

UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT - COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT

Covering January 2020 to December 2021

Dear Colleagues,

It is an honor to voice our support to the UN Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the area of Human Rights, Labor, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

Launched in 2012, WorldLoop is a social enterprise that follows a specific code of conduct. In this Communication of Engagement, we enumerate and describe how WorldLoop is compliant with the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact, but also how WorldLoop builds its partnerships around those high standards.

Also, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude towards all our strategic partners and sponsors, to our service partners in Africa, to the members of the Board as well as to the members of the staff of WorldLoop for supporting our organisation to change the e-waste cycle, and commit to the UNGC Ten principles.



Olivier Vanden Eynde
Founder & Managing Director
WorldLoop

ABOUT WORLDLOOP & E-WASTE

Any product or by-product that requires voltage to operate and has reached the end of its productive life can be considered e-waste. Products include personal goods like computers, mobile phones, hairdryers, radios and kettles, as well as larger white goods like refrigerators and washing machines. By-products include peripherals such as batteries, cables and SIM cards.

Most e-waste contains hazardous chemicals and metals (including lead, mercury, and cadmium) which threaten human health and the environment. These can severely damage entire communities through air and water pollution, which can cause poisoning, miscarriage, mental retardation and even death.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), 20-50 million tonnes of e-waste are generated worldwide annually. This number is expected to increase at a rate of 5-10% per year. Calculations indicate that this number could exceed 100 million tonnes by 2020, if growth continues on this trajectory.

In 2008 Close the Gap, an ICT for development non-profit organization, identified the need for accessible environmentally safe recycling processes for the ICT hardware used in their beneficiary projects in the developing countries. After exploring the possibility of creating a public-private partnership to create an environmentally friendly e-waste management system for these regions, the WorldPC Project (later renamed to WorldLoop) was born.

Based on a feasibility study and thanks to the support of early believers, sponsors and strategic partners, Close the Gap set up a pilot project in 2011 in Nairobi Kenya. On the 27th of September 2011, Close the Gap inaugurated the WEEE Centre, WorldPC's first facility for e-waste recycling in Nairobi, Kenya specializing in end-of-life management of computers.

WORLDLOOP & UNGC

WorldLoop is an international non-profit organisation committed to extending the positive impact of ICT projects in developing countries by offsetting the negative environmental impact of its hardware. WorldLoop has the ability to transform an environmental hazard into something that is socially, environmentally and economically positive, while making a bridge between partners based in Africa and in the EU.

Today access to ICT is a key driver for the development of any society. Improving access to information and enabling communication contributes to the elimination of poverty and disease in developing countries, as well as better education and gender equality.

Unfortunately, ICT equipment can pose a serious environmental threat when it has reached the end of its life. Most e-waste contains hazardous chemicals and materials (including lead, mercury, and cadmium) which pose a real threat to human health and the environment. As a consequence, e-waste is severely damaging to entire communities by increasing air and water pollution which can cause poisoning, miscarriage, mental retardation and even death. While much of the Western world has the necessary infrastructure and regulatory support to oversee proper management of e-waste, the developing world often lacks the necessary legislation, expertise and infrastructure.

As signatories of the United Nations Global Compact, we take our commitment to conducting our business and operations in an ethical manner very seriously; WorldLoop has developed a code of conduct. Our model and success today is based on strong partnerships. We firmly believe that the future success and sustainability of our model will depend on a strong commitment from our members and operational partners to the same principles. Therefore, we require our members and operational partners to adhere to the WorldLoop code of conduct.

Human rights

We truly believe part of our success is because of the strong partnerships we have built, around high standards and our code of conduct:

- **Non-Discrimination:** Members and operational partners will not discriminate in employment including hiring, compensation, advancement, discipline, termination or retirement, on the basis of gender, race, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, political opinion, social group, or ethnic origin.
- **Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining:** Members and operational partners must recognize and respect the rights of workers to freedom of association and collective bargaining.

Labour standards

- **Working Hours:** Members and operational partners will not require workers to work more than the regular and overtime hours allowed by applicable law. In no event will the regular work week exceed 48 hours and workers will be allowed at least 24 consecutive hours of rest in every seven-day period. All overtime work will be consensual. Partners will not request overtime on a regular basis and will compensate for overtime work at a premium rate. Other than in exceptional circumstances, the sum of regular and overtime hours in a week will not exceed 60 hours.
- **Compensation:** Every worker has a right to compensation for a regular work week that is sufficient to meet the worker's basic needs and provide some discretionary income. Members and operational partners will pay at least the minimum wage or the appropriate prevailing wage, whichever is higher, comply with all legal requirements on wages, and provide any fringe benefits required by law or contract. Where compensation does not meet workers' basic needs and provide some discretionary income, Partners will work with the Fair Labor Association to take appropriate actions that seek to progressively realize a level of compensation that does. Partners may not use deductions from wages or other monetary fines as a disciplinary practice.
- **Child Labor:** Members and operational partners will not employ individuals in violation of the local mandatory school age or under the applicable legal employment age. In no event will Partners employ workers under age 15.
- **Forced Labor:** Members and operational partners will not use forced labor, including, but not limited to, prison labor, indentured or slave labor, or bonded labor, and will adopt measures to ensure that facilities are not utilized in human trafficking.

Environment

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poisoning, miscarriage, mental retardation and even death. While much of the Western world has the necessary infrastructure and regulatory support to oversee proper management of e-waste, the developing world often lacks the necessary legislation, expertise and infrastructure.

This is where WorldLoop steps in to create a win-win situation.

Through its network of partners, sponsors and supporters, WorldLoop helps communities in developing countries to establish efficient, environmentally friendly, self-funding facilities for e-waste collection and recycling. As well as helping to solve the environmental threat that e-waste represents, these systems stimulate the local economy by creating green jobs.

Anti – corruption

WorldLoop is committed to compliance with all applicable anti-bribery and anti-corruption laws and regulations, through the visible commitment to the tenth principle of the United Nations Global Compact, impeding all forms of corruption, including extortion and bribery.

Accordingly, WorldLoop, its members and operational partners:

- will not make bribes, nor will we condone the offering of bribes on our behalf, in an attempt to try and gain business or personal benefit, or in an attempt to motivate another to act improperly;
- will not accept bribes, nor will we agree to them being accepted on our behalf;
- will avoid doing business with others who may harm our reputation by not respecting these values;
- will set out our processes for avoiding bribery, directly or indirectly;
- will recognize that certain donations, hospitality and gifts, either given or received, may be considered inappropriate in certain instances and we will all apply our minds to ensure that our motives remain to carry out our core operations;
- will make sure that everyone in our business, including our members and operational partners know about our principles and we will require all relevant staff to commit to this Code of Conduct and the related policies;
- will regularly review this Code of Conduct and related policies, followed by further communication to all relevant staff and partners;
- will ensure that there are communication channels for all employees and partners through which they will be able to report instances of suspected dishonest behavior;
- will maintain clear and accurate records of all reports and investigations regarding suspected dishonest behavior.

OUR IMPACT SINCE 2012



3.986 tonnes
of e-waste were collected and recycled



2.597 Tonnes*
CO₂ Emissions avoided

*

The Belgian CO₂ environmental consulting firm CO₂logic performed an in-depth analysis of WorldLoop's operationalization of the Best of 2 Worlds (Bo2W) to answer this question.

The results were astounding: For every ton of e-waste collected and recycled; 1.44 tons of CO₂ emissions are avoided. In other words, with the 954 tons of e-waste collected and recycled by WorldLoop's projects, 1,374 tons of CO₂ emissions have been avoided. (That's 734,759 m³ of CO₂, which is slightly bigger than the Statue of Liberty).

The CO₂ reductions can be broken down into the following:

- 1,030 tons of CO₂ avoided because no virgin materials had to be produced
- 331 tons of CO₂ avoided because of local recycling activities
- 13 tons of CO₂ avoided because of energy recovery of non-recyclables
- The total CO₂ emissions avoided amount to 4.5 times the emissions produced taking into account collection, pre-treatment and transporting of e-waste following the Bo2W model.

CO₂ Logic Disclaimer

The activities of WorldLoop will emit greenhouse gasses and thus have an impact on the climate. The collection of waste with trucks uses fuel, electricity used in the sorting centre, and the transport to Europe by vessel also uses fuel. CO₂ Logic calculated the impact of those activities on the climate.

However, the activities of WorldLoop also avoid emissions. Indeed, due to the recycling of material and reintroduction into production, less new material will have to be produced. Because the production of material from virgin resources needs more energy, and emits more greenhouse gasses than recycling, the activity of recycling “avoids” the emission of greenhouse gasses.

- In the calculation for the avoided emissions CO2 Logic included:
- the metals and precious metals that are recovered in Europe will avoid the production of metals from virgin resources. The difference in greenhouse gas emissions between the two production systems are the avoided emissions.
- for the recycling of metals in the formal African recycling sites the avoided emissions are also taken into account (compared to the production of virgin material)
- for CRT-glass the avoided emissions are calculated by TNO, taking several factor of the downcycling of the CRT-glass into account
- plastics recycled in Europe replace the production of plastics from virgin resources
- downcycling of plastics in posts by Ecopost is treated with precaution because it is not sure if this replaces plastics from virgin materials or other materials such as wood, metal, etc. Avoided emissions are reported separately.
- also for recycling of metals in the informal economy, we are very cautious because we are not sure how much energy is used. Expected avoided emissions are reported separately.
- the treatment of waste in Europe also avoids emissions. If wood is for example incinerated with recovery of energy to produce heat or electricity, this emits less greenhouse gasses than the production of heat or electricity using the typical energy production system. The avoided emissions due to waste treatment in Europe are also taken into account.
- for waste that is send to Asia, the avoided emissions are unsure, so the expected avoided emissions are reported separately.
- for waste that is treated in Africa or Asia in the formal or informal economy, no avoided emissions are taken into account