

United Nations Global Compact

Communication on Engagement | 12.05.2022

Fundação Benfica is a participant of the United Nations Global Compact since the 16th March 2010. Recognizing the importance of the 10 principles we are strongly committed to continue supporting this initiative. For the purposes of the current communication on engagement we describe the efforts we had developed within the area of each principle.

➤ Human Rights

Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

Fundação Benfica, as a Foundation was created to promote Human Development and Humanitarian Assistance and develops projects that aim to make relevant positive impacts within the areas of education and health. Examples of this context are: “Para ti Se não faltares!” KidFun – Education for Values, Community Champions League and Show Racism the Red Card, our main educational projects with a combined number of beneficiaries of over 200.000 since 2009. Regarding Humanitarian Assistance we have already contributed with over two million euros to projects in the field of poverty, health, hunger, and housing in partnership with United Nations Agencies like UNDP (VII Match Against Poverty, 2010), UNHCR (An Act Against Hunger, 2012), and other entities such our National Health System regarding COVID-19 pandemic where we donated a significant volume of protective equipment for Portuguese public hospitals. We highlight since the last COE the support to Ukraine through mobilizing civil society to raise basic goods and we sent 6 full trucks (+5000 box, 200 pallets, 200 volunteers, 120 collection points, etc.). This support was delivered in several Ukrainian cities with the cooperation of Shakhtar Donetsk, Ukrainian Football Clube whose Foundations are partners, and Ukrainian entities. Several other initiatives take place throughout the year addressing issues like the integration of people with disabilities, refugees, active ageing, or the promotion of healthy lifestyles and always taking advantage of the power of sports to promote change and development. We highlight the Walking Football project that allows us to work with around 1.500 people of over 50 years old promoting their active ageing through sport and football, and also Welcome through Football that promotes the inclusion of young refugees in Portuguese society through sports.

➤ **Labour**

Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and

Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Since 2012 that Fundação Benfica has its own code of conduct that includes, amongst other objectives, the promotion of a human resources policy that complies with all the principles of the UNGC.

➤ **Environment**

Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Regarding the environmental area we can say that we are very active on this subject taking in consideration that we:

- celebrated an agreement with Liga para a Protecção da Natureza – LPN, an environmental organization, which included: the development of several workshops for the young people of our social projects that allowed us to raise awareness around the environmental issue; the visit to the natural reserve of the organization by our project KidFun – Education for Values and our media channels to give some visibility to this subject; the presence of a member of our professional football team, Nélson Semedo, at the event of the signature of the agreement; and the cooperation around the integration of an environmental message transmitted in the sessions of our project Benfica Faz Bem by our eagle's (the Club's symbol) trainer;
- participated in events with this subject such as Greenfest – considered to be the major sustainability event we have in Portugal;
- keep consolidating, within the Group Benfica, the Club's sustainability policy, very focused on the ECO Centro, a specific recycling center that deals with all the waste of different components that a Sports Stadium with its matches and events creates. This was integrated on a wider program called ECO Benfica that is an umbrella for all the initiatives the Club delivers on this subject. And the Foundation although its not the main player supports the Club whenever useful towards this goal;
- after the tragedies caused by the fires registered in Portugal in 2017 that even caused nearly 100 deaths Fundação Benfica partnered with a regional development and environmental organization of the areas that were more impacted and created together a project that teaches students of the 1st until the 4th school year to know how to plant native trees and we now organize annually a reforestation initiative covered by media and involving some of the children that throughout the school year learn how to do it. This project helps to raise 10.000 native trees each year.

➤ **Anti-Corruption**

Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

Since 2012 that Fundação Benfica has its own code of conduct that includes, amongst other objectives, the prevention of corruption through a very diverse range of instructions for all our stakeholders including our human resources and board members. Furthermore, our annual report is certified by an independent company.

12.05.22

H.E. António Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
USA

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I am pleased to confirm that Fundação Benfica continues to support the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption. With this commitment, we express our intent to strengthen further these principles within our sphere of influence, stakeholders and the general public.

We also pledge to continue to take part in the activities of the UN Global Compact where appropriate and feasible – through, for instance, participation in Country/Local Networks; involvement in specialized initiatives and workstreams; engagement in partnership projects; and reviewing and providing commentary to participating companies on their Communications on Progress.

Sincerely yours,



Mr. Carlos Moia
Board Member, Fundação Benfica