



**MLA
COLLEGE**

The Merchant
St Andrew Street
Plymouth
Devon
PL1 2AX

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

**UNIVERSITY OF
PLYMOUTH**

To whom it may concern,

I am pleased to confirm that MLA College reaffirms its support for the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles, supporting engagement on issues of human rights, labour, environmental responsibility, and anti-corruption. The following short document reports the first two years of MLA College's engagement activities working with the UN Global Compact framework.

In this report, we document major areas of development that we feel show alignment to not only the UN Sustainable Development Goals but the implicit (and often explicit) support and capacity building for the 10 Principles. Undertaking activities that are appropriate for a Higher Education provider with educational foci on the maritime sector and global sustainable development we outline significant progression on our Programme portfolio, increasing accessibility to our Programmes, and a deepening and official relationship with agencies within the United Nations.

We commit to sharing this information with our many stakeholders; amongst who number CIFAL City of London, UNITAR, the Institute of Marine Science Engineering and Technology, the University of Plymouth, our academic and professional services teams, and, of course, our students.

Prof John Chudley

Rector, MLA College.



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Learning open to all

The distance education MLA College provides allows for every individual, regardless of their employment / occupation, to receive quality education while continuing their work. Since a significant portion of the learning material is accessible without internet access, it allows for accessibility throughout the world, including those only with intermittent internet access such as offshore workers. Moreover, the three intake periods allow people to register as they see fit within their schedules. Undertaking a part-time degree whilst juggling a career, family and other life commitments thus becomes easier, allowing individuals to manage their time effectively and maintain a healthy balance while working towards their goals. Over the past two years more than 500 students have benefited from the flexibility and accessibility of our distance learning provision.

Whilst alignment to SDG 4 may not be explicitly associated with the Compact's 10 Principles, much of the material delivered through our Programmes does. Our specialist focus upon the maritime sector (and now Global Sustainable Development) allows us to shine an academic light on areas of the sector that are more closely associated with these Principles, particularly the maritime labour market and strategies, environmental responsibility, and ethical leadership.

Promoting under-represented student groups

As part of our commitment to open and accessible education, we retain special interest in the role of under-represented groups within our areas of teaching. The maritime sector is significantly underrepresented by women, and thus we were aware that our student cohort might well reflect this. To encourage as many female students to apply as possible, MLA College has started its own Women in Maritime bursary scheme which acts as a fee reduction for appropriate candidates. Over the past two years over 30 female students have been awarded bursaries.

In recognition that there is a real need to encourage students from less developed countries to apply for Sustainable Development studies, we have awarded 12 scholarships and/or bursaries to students who have met the appropriate criteria. Two students have received the "26.2" award, which acts as a fee reduction which was allocated in recognition of an MLA College team member's contribution to SDG3 through running the London Marathon; whilst a further 10 have been awarded under the aegis of the Pura Scholarship, with fees being covered by a materials company that is making great strides in the sustainability area of recycling within the UK. Again, whilst not explicitly aligned to the 10 Principles, these



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schemes allow for under-represented groups to access education that informs and explores aspects of the 10 Principles.

Programme development in Global Sustainable Development

The last two years have seen the development and validation of three Higher Education programmes related to Global Sustainable Development (GSD). These programmes are focused upon professional learners, those who are in the world of work and are either in the field of sustainable development or wishing to move within or into it. They are designed to be run through distance learning enabling students from all around the world to participate without the need to move or relinquish their personal and professional commitments. The BSc Top Up in GSD is a final year programme which allows students, with some higher education experience or with considerable work experience in the field, to gain a full qualification in sustainable development. The MSc in GSD is a full Masters programme, and the MSc Sustainability in Practice is a final Masters research Top Up programme, studied by those already firmly embedded within academic and/or professional work in sustainable development and with senior level responsibility within the field. This award is given for a successful piece of action research where students, who are already responsible for making change in organisations, lead projects that develop sustainability initiatives within their community or workplace.

These programmes are all designed to show the complexity of engaging with the debate on sustainable development, promoting environmental responsibility, social inclusion, and human rights, and the making of responsible business decisions. All three Programmes are aligned explicitly to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (or a subset thereof in the case of Sustainability in Practice), and, as such, they collectively work towards many of the 10 Principles. The Sustainability in Practice programme started in September 2022 and the BSc Top Up has just started at the beginning of 2023. The full MSc will commence in September 2023. The Sustainability in Practice programme has a number of students from countries such as, El Salvador, Rwanda, Cameroon, the Philippines, and Brazil as well as the UK. The projects cover a wide range of sustainability initiatives such as using digital products to help drive sustainability issues for new and emerging companies; using existing platform technology to piggyback ocean sensors for academic research and community engagement; redesigning social media campaigns for coastal NGOs and reducing food waste in communities in central Africa.

Strategic and significant links to the United Nations

The close alignment to sustainability as a global idea cutting across sectors and communities, as well as guiding principles to addressing issues within one specific sector



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(maritime) has been acknowledged by the United Nations (UN), and MLA's dedication to the SDGs was further cemented in 2022 by the initiation of a strategic partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). As the sole official strategic partner of UNITAR in the UK, MLA College is the official education partner for the International Training Centre for Authorities and Leaders, CIFAL City of London, which aims to increase the awareness of and competencies for SDGs (and, by extension, the Compact's 10 Principles) through quality education and training in the United Kingdom and the world. CIFAL City of London, as the 25th centre in the CIFAL Global Network, serves as an information hub on sustainability for any individual and/or organisation interested in becoming a sustainability champion and global citizen by being educated on the issue.

Through its partnership with UNITAR and CIFAL, MLA College has collaborated on numerous events and activities for the dissemination of sustainability know-how throughout the world. These events, both online and onsite, were co-hosted by UNITAR and conducted with numerous partners such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Maritime UK, Maritime London, Nautilus International, Diversity in Maritime, The Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), Women's International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA) UK, and Dentons, and have involved over 300 individuals from within the sector, building significant capacity for sustainable change within the sector.