

# UN Global Compact Initiative

SYRIAN ENTERPRISE AND BUSINESS CENTRE (SEBC)  
COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT  
2021



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**STATEMENT: COMMITMENT TO THE GLOBAL COMPACT INITIATIVE**

Date: 10 January 2022

To our stakeholders:

In spite of the fact that the Syrian crisis has ended in practical terms back at the beginning of 2019, the country is now facing tremendous challenges amidst a backdrop of continued international sanctions mainly still imposed by the United States of America and the European Union. These sanctions, especially the U.S. Caesar Act enforced on June 2020, are substantially limiting the country's reconstruction prospects and reflecting negatively on the population welfare and livelihoods, especially given their focus on the energy sector.

The significant shortages of petrol derivatives, including petrol, diesel, fuel and gas has resulted in a mix of problems which, notwithstanding their negative impact on the economy and the population living standards, have had and are still having their toll on the environment in terms of increased pollution resulting from low quality petrol derivatives, and increased degradation of lands as a result of increased tendency to use wood for heating purposes amidst lack of diesel and electricity. Personal hygiene is also at stake especially in rural areas. Coupled with the spread of COVID-19, people's health is also at stake and is imposing greater challenges on the now extremely fragile healthcare system.

However, the higher volume of challenges is but a driver for exerting more efforts to turn things around, and I take this opportunity to re-affirm the Syrian Enterprise & Business Centre's full commitment to continuing its contribution to socioeconomic development by, among other factors, living up to the support and expectations mandated by the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles with particular focus on the environment.

This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact in which we are presenting two actions taken by the organization to support the UN Global Compact in the area of the environment and global warming response.

Committing to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication, we welcome feedback on its contents.

Sincerely yours,



Noha Chuck  
CEO





## ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED IN THE REPORTING PERIOD

The activities of SEBC during the reporting period were focused on the environment through the implementation of two UNEP projects that respond to the reduction of global warming and protection of the ozone layer through reducing the usage of ozone depleting substances (ODS) by the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector and the servicing sector.

### THE ENVIRONMENT

#### SYRIA: ENABLING ACTIVITIES FOR KIGALI AMENDMENT

The United Nations Environment Programme signed a Small-Scale Funding Agreement with the Syrian Enterprise & Business Centre to implement the project entitled "Syria: Enabling Activities for Kigali Amendment" on behalf of the project beneficiary, namely the government of the Syrian Arab Republic as represented by the National Ozone Unit of the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment.

In its 79th meeting, the ExCom adopted decision 79/46 related to Enabling Activities for hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) Phase-down for Article 5 countries, which has the objective to facilitate and support Article 5 countries' ratification of the Kigali Amendment and to undertake specific activities that help them fulfil their initial obligations of the Kigali Amendment (further on referred to as Enabling Activities).

ExCom Decision 79/46 identifies the eligible Enabling Activities as those listed in Meeting of the Parties' Decision XXVIII/2, paragraph 20, i.e., capacity-building and training for the handling of HFC alternatives in the different sectors; institutional strengthening; Article 4B licensing; reporting; demonstration projects and development of national strategies. It also includes activities to facilitate and support the early ratification of the Kigali Amendment.

The Enabling Activities project for the Syrian Arab Republic has been approved on May-2019 - ExCom-83 meeting for 18 months with the assistance of UNEP as the implementing agency. It comprises of three inter-related components to facilitate the efforts by Syrian Arab Republic to ratify the Kigali Amendment and to provide the support required to meet the initial obligations under the Kigali Amendment as follows:

- Facilitate the early ratification of the Kigali Amendment with the objective to achieve a broader understanding of the Kigali amendment provisions and to prepare the legislative basis for the ratification
- Capacity-building and training for alternatives with the objective to identify the needs of using sector and the servicing sector that would facilitate the HFC phase-down
- Article 4B licensing and reporting with the objective to develop the required regulatory package to set up import/export licensing system for HFC and HFC's alternatives and its equipment

Under implementation as of 01<sup>st</sup> of May 2020, the main objective of this project is to support the Government of Syria in the delivery of the following:



- To collect information from all national stakeholders, using the agreed questionnaires provided by UNEP or as agreed with the National Ozone Unit, and to review and analyze the collected data based on the agreed methodology and work plan
- To support the National Ozone Unit in the delivery of consultation workshops with relevant stakeholders to obtain their feedbacks related to the implementation during:
  - I. Workshops for the sensitization/implementation of the Kigali Amendment and preparation of Country Assessment Report, and
  - II. Workshops to present and finalize the report based on stakeholders' feedbacks
- To actively join the country consultation process, and based on the data collected, prepare the country assessment report for the implementation of the Kigali Amendment
- To finalize the country assessment report based on feedback received from national stakeholders, National Ozone Unit and UN Environment
- To provide clarification and further information as required by the National Ozone Unit and UNEP

## HCFC PHASE-OUT MANAGEMENT PLAN (STAGE 1, FIRST TRANCHE) FOR SYRIA

The United Nations Environment Programme signed a Small-Scale Funding Agreement with the Syrian Enterprise & Business Centre to implement the project entitled “HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (Stage 1, First Tranche) for Syria” on behalf of the project beneficiary, namely the government of the Syrian Arab Republic as represented by the National Ozone Unit of the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment.

To ensure the country is at minimum in compliance with the 2020 target of 35% reduction under the Montreal Protocol, the project aims to successfully deliver the following set of activities:

- Review and update the national regulations on ODS Including development of procedures and bylaws.
- Organization of training workshops for Customs Officers and organization of training workshops for servicing technicians.
- Update of the training curriculum to include the introduction of long-term alternatives and safe handling of flammable and other hazardous refrigerants.
- The implementation of pilot certification for at least 600 technicians from various workshops in conjunction with technician training and in cooperation with relevant government and private entities.
- Enforcement and continued operation of the updated quota and licensing system and development of standards to facilitate the introduction of low-GWP alternatives.
- Continued operation of project management unit (i.e., the National Ozone Unit at the Syrian Ministry of Local Administration and the Environment

With the agreement signed on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2021, the project is still in the early stages of its implementation but is successfully gearing up momentum amidst rising interest and full cooperation from government entities and private entities alike.





## AWARENESS RAISING WORKSHOP ON THE KIGALI AMENDMENT

As part of the implementation of the contract signed with the Syrian SME Commission for the provision of capacity building support to business start-ups, entrepreneurs and job seekers, the Syrian Enterprise & Business Centre delivered a one-day workshop on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 to 15 participants.

The workshop aimed to raise awareness of the participants on global warming, impact of greenhouse gases and the potential advantages and obligations of joining the Kigali Amendment. The topics delivered included:

- Historical Overview of the Montreal Protocol and Its Amendment, and Country Obligations
- Ozone Depletion, Protocol amendments, Kigali Amendment and its technical impact on the different economic sectors and phasing down schedules.
- Project overview and Enabling Activities, project activities and the importance of enabling activities to the country.
- New alternative refrigerants and its various kinds,
- Briefing on flammable refrigerants safety standards, refrigerants changing and refrigerant recovery through presenting

## LABOUR

## SYRIAN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING PROGRAMME (SVET)

SEBC is currently in the final stage of implementing the Syrian Vocational Education Training Programme, which should have ended back in June 2021, but the spread of COVID-19 has resulted in a significant delay.

As previously reported, the programme, which is targeting 270 young female and male Syrians aged between 18 and 35, aims to bring its beneficiaries to a professional level mastery of one of four vocational competency areas dealing with:

1. Programmable logic controllers and micro controllers,
2. Residential and industrial electric installations,
3. Food Processing, and
4. Home Repair.

Each training course includes 600 hours of vocational training and 150 hours of soft skills, social cohesion and awareness raising topics, including from a labour-oriented prospect the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

The programme itself has been fully committed to the elimination of all sorts of discrimination and has managed to take on board 270 young Syrians representing the full spectrum of the Syrian society, including males, females and persons with disabilities with diverse political, religious, ethnic and sectarian backgrounds.

In their capacity as potential future businesses, participants were urged to fully respect principles 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10 of the UN Global Compact Initiative with respect freedom of association and the effective



recognition of the right to collective bargaining, the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour, the effective abolition of child labour, the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, and working against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

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**MEASUREMENT OF OUTCOME**

In lieu of the above, the following outcomes:

- a) The Kigali Amendment was ratified by the Syrian Government on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2021
- b) A new licensing system is now in place to regulate import/export of HFC and HFC's alternatives and its equipment, which shall significantly contribute to reducing global warming hazards associated with the use of ODS
- c) 15 business start-ups gained increased awareness on global warming, impact of greenhouse gases and the advantages and obligations of joining the Kigali Amendment
- d) Over 270 people including entrepreneurs, trainers and partner staff gaining increased awareness with respect to principles 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10 of the UN Global Compact Initiative with respect freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour, the effective abolition of child labour, the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, and working against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.
- e) Over 270 people including entrepreneurs, trainers and partner staff gaining greater awareness with respect to global warming, environmental challenges and the best industrial practices that can mitigate man's negative footprint on the environment.





## ANNEXES

## LETTER PUBLISHED ON SEBC WEBSITE



## 10 principles of UN Global Compact Initiative

The UN Global Compact asks companies to embrace, support and enact, within their sphere of influence, a set of core values in the areas of human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption.

SEBC would hereby like to take this opportunity to encourage all partners to contribute to the United Nations Global Compact Initiative by committing to its 10 principles as follows:

## Human Rights

- **Principle 1:** Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
- **Principle 2:** make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

## Labour

**Principle 3:** Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

- **Principle 4:** the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
- **Principle 5:** the effective abolition of child labour; and
- **Principle 6:** the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

## 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.

## Anti-Corruption

- **Principle 10:** Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

For further information, guidance material, please visit the Global Compact website: [www.unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org)

