

UNITED NETWORK EUROPA - COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Period covered by the present COE:

From: March 2019 To: February 2022

Rome, March 5th, 2022

PART I. STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

To our stakeholders,

I am pleased to confirm that **United Network Europa** hereby 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.

United Network Europa is a Non-Governmental Organization **associated with the Department of Global Communication of the United Nations, with a special consultative status at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations**. Furthermore, the organization operates in close collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Education.

United Network currently stands as the major European organization promoting high level, innovative projects for young students: over the years, more than 32 thousand students took part to our national and international conferences. Our goal is for young students to learn the value of diplomacy and international relations, and to understand how International Bodies play a role in the international scenario.

The key source guiding our projects is known as “**Challenge based Learning**”, an approach which stimulates students to develop their practical skills and simultaneously increases their knowledge to achieve goals. Its major component is known as “**Learning by doing method**”, which allows students to learn notions by means of active engagement, guiding the students toward a full and practical comprehension of the skills learned.

The main projects created and developed by United Network Europa in Italy

Italian Model United Nations (IMUN): a model of the United Nations Organization held in the principal Italian cities. Students are asked to speak in English and act as real United Nations’ delegates. More than four thousand students, from multiple Italian schools and many other European countries, participate to such model every year.

We The European Union (WE the EU): a model of the European Parliament held in the principal Italian cities. The students are asked to speak in English and/or in French and act as real members of the EU Parliament.

Simulazione Nazionale Assemblea Parlamentare (SNAP): a simulation of the Italian parliament held in Rome during which students are asked to speak in Italian and act as real members of the national Parliament.

Progetto Redazione E Scrittura per la Stampa (PRESS): a project focused on journalism, in which students are asked to act as real journalists. Participants write articles denying fake news through the correct use of sources, produce agency takes, newspaper articles and work on the construction of a special television news edition.

UN projects abroad with American partners

United Network Europa is one of the main partners of Global Citizens Model United Nations, an intense 3-day conference held every year in New York City. GCMUN was born as a conference with the purpose of delivering the highest educational experience to its participants. The Secretariat of the conference is entirely composed of graduates and undergraduates from the world’s most prestigious universities. GCMUN is thought and developed as a highly formative international forum and delivers one

of the highest educational experiences in matters such as International Relations and Diplomacy. United Network Europa also organizes the participation of hundreds of Italian students to the prestigious BerkeleyMUN and HarvardMUN models, organized inside the headquarters of two of the most important American universities.

We are intimately devoted to the promotion of innovative education among students, as we believe it is imperative for young generations to be involved, to learn and to test their skills, so they can become conscious participants of our evolving society.

United Network Europa renovates its solid commitment to this end, and equally renovates its participation to the Global Compact. We therefore commit to report on progress every two years according to the Global Compact COE policy.

Sincerely yours,

Avv. Riccardo Messina



President, *United Network Europa*

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS

Sustainability: the key pillar of our work

United Network became a member of Global Compact in 2018 and has ever since committed itself to the promotion of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To this end, we did combine our usual diplomatic scenarios with themes and topics fully devoted to promoting the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. As of 2022, sustainability evidently stands as the key pillar of our work on a multilevel scale: from social security to economic development, to environment protection we adopt a transversal approach to promote awareness on the 17 SDGs.

Topics, IMUN 2020 - 2022

Clear evidence of such commitment is the bulk of topics proposed to our students for discussion, as it follows.

- “Sustainable Development Goals: Achieving a Sustainable Future”
- “The Green New Deal: A New Economy to Fight Climate Change and Social Inequality”
- “Climate Change and Sea Level rise in relation with International Law”
- “Climate Change Resilience for a Zero Hunger World”
- “Reducing Global Maternal Mortality Ratio”
- “Fast Tracking: The Development and Deployment of Green Technologies”
- “National Minorities: protection and empowerment”
- “Redefining production and waste through circular economy”
- “Restoring biodiversity by reducing economic inequalities”
- “Women empowerment through education”
- “A new economy to fight climate change”
- “Innovation in the eyes of sustainability”

“Child Labour in agriculture”

“Justice for all and inclusive institutions at all levels”

“Preventing an arm race: international cooperation for a peaceful use of outer space”

“Gender discrimination: fighting sexual and physical abuse”

“Countering the terrorist use of Internet”

“Green tourism: steps towards an innovative and sustainable future”

“Criminal Accountability of United Nations Officials and Experts on Missions”

“Combating Piracy in the Pursuit of Maritime Security”

“Police Brutality and Abuse of Power during Peaceful Protests”

“Effects of Atomic Radiation”

“The case of Sinking Islands in the Context of International Law

“Industry 4.0: Accelerating Clean Energy Production in Cities”

“Human induced impacts on wildlife”

“Indigenous peoples’ collective rights to lands, territories and natural resources”

“Countering Discrimination and Intolerance: Hate Crimes”

As conscious as we are of the urgency to educate younger generations about sustainability, we renovate our commitment to encourage our students to integrate their everyday lives with each of the 17 SDGs. Both our conferences and projects will continue to faithfully reflect such commitment in the next years.

Global Compact Italy

United Network is one of the original founders of **Global Compact Network Italia**. We proudly support its mission and take part to main events and initiatives, contributing to our local activities in favor of sustainability.

Our partners, 2019 - 2022



PART III. MEASUREMENT OF OUTCOMES

When it comes to measure the outcome of our work, United Network commits itself to the three key pillar of evaluation: **accountability, transparency, and learning**. By preferring such an approach, we can generate empirical knowledge about our successes and failures, to grow and improve our methodology.

As of 2022, it is inevitable to premise that our approach to conferences and projects was dictated by the global pandemic. Although we were clearly called to suspend our activities “in presence”, we can proudly report that our conferences turned into enriching, vibrant and stimulating online experiences. Not only did we continue our work, but we also managed to transform an apparent “constriction” into an unmissable opportunity. While initially shy, students got quickly used to this new digital didactic, and learned how to take advantage of their e-learning tools, by keeping on sharing opinions, by discussing and confronting each other on worldwide topics.



By means of verification, it is useful to report that our projects kept on attracting thousands of students from every region of our Country. This widespread participation clearly stands as an indicator of the urgency felt by students to be active participant, to learn and grow, both on an academic and professional level.

At the same time, our organization enlarged its participation to outer communities. In fact, United Network currently prides itself with one of its most recent acknowledgements, as it is now an active component of “**Rigenerazione Scuola**”, the Italian national “Green Community” engaged to promote awareness about sustainable development and the 2030 agenda within Schools and Institutions. In support of **Global Compact Principle 8**, “*undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility*”, we are eager to explore further possibilities for our organization to evolve, and to unlock the potential of this new and promising resource.