



INITIATED BY H.M. KING CARL XVI GUSTAF
AND H.M. QUEEN SILVIA OF SWEDEN

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

GLOBAL CHILD FORUM

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: 1 JANUARY 2020

To: 31 DECEMBER 2021

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive

4 May 2022

To the Global Child Forum stakeholders and partners:

I am pleased to confirm that Global Child Forum 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,

*Cajsa Wiking
Secretary General*

Part II. Description of Actions

Background

Global Child Forum is a Swedish non-profit foundation initiated by the H.M. the King and H.M. the Queen of Sweden in 2009, with its headquarters in Stockholm. The organization is an independent, global multi-stakeholder platform with a particular focus on the power of business to be a positive driving force for a better world for children, encouraging business to take approaches in their operations and their communities to best advance children's rights.

The organization's tag line is "A heart for children. A head for business" and its objectives are mainly:

- To bring together thought leaders and influencers from business, civil society, academia and government in order to spur action for social change around children's rights (Forums), and to raise the children's rights and business issue at other adequate gatherings (Forums and Outreach).
- To provide benchmark data through our yearly Corporate Sector and children's rights benchmark. The purpose is to develop a children's rights benchmark for the corporate sector and to enable tracking of progress over time on how children's rights are addressed by business. (Benchmarking)
- To conduct studies, develop tools and write and present best practices that help business and investors to assess, address and advance children's rights issues in their operations and communities (Research).
- To help corporates better integrate children's right into their daily business operations, and to offer targeted and industry specific training to sustainability professionals at large corporation. One of the tools for this is the Global Child Forum Business Academy, a 6-10 month training program for selected companies in a specific industry sector. (Training)
- To increase awareness on the issue of children's rights and business and build brand recognition among Global Child Forum's target audience in order to spark action for children's rights (Communication).

As Global Child Forum operates in a broad scope the organisation cannot be classified solely as an academic institution, business association or civil society organisation but rather as a hybrid of these.

Activities conducted by Global Child Forum have a correlation to the 10 principles of the UN Global Compact and are underpinned also by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), the Children's Rights and Business Principles and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Main activities and actions in 2020 and 2021

The last two years have been impacted by the global pandemic. But for Global Child Forum it has also given us the opportunity to reorganize and refocus. Global Child Forum has gone digital and the main part of our activities and events are now fully digital. Global Child Forum have also put a new strategy in place, having a much clearer target group (the SDG2000 companies) as well as the global investor community. A Sustainable Finance Manager was hired in 2021, focusing entirely on the financial sector and getting our benchmark data to be used by global asset managers and investors worldwide.

Benchmarks reports and studies

Three benchmark studies were conducted (see below) and its findings published in 2020 and 2021. It is an analysis of how businesses in their sustainability reports describe how they respect and work with children's rights in their operations. Together the studies encompass approximately 1000 of the largest corporates globally and within 9 industries. Their publicly accessible reporting has been analyzed according to 27 indicators that cover children's rights issues, including child labor, child friendly workspaces, marketing and product safety as well as their influence on the environment and the society in which they operate.

All the corporates in the study were informed of their results through a digital platform that led to improved interaction with the concerned. In addition to the benchmarks a number of case studies and other reports were published

- The State of Children's Rights and Business in Southeast Asia 2020
- The State of Children's Rights and Business Global 2021
- The State of Children's Rights and Business 2022 - Tech & Telecom Deep dive
- Global Child Forum case study - Wilmar's path towards responsible sustainability management - 2021
- Global Child Forum Covid -19 snapshot - 2020
- Global Child Forum case study - Samsung supporting working parents and caregivers through strong family-friendly policies - 2021
- Global Child Forum case study - Vodafone demonstrating an end-to-end commitment to children's rights - 2021
- Global Child Forum case study - Bayer mitigating root causes of child labour - 2021
- Global Child Forum - Why investors should care about children's rights - 2021

Tools and guidance

In September 2020, Global Child Forum released the *Children's Rights and Business Workbook* together with the Swedish industry group *Lindégruppen*. The workbook was written in alignment with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and the Children's Rights and Business Principles (CRBPs) and offers guidance and best practice to help the reader gain clarity on how to implement children's rights in the corporate agenda. The methodology was also used when designing the Business Academy program.

In 2021 Global Child Forum launched its new training programme *the Global Child Forum Business Academy*. It is an exclusive training programme for sustainability/children's rights experts who want to equip their company with knowledge and tools to integrate a child rights perspective in your operations. The programme focuses on peer-to-peer networking and collaboration in a small group to solve real problems together, under the guidance of the programme and with inspiration from companies who have come some way in their journey and can share their experience.

The programme will run for 6-10 months, covering approximately one module per six weeks, over two two-hour sessions in the first 6 months, then approx 10-12 weeks will be spent on taking on a challenge within the own company with support from the programme.

In Global Child Forum's efforts to digitalize its operations a web-based tool called the *Magnifier* was launched in April 2021. The Magnifier, developed in consultation with leading global companies, is a free, easy-to-use, web-based tool that, through a series of questions, is designed to help companies identify their knowledge gaps around their children's rights impact. Based on their answers, the tool delivers prioritized focus areas and tailors insights to help companies understand the ways in which they impact children. Importantly, the tool guides the company on how take action, avoid risks and unlock market opportunities in order to create a better world for children.

Forum

Due to the global pandemic, no physical *Forums* has taken place during 2020 and 2021. A Forum was planned for Stockholm in 2020 but had to be cancelled. Instead, Global Child Forum organized a series of 4 *Digital Actions Labs* during the fall of 2020 with different themes. The themes were; Listening to the change-maker generation; The advantage to business to engage with children's rights; Data mining in the sandbox- children's safety online; and A collapsing planet: The impact of climate change on children's health.

Global Child Forum also organized a number of digital events in connection with the launches of reports and benchmarks such as; the report launch of the 2020 Southeast Asia benchmark, the Global Child Forum webinar - Children's rights and agribusiness and the launch of the Global benchmark report 2021.

Other Events

Additionally, GCF held its global Partner Advisory Board (PAB) meeting at the Royal Palace in September, both in 2020 and 2021.

Communications

The Global Child Forum website provides a digital platform for sharing information, inspiration, best practice and knowledge around how business can best support children's rights in their operations. It aims to provide a space where some of the best

finding and observations on the topic can be shared. During 2021 as project to update the website started and the plan is to launch to new web in the summer of 2022. This web will be built around the target group's needs and insights gained from them. It will also facilitate the need for a closer interaction with the target groups and provide a better user experience for the visitors.

External events

Global Child Forum regularly participates in other external events relevant to our mission.

The last two years Global Child Forum has participated in several externally organized events:

2020:

- Online event held by Dagens Industry (DI, a Swedish Financial Newspaper)
- Online event held by Aktuellt Hållbarhet (a Swedish newspaper focusing on sustainable development)

2021:

- UN GC, UK: joined a training session as an expert speaker
- WBA: Event on the new UN resolution on online safety for children
- WBCSD: Event organized for their members focusing on Child Participation in Business
- ILO: Event themed around "International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour"

All referenced materials can be accessed on the Global Child Forum website <http://www.globalchildforum.org>

We believe the above research and studies support many of the requested actions, for example:

- Conducting applied research and thought leadership in relation to the UN Global Compact;
- Disseminating the Global Compact Principles.

We believe the above research, tools and guidance, events and communication activities have supported many of the requested actions, such as:

- Attracting new participants to the UN Global Compact through our outreach efforts and awareness raising;
- Organizing learning and dialogue events, workshops and training for the participants to get a better understanding of the principles of the UN Global Compact and specific topics relevant to corporate sustainability;
- Provide expertise for Global Compact working groups and special initiatives;
- Engaging with Global Compact Local Networks;
- Joining and/or proposing partnership projects on corporate sustainability;
- Engaging companies in Global Compact-related issues;
- Joining and/or supporting special initiatives and work streams.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

The purpose of Global Child Forum is to deliver a global platform for informed dialogue and partnerships, knowledge, data and best practice in the intersection of business and children's rights and between different sectors of society, as well as to inspire cross sector activity to spur action in the same field. The outcomes of our activities are believed to be long-term.

Measuring impact and value creation on business practice is however challenging, since Global Child Forum works in an indirect fashion, as a mobilizer raising awareness and inspiring to commitment and action. Global Child Forum's main way of measuring impact is through the results of our global benchmark. Global Child Forum's main goal, and how we measure our mission is *by 2024 having 25% of the companies the Global Child Forum's benchmark score above 7,5 (Leaders).*