



Communication on Engagement (COE) CSR Centre

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

20th July, 2022

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

The CSR Centre is pleased to continue its support and engagement with the UN Global Compact and uphold the ten principles on human rights, labour standards, environment and anticorruption. Through the eleven years of collaboration with the UN Global Compact we have continuously based our work on the UNGC Principles and in the last five years with the SDGs. We have been a full-fledged member of the UNGC Local Network from April 2010.

We have since aligned all our implementation work in accordance to the ten principles of the Compact. Through research, capacity building and policy dialogues on various thematic issues and projects we have been able to introduce and disseminate the global agenda of UNGC into the local framework and actively engaged with not only businesses in Bangladesh but also the development sector, civil society and the Government in supporting the UNGC Principles in Bangladesh. We have been successfully advocating and engaging with private sector to implement the SDGs.

We hereby submit the COE for the CSR Centre to further contribute to the global agenda on sustainable development in Bangladesh and globally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Farooq Sobhan'.

Farooq Sobhan
Chairman, CSR Centre Board of Trustees



About the CSR Centre

The CSR Centre is an organization dedicated to raise awareness about Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and encourage responsible business practices in Bangladesh to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The CSR Centre was established in 2007 initiated by the private sector of Bangladesh to encourage and expand on strategic CSR practices in Bangladesh and globally.

The primary objective of the Centre is to become the prime source of information, resources, and advisory services on CSR in Bangladesh, and the operational principal is to contribute to achieving the development targets set in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through private sector led growth.

CSR Centre provides capacity building initiatives on CSR and other social compliance issues, private sector engagement and multi-stakeholder dialogue for development partners, national and international companies and works closely with relevant Government Ministries.

The CSR Centre launched the UN Global Compact in Bangladesh in 2009 which is the largest official platform for corporate engagement and CSR in the globe led by UN Secretary General. The Centre is the hosting organization for GCLN Bangladesh and works along the UN initiatives nationally, regionally and globally.

Mission

To be a leader in the sustainability space.

Vision

Achieving organization excellence by promoting, guiding and supporting sustainability issues for our stakeholders.

Key Activities and Services

- Facilitate stakeholders to become CSR Champions.
- Provide training on GRI and specific CSR topics to enhance private sector capacity.
- Develop strategies for CSR practices & sustainability.
- Disseminate & share CSR best practices in Bangladesh.
- Facilitate forums, seminars, workshop to engage stakeholders in advocating responsible business practices.



The CSR Centre has been actively engaged in upholding and implementing the 10 Principles of the UN Global Compact in the past 2 years. What follows is an overview of the projects and activities of the CSR Centre from January 2021 to July 2022.

The CSR Centre in partnership with amfori completed the women empowerment project titled “Shobola-Empowerment for Better Business”. Objective of the Project was to highlight the business and operational benefits of empowering women based on the Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs) of the UNGC and SDG-5 and SDG-8 for amfori members and producers who are sourcing from the RMG sectors in Bangladesh. 80% of the labour force in the Ready-Made Apparel industry in Bangladesh is female. The project aims to create gender sensitivities amongst the front-line workers on anti-sexual harassment and gender issues to reduce disparity between male and female workers in the sourcing factories. This project also gives opportunities and encourages through capacity building and leadership training for female front-line workers to go up their career paths. This will provide employment and income generation for women to become decision makers and be empowered in their families.

The CSR Centre in partnership with Global Apparel GmbH initiated a 9-month Project "Implementing WEPs in the Workplace for Women Empowerment ". Global Apparel GmbH: Global Apparel Sourcing - Bangladesh is a member of BSCI and one of the biggest signatories of the Accord. It is an established global trading company which has experts in Germany, China and Bangladesh in the apparel trade. Brands and suppliers in Bangladesh have been engaged in implementing certain compliance issues at factory level. Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), Social and Environmental compliance are critical areas for both international brands and local suppliers. As the huge number of workforce in the RMG sector in Bangladesh are women, it is necessary to create an enabling working environment for both women and men in order to increase productivity and profits for better business. The BSCI factories are currently required to implement and commit to the Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs) of the United Nations. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in reference to women empowerment and WEPs include SDG-5, 8 and 10 in the workplace. These Goals will support a competitive trade environment developing women friendly and safe working conditions to adapt to buyers needs on global sustainability and enhance both buyer and supplier positive branding

The CSR Centre and Winrock International are collaborating to create an opportunity for the organizations where industry leaders can bestow valuable CSR resources as part of their organizational agenda for those marginalized returnee migrants who have been exposed to myriads of exploitation abroad and are now struggling to tide over the social and economic challenges in their homeland once returned. Since its inception, Winrock through Ashshash have been trying to change the fate of these underprivileged population through various interventions. Additionally, through this Ashshash project effectively contributing to SDG-1, 3,5, 8, 10, 13 and 17.