

STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT

18 February 2022

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that ICC Albania reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

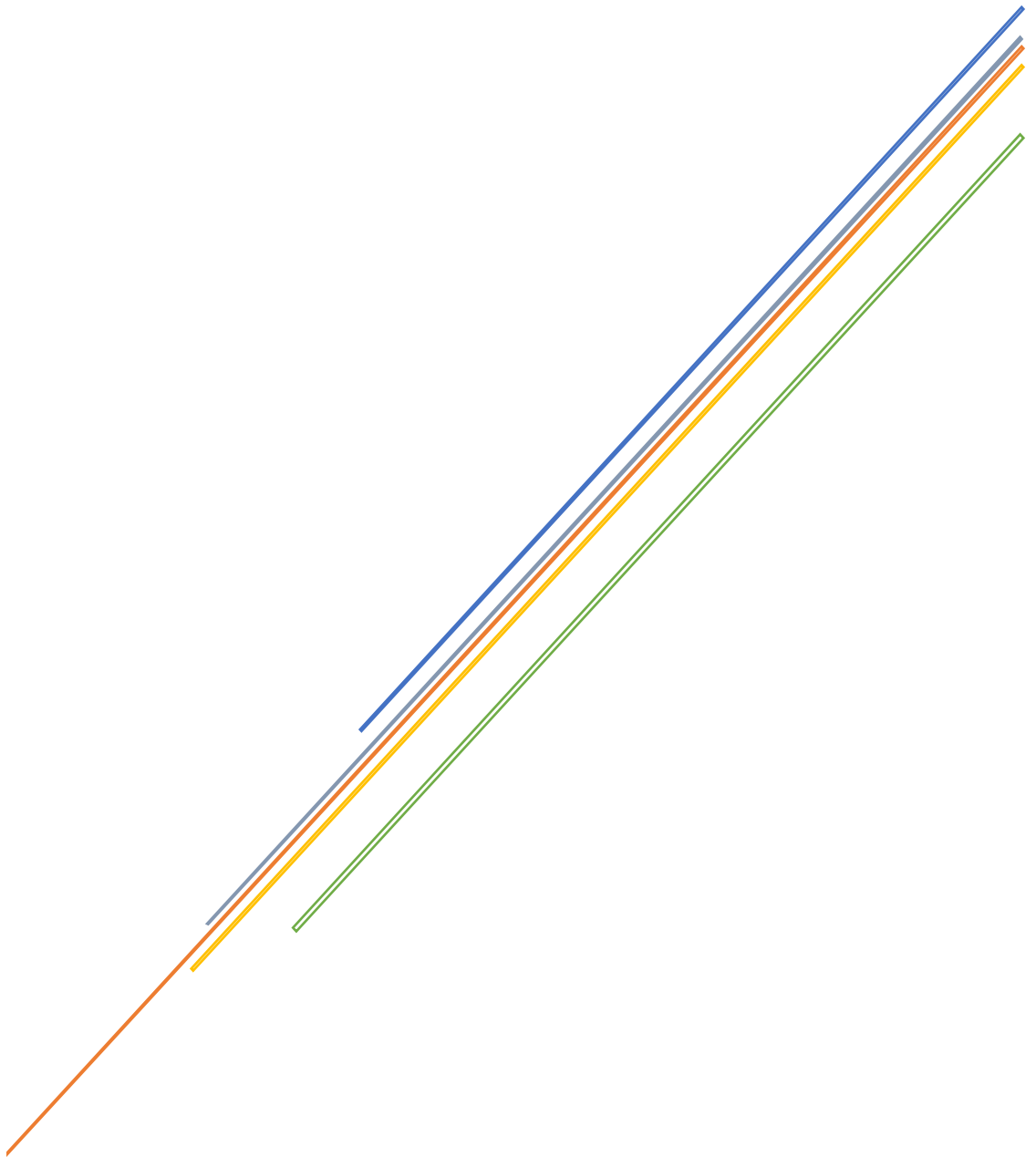
Sincerely yours,

Bilgen ALDAN
Chairwoman



COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement
February 2020 - February 2022



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ABOUT ICC ALBANIA

ICC Albania acts as the Albanian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) which is the world's largest business organization representing more than 45 million companies in over 100 countries.

ICC's core mission is **to make business work for everyone, every day, everywhere.**

Through a unique mix of advocacy, solutions and standard setting, ICC promotes international trade, responsible business conduct and a global approach to regulation, in addition to providing market-leading dispute resolution services. As part of its global network, ICC Albania engages in communicating ICC's views on business climate, international trade and investments and sustainability to government and business organizations across Albania.

What does ICC Albania do?

ICC Albania works hand-in-hand with its network of businesses and experts in policy advocacy and dialogue, strengthening capacities of young professionals and introducing to the local market international practises and tools.

ICC Albania works closely with local private and public sector stakeholders in providing expertise to ICC Global work in:

- Drafting sound and workable public policies;
- Establishing common rules and self-regulatory standards for cross-border commerce;
- Enabling effective implementation of policy reforms;
- Building consensus in support of new industry norms.

ICC Albania leverages business insights through 3 Policy Commissions and associated working groups, supplementing expertise with special initiatives, partnerships and, where needed, research to enable a rapid response to emerging policy challenges and opportunities, supporting the Sustainable Development Goals.

We have identified three thematic priorities that define most of our public policy engagement and activities throughout the year:

1. International Trade, Finance & Investment
2. Arbitration & ADR
3. Sustainable Development and Integrity

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals have created enormous opportunities for businesses willing to put sustainability at the heart of their operations. ICC Albania is committed to encourage companies and other stakeholders in Albania to join the Global Compact and adopt the ten principles into their business model.

LEARNING AND DIALOGUE EVENTS

ICC Albania has taken action through a range of activities and engagements in promoting the role business can and should play in respecting human rights, environment and approaching responsible business conduct practises.

Through our engagements, ICC Albania has supported the following SDGs.



Below, we are sharing some of the work we have undertaken in the last two years in this area.

➤ **Responding to covid-19 (27 March – 15 May 2020)**

ICC Albania conducted an online communication campaign via weekly newsletters for seven weeks. Through the Newsletter the network was provided with information, guidance and advice about how to deal with the challenges brought to the economy and business by the measures in place due to Covid-19 pandemic. ICC Albania promoted the Global Compact and its Special Academy Series and called the business community to join the Global Compact platform.

Promote the GC Special Academy Series in our special Weekly newsletters to assist Albanian business community in better responsiveness to the Covid response for business. This campaign was sent to 130 contacts each week.

➤ **Anniversary of the SDGs: Private sector and SDGs in Albania (14 October 2020)**



ICC Albania in cooperation with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Albania and UN in Albania organised a High-level forum on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the SDGs. This High-level Forum provided a multi-stakeholder platform where a wide variety of matters were discussed such as private sector engagement in Albania, the challenges faced for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and available tools and instruments to speed up the process.

This activity was held in a hybrid format. It was live streamed on Facebook pages of ICC Albania, UN in Albania and Dutch Embassy in Albania.

Reach out

Based on ICC Albania Facebook data, this event was attended by over 70 people. The event was also shared in the Facebook pages of the Dutch Embassy in Albania and UN in Albania respectively and reached about 3k profiles.

At the event room, the event was attended by around 25 people. This number is due to the restricting measures being in place because of the pandemic COVID-19.

➤ **“Ethical Challenges for businesses” (10 December 2020)**



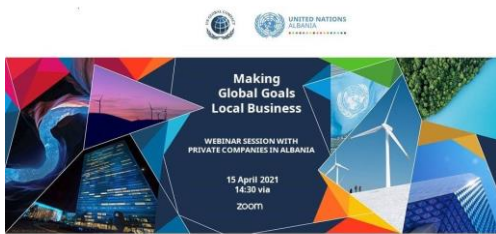
ICC Albania in cooperation with Deloitte Albania and Kosovo organized a webinar focused on the topic “Ethical Challenges for businesses”.

The discussion was focused on the challenges that arose in the workplace, especially from the pandemic. The speakers provided an overview of challenges and solutions under two perspectives; auditing and human resources. The discussions addressed how crises or new realities are being faced

by taking into consideration the labour-related ethical challenges.

This event took place online and was attended by around 30 professionals.

➤ **Webinar: “Making Global Goals Local Business” (15 April 2021)**



ICC Albania cooperated with the UN in Albania and the Global Compact in organising a webinar focused on the Global Compact and the private sector.

The main focus of this webinar was to share global and local experiences on how the UN Global Compact can help business accelerate action and support delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Reach out

More than 50 participants attended this event online in a closed door format.

➤ **Forums on Circular Economy (28-30 June & 1 July 2021)**



ICC Albania in cooperation with other counterparts in Europe and the region organised a series of shared knowledge sessions in the theme of circular economy. These events were organised based on the needs stated by the business representatives at the ICC Albania Sustainable Development and Integrity Commission. These events set the stage to exchange knowledge and experiences of companies and other actors operating in the EU and outside the EU and

that engage in circular economy practises in agri-food and FMCG sector, textiles, construction and financial services were topics for discussion in these events.

Reach out

These sessions were held in a closed-door virtual format and have not been live streamed in social media. More than 430 registrations were received and around 200 people attended the four events.

➤ **SDI Commission (2021- present)**

In 2021, ICC Albania shared a call within its members and network to join a new platform that will focus in the area of sustainable development and integrity. ICC Albania launched this platform named “Commission on Sustainable Development and Integrity”. The platform gathered CSR professionals from member companies, representatives from partner organisations and international partners.

The work of the Commission is focused in three major areas;

- i. Sustainability
- ii. Integrity
- iii. Circular Economy

Apart of the dialogue and raise of capacities, this Commission objective is promoting and encouraging the use of universal and local tools and instruments such as:

- Sustainable Development Goals;
- Global Compact Ten Principles;
- UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights;
- National Strategy against Corruption
- ICC tools and guidance in these areas of work
- OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises
- Other international best practises

Reachout

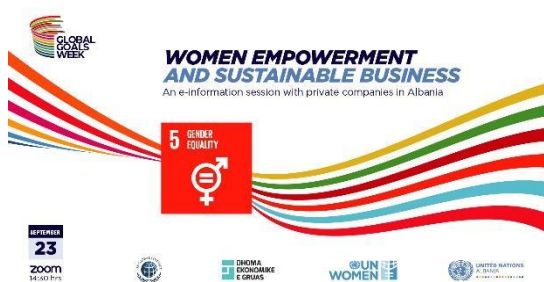
Around 35 participants join the commission as members.

➤ **Outreaching potential participants to the Global Compact (July-September 2021)**

ICC Albania in cooperation with the UN in Albania has conducted a dedicated online and in-person campaign with private sector representatives during July-September to introduce the Global Compact. The final objective of this campaign is to pave the way for the establishment of a Global Compact Network in Albania in the near future.

Fifteen big companies operating in different sectors were contacted and visited at their premises.

➤ **How can businesses engage with the pressing issue of gender equality & women empowerment? (23 September 2021)**



The United Nations in Albania in partnership with the Albanian Women’s Economic Chamber and the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) organized an information session on the topic “*Women Empowerment and Sustainable Business*”.

ICC Albania cooperated with the UN in Albania to identify the business being involved with

global compact so far and also those that have put in place practices and policies that address inequalities at the workplace.

This informative session highlighted how Albanian businesses engage with the pressing issue of gender equality and women empowerment by looking past the existing platforms and available tools and instruments offered by the UN Global Compact and creating a cultural shift that supports an inclusive, sustainable, and thriving environment for their staff, their customers, and the society.

This event was attended by over 70 participants from the private sector and the international community.

➤ **Week of integrity in Albania (2019- present)**



The Week of Integrity is an annual multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to foster the exchange of knowledge and stimulate the debate on integrity. A wide range of partners from the private and public sector, and educational and civil society institutions put

the spotlight on the importance of integrity during the Week of Integrity by organizing their own activities.

The Week of Integrity or “Java e Integritetit” in Albania takes place from 1 until 10 December, in observance of the UN Anti-corruption Day (9 December).

This multi-stakeholder platform brings together on average 55 partners from the government, media, business community, youth and civil society. Throughout the year, the network regularly meets, exchanging thoughts and ideas on integrity policies and on concrete issues, resulting in vivid discussions. The Week of Integrity itself consists of a week full of activities, organised by its partners, putting the spotlight on the importance of integrity

At the 1st edition which took place in February 2020 were shared info brochures about the Global Compact. Also, panellists shared their participant or signatory experience at the Global Compact and called business to join this platform. This event was attended by 110 participants.

The 2nd edition took place in online format due to pandemic restriction in December 2020. A special panel session was dedicated to Human rights and Business with focus on the UN Human Rights and Business Guidelines.

Based on ICC Albania Facebook data, this event was reached by 3,3k people, with over 700 views and 80 reactions.

Conference recordings:

- [Day 1: Integrity in crisis: Economy and Technology](#)
- [Day 2: Integrity and Human Rights and Business and Media](#)

TOOLS & INSTRUMENTS

ICC Albania introduced two instruments to the Albanian business community that would help them endorse better sustainability practices.



SDG Toolkit for business is a guide for businesses to adopt the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and commit to making changes that benefit the future and enhance towns, cities, communities and industries. This document offers practical solutions, recommendations, tools and many other resource references that can be adopted by businesses and the government to integrate the SDGs into their operations.



SME360X is a practical and affordable digital tool that allows small enterprises to be aware of their sustainability impact and make the right decisions towards a responsible future. SME360X will help small businesses manage their operations more efficiently, improve their environmental performance, and become part of the new sustainable economy. This tool is made available by ICC and GIST.