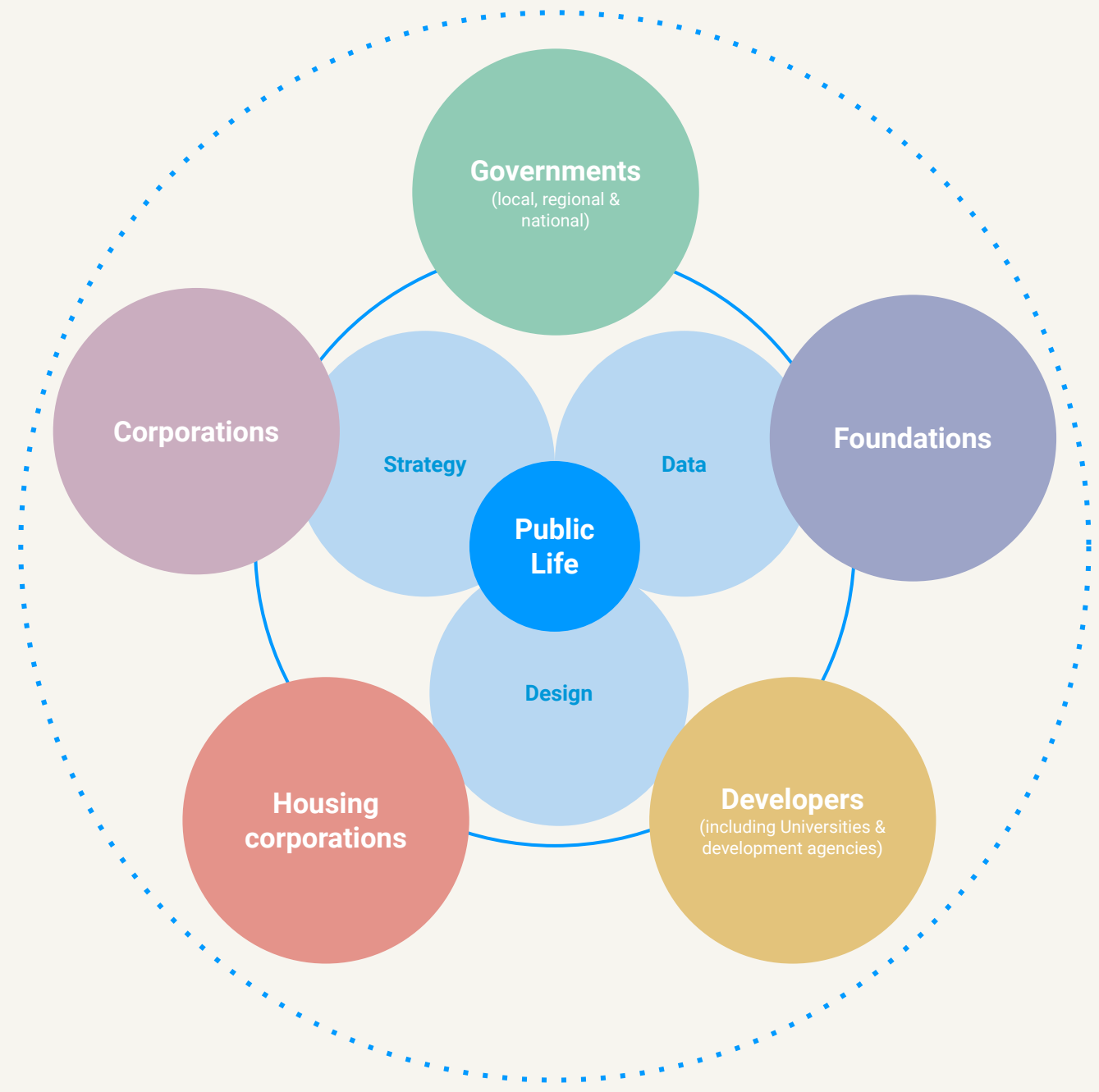
Our purpose is our leading light

Making Cities for People

Our Enabling Change 2030 Strategy is our guiding framework

We work for cities and communities to be equitable, healthy and sustainable places for all.

Our clients are the key to unlock our purpose and catalysts for enabling change.



**We make people
visible through data**

**We help cities, housing associations
and campuses address climate,
health and equity — strategically
and at eye level**

**We help cities and foundations
develop people-first and place-based solutions
to create a healthier, more equitable world**

**We help foundations
find place-based solutions
to wicked problems**

**We are a fully integrated master
planning practice, serving our clients
from visioning through implementation**

**We help companies
be good corporate citizens**

UNGC principles responsibilities & actions

Responsible consumption and suppliers



Becoming signatories to the UN Global Compact made us reflect on our own consumption and choice of suppliers to ensure we meet the fundamental responsibilities and incorporate responsible practices into daily operations and support meaningful change in society.

This gave reason to continue collaboration with several of our existing suppliers due to their commitment to principles-based approaches or documented sustainable actions including a.o:

- Hardware leasing company is signatory to UN Global Compact like us
- Cleaning company uses environmentally friendly “Svanemærket” detergents only
- Coffee supplier is B-Corp certified
- Lunch catering firm has an ambitious sustainability strategy including accountable CO2 reducing targets.

The ten principles of the UN Global Compact



Having committed ourselves to the set of universal principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, we present our actions and focus points:

- Human Rights (principles 1-2)
- Labour rights (principles 3-6)
- Environment (principles 7-9)
- Anti-corruption (principle 10)

Human rights

Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights

Principle 2: Make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

Business and human rights are interconnected, and promoting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a very important corporate responsibility.

As an international consultancy, we deliver advice across a wide range of governance and civic context. We believe it is our responsibility to seek to understand the context in which we work, assessing human rights considerations in respect to location, clients, partners, and associated subcontractors.

Public space is a human right. Clean air and access to food is a human right. Our advisory moves beyond traditional urban planning boundaries to map, strategize and plan access to public space, clean air and food. We pride ourselves on leading the built environment industries in developing new tools and methods to ensure equitable access and people's basic human rights in cities.

We plan to further systematize checklists to cover human rights considerations and compliance, as part of our business development and project selection decision making.

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.

Sustainability and climate action is a part of our core business. From our Founder Jan Gehl's humanistic planning legacy to the appointment of a Head of Climate Action (October 2021) we are increasing focus on developing procedures and tools that will enable us to increasingly identify, measure and act on environmental goals, ensuring climate positive impacts across our practices.

Having become signatories to the UN Global Compact principles, we revised our Environmental Policy statement to reflect our commitment to UNGC. Hereby we can advocate for the principles as well as influence our business partners and stakeholders to also undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility.

The IPCC climate report released in August also reminded us all that we must change behavior and contribute to reducing our CO2 footprint - also at an individual, operational level including eating vegan lunch, keeping prints of paper at a minimum and bicycling or taking public transportation to work.

Anti-corruption

Principle 10:

Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

Founded in Denmark, our company advocates for democratic values, respect and transparency across our work. These values extend to our client and partner relations, with established contractual standards following the ABR General Conditions for Consulting Services, a basis for the appropriate task and financial agreements.

We do not tolerate any forms of corruption and wish to compete on equal terms in the industry. Put differently, we only want to win proposals based on our professionalism, skills and innovative methods..

Increasingly operating in markets where bribery is more common practice, we must be attentive to any pitfalls and at all times reject any form of corrupt activity.

To proactively work against any form of corruption, we're introducing new procedures in 2022 when scoping projects and partnerships, to systematically reflect, identify and voice potential risks.

UNSDGs focus & impact

The UNSDGs & our impact

In 2020, we completed participation in a three-year programme “From Philanthropy to Business’ hosted by the Confederation of Danish Industries. The programme helped us identify the UNSDG’s we can most positively impact, and is the basis for the ongoing integration of the UNSDGs in our business strategy and advocacy.

We focus on the following seven SDGs to help achieve the ambitious goals before 2030:

SDG 3 - Health & Well-being

- our purpose is ‘Making Cities for People’ addressing how the urban environment is best designed to support the health & wellbeing of communities.

SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and infrastructure

- our services include urban tech, mobility and design solutions with the purpose to advance solutions for optimized spatial layout while reducing CO2 emissions.

SDG 10 - Reducing inequalities

- we work to enable access to opportunities for all through development of mixed use urban development, integrated multimodal systems and democratic processes of planning and design.



**Making
Cities for
People**

SDG 11 - Sustainable cities and communities

- our work is targeted towards 'Making Cities for People', and addresses all of the indicators within this overall goal.

SDG 12 - Responsible consumption and production

- we promote building methods and planning that supports circularity.

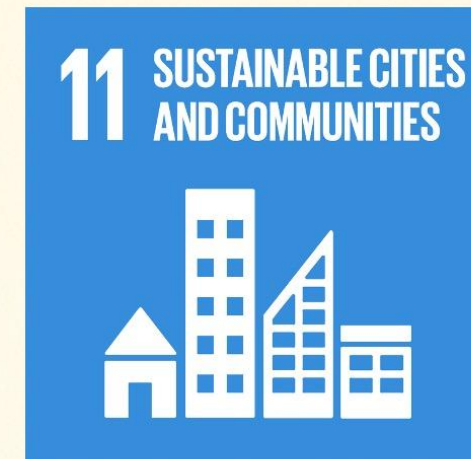
SDG 13 - Climate Action,

- we are integrating climate mitigation and adaptation solutions in our services, business strategy and overall purpose.

SDG 17 - Partnerships for the goals,

- we are working as a networked organization in collaboration with clients and partners to deliver.

We work for cities and communities to be equitable, healthy and sustainable places for all.



Young UNSDG Innovators programme

Having become signatories to UNGC we seized the opportunity to engage anthropologist Sophia Schuff and Architect Mads Kjær Ravn representing Gehl in this year's Young SDG Innovators Programme organized by the UN Global Compact Network in Denmark.

Over the course of eight months, they have learnt new ways of working with innovation within sustainability and prototyping new tools and business models for delivering impact across the 17 global goals.

It was great to be exposed to other companies and see how other sectors outside the built environment are working to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. If we are to meet the challenges of a rapidly urbanizing and changing world, we have to work across sectors and also have an understanding of their emerging technologies and business models.

Mads Kjær Ravn
Architect, Design Global



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Ambitions Next year

Ambitions for next year

Looking to 2022 we foresee opportunities and demand for our services related to deepening the focus on sustainability and connecting it to the life of citizens.

At present, we have set ourselves six objectives that can drive progress on our commitment to the UNGC principles.

- Embed UNGC principles and visual assets across Gehl communication products. This includes website and social media channels, presentation templates and reports.
- Create a ‘Declaration to Partners’ of UNGC principles to enable a uniform understanding of commitments and communication.
- Develop internal policies to triage and limit our air travel, implement more virtual meeting tools, and provide common tools to assess business travel in general.
- Implement an assessment of Gehl’s scope 1,2 and 3 emissions to be calculated annually and establish a baseline year against which to measure future reductions.
- Explore and develop an assessment system for societal avoided emissions enabled by Gehl’s services.
- Via our internal task force on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) ensure quarterly discussion and reflection on executing our commitments to principles 1-6, and carry out a workshop for Business Development staff to ensure continued focus on our commitment to principle 10.

