



COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT

Adyan Foundation
Riverside Center,
Charles Helou Street 12-02,
Sin El Fil, Beirut,
Lebanon

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement: From April 2020 To March 2021

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive Officer

30 March 2022

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that Adyan Foundation reaffirms its support to the United Nations (UN) 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 UN 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.

It is through our continued collaboration that we can achieve change.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Elie El-Hindy
Executive Director, Adyan Foundation



Part II. Description of Actions

Adyan is a foundation for diversity, solidarity and human dignity that works locally, regionally and internationally for pluralism, inclusive citizenship, and spiritual solidarity, through home-grown solutions in education, media, policymaking, and intercultural and interreligious relations.

Adyan is deeply committed to the principles of the UN Global Compact, and makes continuing effort to strengthen this commitment and to promote it via our work and partnerships. Adyan is also aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and our work contributes to SDGs 4, 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17.

Over the past two years, Adyan has been an active member of the Global Compact Network Lebanon (GCNL). This has included participating in meetings and contributing to initiatives. In addition, Adyan has shared its expertise with other member organizations and businesses on matters related to diversity management, inclusive citizenship and Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB). Adyan has also embedded the principles of the Global Compact within its revised internal and external policies. Adyan worked with experts to ensure that within these policies are full commitments to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

In particular, this includes Adyan's commitment to developing a detailed safeguarding policy that protects both its employees and beneficiaries through a detailed reporting vigilance process. Furthermore, Adyan's Code of Conduct continues to inform the organization's policies on fraud, bribery and corruption. Within these are a zero-tolerance policy; active measures to prevent fraud and corruption including regular internal and external audits; the existence of a Vigilance Officer (a Board member who is external to the office); and sanctions towards employees and other relevant parties including full loss recovery.

Adyan's commitment to the UN Global Compact continues to be highlighted at the start of its Employee Handbook, where we note: "... being a member of the "UN Global Compact", Adyan ensures through its Ethos and Code of Conduct a professional framework that follows the international Human Rights standards and UN related conventions." This commitment to the UN Global Compact and its Principles is also included in a dedicated section.

These policies and values are intended for the use of the whole Adyan community, both internal and external. All employees and consultants are required to sign a commitment to upholding these guidelines. In this way, Adyan continues to promote ethical professional and personal behaviour not just of internal staff but also of other individuals and organisations with which we have engagement.



Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

- Right after the August 4th explosion which shook Beirut, Adyan launched the “We Stand with Beirut” project with the aim of providing emergency response to those affected by the blast. It supported local organizations and initiatives, through existing and new partnerships, in 7 main priority areas: advocacy for solidarity, support for volunteers, psychosocial support, school rehabilitation, food and basic supplies, home repairs, and small business rehabilitation. In addition to the [statement](#) it issued following the blast, Adyan was able to achieve the following results: providing up to 1000 meals/day post-Beirut blast, 183 food baskets, 570 medicines for 115 patients with chronic diseases, rehabilitating Blessed School in Beirut for children with disabilities, donating 50 tablets for students, securing after school support for 75 students – covering 1530 tutoring hours over a period of 6 months with the support of 35 tutors, repairing 77 small businesses, supporting psychiatric and psychological treatment and follow-up sessions for 60 individuals, 2240 mental health consultations, 35 migrant workers wanting to return to their home country, and the mental health hotline which received around 6000 calls from October 2020 to April 2021. Adyan decided to continue its contribution to the humanitarian field through partnership with other local organization under the framework of its Solidarity for Action project. More information can be accessed [here](#).
- During 2020, a challenging year for Lebanon and the World, Adyan remained a sign for hope and resilience, especially for young people across the region when it received the “Elevate” prize for that year. Former Adyan president, F. Fadi Daou, was one of the 10 global champions who won the award. In recognition of the foundation’s outstanding work in empowering individuals – throughout the MENA region and beyond - to lead change and contribute to more just and inclusive societies, F. Daou was celebrated as an innovative leader who can act, mobilize people, as well as catalyze positive and revolutionary change. The “Elevate” prize is awarded by the “Elevate Prize Foundation” and is supported by “MIT Solve”, which provides a platform for innovation in social impact to uplift humanity on a global scale.
- Following the appearance of the first cases of COVID-19 in Lebanon in February 2020, and with the world starting to confront this pandemic that later reaped millions of victims and completely overturned the general way of life, Adyan Foundation had to adapt to this new reality. In order to continue its mission and achieve its goals, the organisation adopted modern technologies for remote work and communication. Hence, Adyan had to continue – even from a distance – the implementation of its various programs and activities, while applying the highest levels of prevention and required health measures. It was able, by that, to enact the slogan it adopted that year “Distantly Together” through reducing staff attendance at the office and transferring meetings, lectures, and roundtable discussions from closed rooms to programs such as Teams and Zoom. Fortunately, previous preparations allowed Adyan to move smoothly from one stage to another, given that the organisation prides itself for a long experience in distance learning since 2010. This was particularly noticeable in its educational and training programmes which joined participants from all over the world, allowing a beneficial exchange of stories and experiences. Furthermore, Adyan issues a statement on the Covid-19 pandemic as an



invitation for humility, solidarity and global responsibility, focusing on each individual's role to alleviate the economic, social, psychological and health consequences of the pandemic amid a deteriorating economy. The statement can be accessed [here](#).

- The spread of the COVID-19 pandemic also pushed Adyan Foundation, the Middle East Council of Churches, the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to launch a joint call for communal solidarity. The statement, issued on April 27th, 2020, focused on the importance of respecting human dignity, encouraging social solidarity, supporting refugees and the internally displaced, and launching aid, social action and cooperation initiatives. The full call for action can be accessed [here](#).
- The Youth Mock Parliament project (YMP), which aims at empowering young activists and motivating them to contribute to politics on a non-sectarian basis while also encouraging them to actively participate in political life as well as to raise awareness and popular support for an inclusive citizenship-based state, resulted in a report entitled "Youth Public Opinion for Non-Sectarian Politics in Lebanon", which included a summary of what was expressed by the youth in previous activities. In addition to several youth fora which took place all over Lebanon, 64 young MPs were elected in a hybrid electoral process in 2021, based on a non-sectarian electoral law developed by a group of experts.
- In July 2019, Adyan formed a partnership with Danmission to implement a three and a half-year project to promote the rights of women in Lebanon. The project, titled 'Women, Religions and Human Rights in Lebanon' worked with numerous local partners and organisations to address the legal discrimination against women in the Lebanese personal status laws. In December 2021, a roundtable discussion on possible reforms within personal status laws was held in the presence of religious, legal, and governmental representatives. The full report in Arabic can be accessed [here](#).
- One of Adyan's key workstreams remains focused on the promotion of fundamental freedoms, namely Freedom of Religion and Belief. Adyan works to encourage dialogue around, and acceptance of, this freedom in numerous ways, including its renowned Training of Trainers on Freedom of Religion and Belief course in Arabic, which is a translated and contextualized version of the English course on the FoRB Learning Platform, developed by NORFORB. Adyan also shared this expertise in local and international conferences, as well as working groups, such as the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD).
- Adyan networks and Forum for Religious Social Responsibility, join together over 300 individuals who aim to promote and live the values of diversity, solidarity, and human dignity in their local communities. Through their initiatives, they continue to represent the organization both locally and internationally.
- Following several studies in 2021, Adyan is currently in the process of opening new offices in Iraq with the aim of developing projects there that serve the diverse Iraqi community as well as to promote its values and concepts, within the framework of inclusion, peace-building and development.