

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

February 3, 2022

UN Global Compact Communication on Engagement

To our stakeholders:

With this letter, Sophia University expresses its continued support for the UN Global Compact and renews its ongoing commitment to the initiative and the Ten Principles. Broadly speaking, since our participation in 2015, we have been engaged with the UN Global Compact in the following areas and the activities, the details of which are described in the attached report.

1. Deliver education on topics related to the Global Compact,
2. Conduct applied research and thought leadership in relation to the Global Compact,
3. Disseminate the Global Compact principles

As a long-term goal of its education and academic research and advocacy, Sophia University is also determined to contribute to dissemination of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Sophia University is an institution established by the Jesuits whose educational spirit of “For Others, With Others” has been the University’s key concept in fostering the human resources serving Japan and the global society. Driven by this high motivation and moral commitment, the University is confident to lead the academic community in Japan and abroad to advance the Global Compact globally.

Cordially submitted,



Yoshiaki Terumichi
President
Sophia University

Part II. Description of Actions (from November 2019 to February 2022)

1. Deliver education on topics related to the Global Compact

(1) Establishing SPSF (Sophia Program for Sustainable Futures)

In Autumn Semester 2020 a new English medium program of SPSF (Sophia Program for Sustainable Futures) has been established. It was developed jointly by six departments, i.e., Departments of Journalism, Education, Sociology, Economics, Management, and Global Studies. It offers the curricula to work on finding solutions to the sustainability issues and fosters students' abilities to overcome them.

Click here for details: https://www.sophia.ac.jp/eng/program/undergraduate_c/spsf/index.html

(2) Offering academic courses related to the four pillars of UN Global Compact

A large number of academic courses related to the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption are offered each year. Especially many courses on human rights, labour and environment are offered by the Faculty of Law, Economics and Science and Technology together with the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies.

(3) Promoting SDGs based education

We provide education dealing with SDGs widely at undergraduate and graduate levels thus fostering the student's awareness.

Click here for details: <https://www.sophia.ac.jp/eng/aboutsophia/overview/sophiaSDGs/sdgs-efforts.html>

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

(1) Establishing Sustainability Promotion Headquarters

In July 2021, Sophia School Corporation which manages the university established the Sustainability Promotion Headquarters. This will enable us to identify as our achievements, the research and education, as well as social action by each institution of the School Corporation that are relevant to promoting sustainability goals, including the SDGs. Therefore, we are increasingly expected to strongly communicate our efforts to society. At the same time, this has allowed us to monitor progress and organize a reporting line. We are determined to further accelerate the development of campus settings for the promotion of diversity and the achievement of inclusive society.

In addition, the Sustainability Promotion Headquarters employs student staff in order for faculty members, staff, and students to come up with ideas across disciplines and create new value from them. Student staff actively participate in public relations, information gathering, and system design from the students' point of view, and not only support related departments, but also utilize the students' perspective and creativity to contribute to the tasks of the Headquarters.

Click here for details: <https://www.sophia.ac.jp/eng/aboutsophia/overview/sophiaSDGs/index.html>

https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/aboutsophia/approach/SDGs/Sophia_SDGs_about.html

(2) Promoting research activities targeted at sustainability and SDGs

The university is pushing forward the cross disciplinary joint research activities across the faculties and graduate schools.

Click here for detail <https://www.sophia.ac.jp/eng/aboutsophia/overview/sophiaSDGs/sdgs-efforts.html>

(3) Promoting the students' voluntary activities toward sustainability

Voluntary activities of students are being carried out by a wide variety of circles such as humanitarian assistance, welfare volunteers, learning support volunteers, and environmental conservation activities.

Click here for details:

https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/aboutsophia/approach/SDGs/Sophia_SDGs_StudentActivity.html

https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/aboutsophia/approach/SDGs/Sophia_SDGs_StudentInterview.html

(4) United Nation's Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) and ESG investment

Sophia School Corporation signed the PRI in November 2015 as the first signatory among Japanese universities in order to implement the principles of UN Global Compact in our investment management practice.

By signing the PRI, we incorporate ESG issues into our investment policy consistent with Sophia University's founding philosophy. As a school corporation and a responsible asset owner, we are committing to contribution towards the global sustainability issues all of us face through ESG investment.

In addition to the above, we are committed to the following initiatives:

- Signing "2021 Global Investor Statement to Governments on the Climate Crisis"
- Endorsing the TCFD <Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures>
- Endorsing the Climate Action 100+
- Endorsing "Investor Statement on Deforestation and Forest Fires in Amazon"

Click here for details: <https://www.sophia-sc.jp/en/esg.html>

3. Disseminate the Global Compact principles

(1) Launching "Sophia University - SDGs & Sustainability" website

In 2020, a portal site that covers the activities related to the university's sustainability and SDGs promotion was launched to disseminate information on education, research, and social contribution.

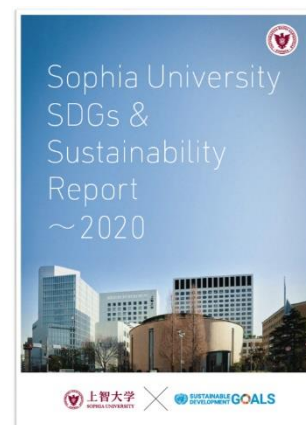
Click here for details: <https://www.sophia.ac.jp/eng/aboutsophia/overview/sophiaSDGs/index.html>

(2) Publishing Sophia University SDGs & Sustainability Report 2020

We have created an activity report on our efforts on sustainability and the SDGs. Student staff conducted interviews and made articles about the efforts of student groups.

Please read the report here:

https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/aboutsophia/approach/SDGs/Sophia_SDGs_about.html#sdgs_report



(3) Sophia University UN Weeks events and joint events with the Global Compact Network Japan

Since 2014, Sophia University holds UN Weeks twice a year in June and October. This is intended to help cultivate human resources with global commitment, provide opportunities "to consider our future and the world through UN activities" and also to contribute to the activities for public awareness of SDGs. Up until October 2021, the event took place 16 times. All events were cancelled in June 2020 due to the pandemic of COVID-19, but they have been reformed and held online since then.

In our efforts to support UNGC activities, we have carried out joint activities with the Global Compact Network Japan (GCNJ) during each UN Weeks.

◆ UN Weeks October 2020 flyer



Click here for details:

<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/news/PR/UNWeeksOctober2020.html>

The university and International Labour Organization (ILO), with support from GCNJ, co-hosted a seminar titled “Towards a brighter future of work in the digital economy” on September 23 as a pre-event of the UN Weeks.

◆UN Weeks June 2021 flyer



Click here for details:

<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/news/PR/UNWeeksJune2021.html>

◆UN Weeks October 2021



Click here for details:

<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/news/PR/UNWeeksOctober2021.html>

On October 12 during this UN Weeks, the University and GCNJ co-organized "Business and Human Rights in Conflict and High Risk Areas". The keynote speeches were addressed by Professor Anita Ramasastry of the University of Washington, who was a member of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, and Mr. Marzuki Darusman, The Former Chair of the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar. Panelists from within Japan and abroad also participated.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

1. Deliver education on topics related to the Global Compact

The SPSF (Sophia Program for Sustainable Futures), a cross-disciplinary English-medium degree program of six departments newly established in 2020, has received great responses from society. Students enrolled in the program are very enthusiastically tackling issues.

Feedback from the students are introduced here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNMEh4A1MUY&list=PLPmHXQbKIWTzvGLfOOEg4PRZTiEepD_Xk&index=2&t=195s
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpkuvDb2ImQ&list=PLPmHXQbKIWTzvGLfOOEg4PRZTiEepD_Xk&index=3&t=190s
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDs0jbCGJfI&list=PLPmHXQbKIWTzvGLfOOEg4PRZTiEepD_Xk&index=4&t=122s
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekAn8pKwFXc&list=PLPmHXQbKIWTzvGLfOOEg4PRZTiEepD_Xk&index=5&t=133s

Our students are highly motivated to learn and their interest in global issues such as environmental issues, human rights, etc is increasing regardless of the faculty. Interest in sustainability and SDGs is also increasing. As the number of academic courses dealing with these issues increases, the number of students taking these courses is increasing, and self-motivated learning is being practiced.

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

By establishing the Sustainability Promotion Headquarters, we have been able to identify as our achievements, the research and education, as well as social action by each institution of Sophia School Corporation that are relevant to promoting sustainability goals, including the SDGs. Therefore, we are increasingly expected to strongly communicate our efforts to society. At the same time, this has allowed us to monitor progress and organize a reporting line. We are determined to further accelerate the development of campus settings for the promotion of diversity and the achievement of inclusive society.

Researches related to sustainability and SDGs are being developed by diverse groups regardless of faculty or graduate school, and further progress is expected in the future. Global collaborations such as MIRAI 2.0 project, which is a joint research promotion initiative by a consortium of universities in Sweden and Japan with SDGs as the key concept, and SACRU (Strategic Alliance of Catholic Research Universities), in which Catholic universities around the world work together to tackle sustainability issues, are also expected to produce results in years to come.

As for PRI, Sophia School Corporation acquired the highest rating "A+" for the third consecutive year in the 2020 PRI annual assessment (Strategy & Governance).

Click here for details: <https://www.sophia-sc.jp/en/esg.html>

3. Disseminate the Global Compact principles

With the release of the "Sophia University Sustainability & SDGs" site and the "Sophia University SDGs & Sustainability Report 2020", the university's sustainability promotion activities have been comprehensively disseminated, which has called attention of the public from both inside and outside the university.

Until 2019, UN Weeks mobilized a large number of audiences to the campus every time, but due to the pandemic of COVID-19 from 2020, it is now all held online. The number of participants has increased dramatically as it has become possible to participate in events online from all over Japan and from all over the world. Many high school students also participate in each event in addition to students and general public. It is assumed that the younger generation is steadily increasing their awareness of sustainability. The 7th co-organized symposium with GCNJ in 2021, "Business and Human Rights in Conflict and High Risk Areas," was dedicated to John Ruggie, a pioneer of business and human rights who died in September of the same year. We all renewed awareness of how important the human rights due diligence he advocated is.

For reports from UN Weeks (Japanese only), please click the links below.

https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/global/program/unweeks_2020-2.html

https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/global/program/unweeks_2021-1.html

https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/global/program/unweeks_202110.html