

# UN Global Compact Communication on Progress (COP) Miele & Cie. KG

Reporting Period: 1 January 2021 – 31 December 2021 GC Active Level

## Reference:

- Miele Sustainability Report 2021:  
[https://www.miele.com/media/ex/ce/presseartikel/nachhaltigkeit/miele\\_sustainability\\_report\\_2021.pdf](https://www.miele.com/media/ex/ce/presseartikel/nachhaltigkeit/miele_sustainability_report_2021.pdf)

1. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive Officer
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## 1. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive Officer

To our stakeholders:

Since its founding, Miele's commitment to environmental and social responsibility has been an integral part of its corporate culture and business activities and joining the United Nations Global Compact in 2004 was a logical step. Since then, we have successively strengthened our commitment to sustainability and we are pleased to confirm that Miele & Cie. KG reaffirms its support of the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact. In addition, we want to make a contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations - and thus help to master the challenges of our time.

In this Communication on Progress, we describe our actions and the progress we have made in the 2021 business year in implementing the Ten Principles. The business year ended on December 31, 2021. 2021 saw, despite several challenges like the Covid-19 Pandemic, steady growth and the Miele Group achieved sales of € 4.84 bn. This corresponds to a growth in sales of 7.5%. As per December 2021, the Miele Group had 21,921 employees. This puts employment figures at a consistently high level. We achieved this growth and similarly have further developed our strategy in setting ambitious sustainability goals.

In order to keep our stakeholders informed of our strategy and our progress, we published our tenth sustainability report in October of 2021. Miele meets the challenges of today with decisive action and wants to contribute to a better tomorrow by adopting a robust sustainability strategy.

Rebecca Steinhage  
Executive Director Human Resources & Corporate Affairs

## 2. Human Rights Principles

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

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

### *Assessment, Policy and Goals*

Since Miele was founded in 1899, supporting and respecting human rights in all its business activities has been a pivotal aspect of its corporate culture. Consequently, Miele supports and respects the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

Furthermore, the observance of human rights is an important issue for Miele's future sense of direction and for risk management. To ensure the support of human rights beyond its own operations and along the entire supply chain, Miele has set up a responsible supply chain management system. Compliance with environmental, social and economic sustainability standards is monitored several times over the course of a business relationship. Suppliers and business partners are supposed to comply with social requirements based on SA8000, which Miele controls with the help of supplier self-assessments, supplier audits and certifications.

Additionally a risk surveillance system collects intelligence about worldwide news and developments regarding the supply chain. Suppliers are also contractually obliged to comply with the same duties of care. Thereby Miele strives not to miss any relevant information about its business partners and the regions of sourcing.

### *Implementation*

In 2008, Miele first implemented its Code of Conduct. It was most recently reviewed and updated in 2020. The code states in writing – amongst other things – the company's policy on human rights and anti-corruption. On commencing employment with Miele, new employees are introduced to the company's principles and the Code of Conduct. Noticeboard bulletins at production plants remind employees of the General Equality Act and the complaints office and site contact persons for male and female complainants. Every employee in Germany has the right to turn to a complaints office, which offers help as the first point of call in the case of suspected discrimination. Similar systems are in place at the international sites. The complaints office or person works closely with the aggrieved person to review the circumstances surrounding the complaint. Wherever possible, the results of the review are disclosed to the person within one month. Since 2015, an online compliance training programme on the Miele Code of Conduct, valid legislation on competition and the General Equality Act are in place. Participation is obligatory for relevant groups of employees, mainly in management positions; the programme is also open to all other parties within the company for whom the contents of the Code of Conduct and the issue of compliance are particularly important.

To ensure compliance with human rights in its own business activities, Miele already decided in 2004 to implement the SA8000 Standard, which suggests a management system approach to complying with the UN Declaration of Human Rights, conventions of the ILO, as well as UN and national law. Since 2008, all Miele production sites have been successfully certified or re-certified for three more years, the most recent recertification took place in 2022. Miele classifies all suppliers with respect to risk on the basis of SA8000 criteria. Since 2019, the central purchasing team is holding regular meetings to optimise procurement processes in keeping with ethics standards.

Once potential suppliers have completed their self-assessment successfully and Miele is interested in engaging in a business relationship, the supplier needs to pass a short audit conducted on-site, assessing amongst other things compliance with human rights and labour principles. Brief audits were performed online for the first time in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Suppliers are required to update their self-assessment every year and are audited on a regular basis, assessing similar criteria to those in the short audit. In addition, if classified as a high risk supplier due to country of origin or sector affiliation, suppliers undergo a more detailed audit specifically focusing on human rights and labour principles every year. In the 2021 business year, Miele had access to more than 157 trained auditors in total who are deployed in process audits. If a supplier does not pass the audit, Miele engages with the supplier to jointly develop improvement measures. If however the supplier is not willing to improve, Miele usually ends the business relationship.

#### *Measurement of Outcomes*

The online compliance training programme on the Miele Code of Conduct has been successfully completed on a worldwide scale by a total of 4,122 employees.

In the 2021 business year 482 suppliers completed the self-assessment. Within this year, one supplier was inspected according to an escalation plan. Inspection showed no deviations; the supplier was not placed under embargo.

Self-assessment on compliance with social standards by potential suppliers			
No.			
	2019	2020	2021
Compliance confirmed	866	510	471
Compliance not confirmed	8	6	11
Total	874	516	482

#### *GRI References*

Principle 1: 408, 409, 412, 413

Principle 2: 412, 414

### **3. Labour Principles**

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

**Principle 4: Businesses should uphold the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour.**

**Principle 5: Businesses should uphold the effective abolition of child labour.**

**Principle 6: Businesses should uphold the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.**

#### *Assessment, Policy and Goals*

Meeting high social and ethical standards is a top priority for Miele. Upholding the freedom of association and collective bargaining as well as the elimination of forced labour, child labour and employment discrimination are core responsibilities. Consequently, Miele supports and respects the ILO Core Conventions, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Miele's commitment to its employees goes far beyond fulfilling legal requirements. The company pays decent wages in all countries of operation. Furthermore, Miele grants numerous social benefits and ensures worker participation and employee representation. Miele is an equal opportunity employer. This is also reflected in the sustainability strategy, the objective being to promote diversity through respect and equal opportunities.

Miele would like to raise awareness throughout the company for the potential of diverse life and work experiences, perspectives, and values. The company-wide framework for promoting diversity and equal opportunities and combatting discrimination is provided by Miele's Corporate Philosophy, the Miele Code of Conduct and a company agreement to adhere to the general principles of equal opportunities. The successful recertification of all locations according to SA8000 in 2022 is the result of Miele's continued commitment towards fair working conditions. Furthermore, Miele has signed the German Diversity Charter in 2012.

Remuneration at Miele's German sites takes place according to a person's job and in keeping with collective agreements based on the framework pay agreement for the metal and electronics industry. Therefore, there are no differences in the remuneration of women and men at Miele. Merit pay is categorised and calculated strictly based on the specific task and actual performance and does not take gender or other irrelevant criteria into account.

Employee pay at Miele's Dongguan plant in China was raised above the minimum wage to an appropriate living wage, which, unlike the former, covers the cost of living. Employee pay in the Czech Republic is also based on the local cost of living. In Romania, Miele complies with national guidelines and also makes additional social security payments. Miele Poland complies with national guidelines and the law and pays the corresponding social security contributions.

To establish support of labour standards beyond its own operations and along the supply chain, Miele has set up a supply chain management system. Suppliers and business partners are supposed to comply with social requirements based on SA8000, which Miele controls with the help of supplier self-assessments and supplier audits.

Please see also Principle 1/2 for further details

### *Implementation*

To ensure occupational health and safety, all Miele sites are ISO 45001 certified. Certification was renewed in 2020 and is valid for a further three years. In the Miele plants, 21 specialists are deployed exclusively in the field of occupational safety (2021 business year). In addition, we also have 251 safety officers who perform these tasks alongside their regular company duties. These include providing advice during the planning and realisation of plant systems or when workstations are being designed. The safety officers receive four trainings a year on various safety topics ranging from hazardous substances to noise. Furthermore, regular instruction takes place at all locations. Extensive checklists are available for daily work activities. Regular safety meetings are held at all plants and all departments are frequently inspected. This ensures that necessary measures are taken seriously. With the aim of increasing the safety awareness of all employees in the workplace and to regularly update knowledge, around 1,471 external training courses and specialised instruction sessions were held in almost all departments in 2020. In addition, the Work

Safety Committee at each plant meets four times a year. Approximately four percent of the entire company workforce at Miele is directly involved with this committee. These meetings shifted to digital in 2020.

Every manager needs to qualify with a one-day training on diversity. To promote equal opportunities, Miele runs projects and events to promote the interests of women. Women at Miele are also often involved in the company networks for women. Miele runs its own child day-care centre near its Central Headquarters and largest production location in Gütersloh. The close proximity to the production site and the opening times contribute towards improving the lives of working parents. Services are provided to over 70 children ranging from toddlers to infants of school age.

Every employee in Germany has the ability to turn to a complaints office, which offers help as the first point of call in the case of suspected discrimination. In accordance with the General Act on Equal Treatment, the works council is involved in handling and evaluating incoming complaints. Miele has set up dedicated complaints offices, each of which is staffed by one man and one woman, at every company location in Germany. All complaints are naturally confidential. Similar systems are in place at the international sites. The complaints office works closely with the aggrieved person to review the circumstances surrounding the complaint. Wherever possible, the results of the review are disclosed to the complainant within one month.

Please see Principle 1/2: Implementation for further details. Miele has implemented comprehensive management systems to ensure compliance with both human rights and labour principles along the value chain.

#### *Measurement of Outcomes*

Please see Principle 1/2: Measurement of Outcomes for further details on management systems, number of employees trained on the Code of Conduct and number of potential suppliers who completed the self-assessment questionnaire.

The following measurements of outcomes refer to the business year 2021. The change to business year 2020 is given in brackets in percentage or percentage points (pp), where applicable:

- Total number of employees: 21,9 (+ 4.7%)
- Percentage of employees covered by collective bargaining agreements: 66.8% (0 pp)
- Employee turnover rate Germany: 1.7% (+ 0,41 pp)
- Injury frequency rate: 13.9% (+ 0.8 pp)
- Percentage of women in total German workforce: 21.8% (- 0.3 pp)
- Percentage of Miele employees in Germany with non-German citizenship: 6.5% (+ 0.2 pp)
- Percentage of employees in Germany with disability: 5.7% (- 0.2 pp)

During 2021, no complaint was received related to the General Act on Equal Treatment.

#### *GRI References*

Principle 3: 102, 402, 407

Principle 4: 409

Principle 5: 408

Principle 6: 102, 202, 401, 404, 405, 406

## 4. Environmental Principles

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

**Principle 8: Businesses should undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility.**

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

### *Assessment, Policy and Goals*

Miele sees environmental protection as one of its core responsibilities. Climate protection is one of the most important issues in the 2018 analysis of key factors and is of special significance to Miele. In October 2020, the Executive Board adopted a new climate action strategy with ambitious climate targets in the process, which also meets the requirements of the Science Based Targets Initiative. Approaches and solutions as to how Miele can meet its entrepreneurial responsibilities in the field of climate protection are reflected in almost all strategic fields of action. Miele is guided by the central aim of the Paris agreement to limit global warming to significantly below 2 °C or, better than that, to below 1.5 °C, and continues to promote the reduction of company-linked greenhouse gases.

Beyond greenhouse gas emissions, the company addresses in its own processes material use, energy use, water use, wastewater, and waste. However, as a producer of household appliances, the largest impact in the value chain lies in the usage phase of its products. Thus, the company places special emphasis on managing this aspect of environmental impact and initial pilot projects are currently under way. As a guiding principle, the company aims to avoid, reduce and recycle as much as possible and adopts a precautionary approach.

The sustainability strategy defines objectives relating to the environmental performance of products and production through to 2030:

- Miele is branch leader in terms of environmental performance, in particular with respect to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and energy and resource efficiency: Efforts to improve efficiency in production will be continued and central climate indicators added. Material loops are to be closed with respect to both products and production wherever economically feasible according to the cradle-to-cradle principle. Measures will cover the three areas of energy consumption, resource efficiency and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- Miele appliances are the benchmark in sustainable product design and holistic efficiency: Designing machines which are both long-lasting and repairable is an integral part of Miele's product philosophy.
- Miele is leader in its branch of industry with respect to new products and features and business models with a bearing on sustainability: With new or redesigned business models, Miele exploits sustainability potential and creates additional user benefits for its customers. Wherever they make sense, system solutions, sharing, leasing and other models are adopted which are comprehensive and well-conceived.

In formulating its sustainability strategy, Miele has defined the following quantitative goals in the energy and greenhouse gas emissions field:

- Reduction of specific energy consumption in the usage phase of Miele products (Scope 3.11) by 15% compared to 2019 levels by the year 2030

- Reduction of CO2 emissions (Scope 1 and 2) by 50% compared to 2019 levels by the year 2030
- Reduction of CO2 emissions in the vehicle fleet (Scope 1) by at least 30 % by the year 2030

To promote environmental responsibility amongst its suppliers, Miele has integrated environmental aspects in its supply chain management system. Suppliers and business partners are asked to indicate in the supplier self-assessment if an environmental management system is in place, that local environmental laws are observed and if resources are managed sustainably. Requirements regarding the environmental impact of purchased raw materials and components are guided by both applicable laws and company specifications.

### *Implementation*

#### Production

Since 2015, Miele monitors compliance with regulations at all of its German plants with the help of a unified legal management system covering operational environmental protection, energy management and occupational health and safety.

Miele uses an integrated management system to control environmental protection affairs throughout the company. An important component of this management system is the environmental management system, which is certified according to ISO 14001 at all Miele production locations worldwide. It includes guidelines for dealing with materials, water, and waste as well as emissions. Miele manages and monitors its environmental performance with the help of environmental performance indicators. The management system is reviewed at the beginning of each business year and progress is measured based on the results of individual reviews conducted at the various Miele plants. These results are then used to set new objectives. The internal reviews are complemented by external monitoring audits.

A further building block in the integrated management system is energy management which is certified at all European production locations according to ISO 50001. Recertification is required once every three years. The energy management system at the Dongguan plant in China is also based on ISO 50001. The system helps the locations to identify potential for further energy savings and to implement appropriate measures. The officers regularly exchange best practice information on a cross-plant basis. Miele reviews its energy management system on a yearly basis by means of internal audits which are carried out by five specially trained employees. During the 2021 business year, no deviations were observed. There were only recommendations on optimising individual process descriptions; the implementation of appropriate improvement measures have already begun and include coordinating the process of defining key performance indicators, as well as redesigning and simplifying energy reports. With the audits, Miele also fulfils the national implementation of the 2015 EU Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), which requires companies to carry out an energy audit every four years. The energy audit according to DIN EN 16247-1 will be performed at affected subsidiaries.

Each area has its own responsible officers at the Miele headquarters and in the individual plants. All of the plant officers report to the headquarters in Gütersloh. There is a continuous exchange of information across all plants: The teams for operational environmental protection and energy management meet two times a year at one of the German locations. These meetings are used to discuss individual efficiency projects, to provide information about changes in the legal framework, and for further training. Officers from other European plants and from Dongguan in China participate in workshops in Germany, however due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the network groups also organised meetings online in 2021. The energy management team has also been organised as an internal efficiency network.

## Products

To ensure its products will meet the required quality, longevity, and environmental standards, Miele uses an environmental checklist within the product development process and produces corresponding life cycle assessments for relevant technological modifications. Miele adopts a holistic approach in developing its durable domestic appliances and commercial machines. All products offer high performance and the best possible results in combination with the lowest possible energy, water and chemical consumption. Above all in the laundry-care and dishwashing sectors, Miele increasingly offers system solutions in which appliances, wash processes and detergents are perfectly matched. Similarly, the connectivity of domestic appliances can contribute towards a more efficient use of resources.

## Suppliers

Please see Principle 1: Implementation for further details on how Miele audits its suppliers. Environmental aspects are part of the same audits as compliance with human rights and labour standards.

## *Measurement of Outcomes*

The following measurements of outcomes refer to the 2021 business year. The percentage change to business year 2020 is given in brackets:

<b>Production (in absolute figures)</b>	<b>2021</b>	2020	%-change	Source	Unit
Environmental protection investments	0,777	0,918	-15,4%	NHB 2021, p.94 & internal data collection	Mio. €
Environmental protection expenditures	5,300	8,700	-39,1%	NHB 2021, p.95 & internal data collection	Mio. €
Energy use	300.918	281.020	7,1%	NHB 2021, p. 63 & internal data collection	MWh
CO2 emissions	44.008	54.258	-18,9%	NHB 2021, p. 64 & internal data	t CO2
Water use	393.191	393.827	-0,2%	NHB 2021, p. 97 & internal data collection	m <sup>3</sup>
Waste water	361.005	362.702	-0,5%	NHB 2021, p. 98 & internal data collection	m <sup>3</sup>
Waste	32.924	31.636	4,1%	NHB 2021, p. 95 & internal data collection	T

<b>Production (in relative figures)</b>	<b>2021</b>	2020	%-change	Source	Unit
Energy use per ton of product	1,402	1,380	1,6%	NHB 2021, p. 98 & internal data collection	kWh
CO2 emissions per ton of product	205	266	-22,9%	Internal data collection	kg CO2e
Water use per ton of product	1,83	1,93	-5,2%	NHB 2021, p. 98 & internal data collection	m <sup>3</sup>
Waste water per ton of product	1,68	1,78	-5,6%	NHB 2021, p. 98 & internal data collection	m <sup>3</sup>



Waste production per ton of product	153	155	-1,3%	NHB 2021, p. 96 & internal data collection	kg
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No contraventions of environmental regulations were recorded during the period under review. Miele takes complaints very seriously and processes these with a high priority.

### Products

Miele was once again able to improve the efficiency of its appliances. This is reflected in both consumption and energy efficiency ratings.

In the 2021 business year, 69.4% of washing machines, which now are subject to new energy labelling in the EU, as well as in GB, CH, NO, and TR (99%) fell into the top A category. In the case of tumble dryers, an increase in the share of products in the highest efficiency category in the European Union was achieved: from 59% to 63.2% according to the old label. For dishwashers, the largest share is in category C with 66.5%, Class F had the largest share of refrigerators with 46.17% - both according to the new label.

The following appliances are subject to the new label, valid from March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021:

Energy Efficiency Category	Washing machines	Dishwashers	Cooling appliances
A	69.4%	0.7%	-
B	21.9%	5.1%	0.4%
C	3.4%	66.5%	0.8%
D	5.3%	1.5%	18.1%
E	-	23.3%	28.9%
F	-	2.9%	46.1%
G	-	-	5.5%*

\*Exclusively wine units.

The following appliances are subject to the old label (still valid).

Energy Efficiency Category	Tumble dryer	Electric cookers and ovens
A+++	63.2%	-
A++	32.9%	-
A+	-	99.5%
A	-	0.5%
B	2.9%	-
C	1.0%	-
D	-	-
E	-	-

### *GRI References*

Principle 7: 201, 301, 302, 303, 305

Principle 8: 301-308

Principle 9: 302, 305

## 5. Anti-Corruption Principles

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

#### *Assessment, Policy and Goals*

Miele pursues a zero-tolerance policy against all forms of corruption, bribery, extortion and illicit enrichment and has committed itself to be in compliance with all relevant laws, including anti-corruption laws.

Compliance management ensures that valid legislation and Miele's own guidelines are applied at all times.

To establish support of anti-corruption policies beyond its own operations, these principles are embedded in Miele's supply chain management system. Suppliers and business partners are asked to follow anti-corruption policies and confirm doing so in a supplier self-assessment.

#### *Implementation*

##### Code of Conduct

In 2008, Miele first implemented its Code of Conduct. This was last reviewed and updated in 2020. The code states in writing, amongst other things, the company's policy on corruption, bribery, donations and sponsoring. Its predecessor was the Code of Ethics, which was implemented in the purchasing department in 1996. On joining the company, new employees are introduced to the company's principles and the Code of Conduct.

As part of the internal audit, specific aspects of the Code of Conduct are verified, amongst them compliance with the policies on accepting gifts, on donations, and on conflicts of interest. In the event of violations, the company will agree on corrective measures.

Please see *Principle 1: Implementation* for further details on how Miele audits its suppliers. Compliance with its anti-corruption policy is part of the same audits as compliance with human rights and labour standards.

##### Grievance Mechanism

Since 2010, an external ombudsperson can be contacted if there is a suspicion of corruption, fraud, or theft in any Miele location. Employees, suppliers, and third parties all over the world are able to consult the ombudsperson. Whistleblowers are guaranteed complete anonymity.

The first contact in the event of contraventions against data protection provisions is the Data Protection Officer of the Miele Group. During 2018, Miele also passed the Miele Data Protection Policy. This regulates the treatment of digital data, in particular those relating to customers.

#### *Measurement of Outcomes*

Please see Principle 1/2: Measurement of Outcomes for further details on number of employees trained on the Code of Conduct.

In 2016, self-learning software on the subject of competition and anti-trust legislation was introduced at all locations in Germany. All employees involved in issues relating to competition and anti-trust law are obliged to use this self-learning software. The programme ends with a test. Records are kept on whether tests were passed. Additionally, a legal management system covering environmental protection, energy, occupational health and safety was implemented in the period.

There were no signs of corruption during the 2021 business year. Furthermore, no contract with a supplier was terminated or discontinued due to non-compliance with the anti-corruption policy.

Please see Human Rights Principles and Labour Principles: Measurement of Outcomes

*GRI References*

Principle 10: 102, 205, 415