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United Nations Global Compact

ifba
INTERNATIONAL
FOOD & BEVERAGE
ALLIANCE

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

From: January 2020 to: January 2022

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent

August 15th, 2022

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that the International Food & Beverage Alliance (IFBA) reaffirms its support to the Ten Principles of UN Global Compact.

This Communication on Engagement describes our organization's efforts to support the implementation of the principles and to engage with the Global Compact.

Sincerely,



Rocco Renaldi
Secretary-General

Part II. Description of actions

The International Food & Beverage Alliance is an alliance of the world's leading international food and non-alcoholic beverage companies – The Coca-Cola Company, Danone, Ferrero, General Mills, Grupo Bimbo, Kellogg's, Mars Incorporated, Mondelēz International, Nestlé, PepsiCo and Unilever – who came together in 2008 around a set of commitments to improve global health and nutrition.

We share a common goal to help consumers achieve balanced diets and live healthier lives. Today, these commitments and our actions are aligned with the mandate to the private sector set out in the 2018 UN Political Declaration on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

IFBA and the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Our activities support all the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG's 2, 3, 12, 13 and 17.

Through our commitments and partnerships, we support an integrated approach to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and achieving the ultimate goal of a better, more sustainable and peaceful world for all.

The SDGs aim not only to end poverty and hunger, reduce malnutrition, and improve public health but also to ensure that all people, at all times, have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food. As leading food and beverage manufacturers, we recognize our responsibility to help end hunger and feed a growing global population. We know we have a primary role in contributing to shape the food environment through improved nutrition, expanded food access and responsible marketing, and that is where we focus our collective work as IFBA.

A sustainable food environment connects diet and nutrition to the systems that produce food, ensuring that consumers have access to healthy options and can make informed choices about their diets. By continuing to improve our products, providing clear and comprehensive nutrition information, and restricting marketing to children, our commitments shape a sustainable food environment that empowers consumers to eat balanced diets and live healthier lives.

Good health and nutrition lie at the heart of the SDGs. Our commitments directly support the goals of zero hunger (SDG 2) and good health and wellbeing for all (SDG3), but nutrition and health are essential to comprehensive progress on the 2030 Agenda. Improving food security gives children a better chance at success in school and contributes to stable and peaceful societies where economic growth, gender equality, and environmental health can flourish.

We are leveraging our scale where it can have the greatest impact to build a food system that delivers food security and nutrition, and integrates sustainability across economic, social, and environmental dimensions of every stage of the food system. Through company initiatives and partnerships, our members are working to promote health, reduce greenhouse emissions, sustainably source ingredients, innovate packaging and recycling, and reduce food loss and waste throughout the supply chain.

Action supporting the UN Global Compact

Transforming the global food system

As leading food and beverage manufacturers, we recognize the critical role we play in efforts to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Beyond the core work of IFBA, members have mapped their sustainability priorities against the SDGs and are leveraging their scale and expertise across the areas they can have the greatest impact to create a sustainable food system – one that delivers safe and nutritious foods for all people and encompasses sustainability across economic, social and environmental dimensions at every stage of the food system.

Creating Change through Partnership

Over the past two years, we collaborated with others in the business community to ensure that the private sector is part of the solution to a better and more sustainable future for all. Firstly, in preparation for the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), which was convened in September 2021, IFBA was appointed, by the UNFSS Secretariat, to the Private Sector Guiding Group (PSGG), with a mandate to help lead the food system transformation by implementing a set of actions to be undertaken by the business community during the Decade of Action. PSGG developed the Business Declaration on Food Systems Transformation that establishes a set of actions designed to accelerate global transformation to an equitable, net-zero and nature-positive food system that can nourish all people.

Secondly, in support of the 2021 Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit, IFBA joined with five other leading business organizations to form the N4G Business Constituency Group, supported by the Access to Nutrition Initiative (ATNI) and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) with a goal to identify ways in which business could support efforts to tackle all forms of malnutrition. Highlighting the BCG's commitment to better nutrition globally, the BCG developed five areas of commitments, including the Responsible Business Pledge for Better Nutrition. We know that transforming our food systems and creating a resilient food system will require systemic change and new forms of collaboration among all stakeholders – governments, civil society and the private sector. As the leading voice of our industry, we are committed to do our part and help drive collective action.

Part III. Measurement of outcomes

Making Progress on Our Commitments

Product Formulation and Innovation

Despite the disruption driven by the global pandemic, IFBA members continued to make progress on their commitments to improve global health and nutrition. We continue to innovate to improve the nutrition of our foods and beverages and promote healthier choices. Products are being reformulated or developed with less sugar, fat and salt and more whole grains, fibre, fruits and vegetables. We are reducing calories by offering smaller portion sizes to help people control their added sugar intake more easily. To help alleviate undernutrition and reduce the risk of malnutrition, we are fortifying commonly consumed foods and beverages, delivering hundreds of billions of micronutrient-fortified servings of foods and beverages and improved access to nutritious foods. Details on individual company commitments on formulation and innovation are available in our latest [Progress Report](#).

We are on track to achieve the elimination of industrially produced trans fats in our products worldwide by 2023 and working in collaboration with key stakeholders to share best practices and help guide other manufacturers in our industry to do the same. We are implementing nutrition labelling and responsible marketing policies globally and promoting and supporting healthy, sustainable living in the workplace and in communities around the world in partnership with governments, UN agencies and civil society.

Nutrition Information

We encourage healthy, balanced diets and help people make the right food choices for themselves and their families by providing clear information on the nutritional value of our products, on packs, online and at point-of-sale. IFBA adopted a set of “Principles for a global approach to fact-based nutrition labelling” which are in line with national regulations and guidance and where such regulations and guidance do not exist, are in line with Codex Alimentarius. This simple-to-understand labelling approach gives consumers easy access to the amount of calories, sugar, sodium and other nutrients in each serving or portion and how each contributes to daily nutritional needs for a balanced, healthy diet.

- 99.7% of IFBA members’ products globally display nutritional information on pack
- 96.8% IFBA members’ products globally display GDAs on pack
- 95.8% IFBA members’ products globally display calories front-of-pack

Responsible Marketing to Children

In 2008, IFBA adopted a global policy on marketing to children designed to change how and what we advertise to children - reducing the marketing of foods high in fat, sugar or salt and ensuring that marketing communications are aligned with the promotion of balanced diets and healthy, active lifestyles. The policy applies to all types of media and to all products marketed to children in every country where our products are sold. The core of the policy is a common commitment to either not advertise foods and beverages to children under 12 at all or advertise only products that meet specific nutrition standards. Over the years, we have significantly expanded our policy to adapt to a changing media environment and consumer expectations.

We have worked to improve the standards of marketing to children among other industry partners – implementing regional and national pledges in 51 countries based on the core tenets of the IFBA global policy. Our approach has led to strengthened self-regulatory processes globally and positive changes in the nutritional composition of products marketed to children.

Details of third-party monitoring of industry-led commitments demonstrating consistently high compliance levels are available in our latest [Progress Report](#).