

UNGC Communication on Engagement  
IPPAG Cooperative  
Covering Jan 2021 to Dec 2022

**Part I.**

**Statement of Continued Support by our Chairman**

To Whom It May Concern:

*I am writing to express the IPPAG Cooperative's continued support for the United Nations Global Compact and renew our organisation's on-going commitment to the initiative and its principles.*

*The IPPAG Cooperative is committed to behave in a socially and ethically exemplary way and we believe that we are responsible for all the people who take part in the production and support of our products and services worldwide. We are continuously challenging each link in our industry's supply chain from manufacturers to end-customers via the IPPAG Sustainability Pledge: [www.ippagsustainability.com](http://www.ippagsustainability.com) Our manufacturers are increasingly involved in this program: as we dedicate many resources to raising awareness, providing education and support, also via our [www.ontrackforyourbrand.com](http://www.ontrackforyourbrand.com) industry initiative.*

*The IPPAG Cooperative and its members are committed to a high level of Corporate Citizenship, through our Code of Conduct, our partnership with the United Nations Global Compact Initiative, our Partner Supplier network, and our Amfori / BSCI membership.*

*In the past years, we have significantly strengthened our commitment with a focus on goal 12 'responsible production and consumption': via the creation of a unique and proprietary Carbon Tracking tool. The tool we have developed is ISO 14067 certified and is continually undergoing optimisations. Its usage is effective in all our member companies and licenses are being expanded to industry partners to make this a global reference.*

*Please find below our Communication on Engagement, which demonstrates our intent to continue with our efforts to support the principles of the Global Compact.*

Kind Regards,  
Mr Byron Chavarria  
IPPAG Chairman



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## Parts II. and III.

### Description of Actions / Measurement of Outcomes

#### 1) Global network and industry relations

The IPPAG Cooperative is continuously expanding its network of member and partner companies. All identification, assessment and then integration of new companies is managed on the basis of their capacity to adopt and adhere to the United Nations Guiding Principles and follow the United Nations Global Compact initiative.

Internal information and training is provided to make these new companies fully aware of the program and its implications, in parallel to their adoption of our Code of Conduct, our Responsible Sourcing platform, assessment and auditing methodology and Preferred Supplier network.

In parallel: we are also working to strengthen ties with all industry representatives, trade associations and bodies: acting as spokespersons for the urgent requirement for increased, true and actionable sustainability measures throughout our industry.

#### Outcomes:

- New members and partners integrating IPPAG sign our Code of Conduct and UNGC commitment policy and have received training as detailed
- IPPAG has conducted several member country visits aimed at local staff training and education: 5 countries in 2022 and a further 4 planned in 2023.
- IPPAG has attended and spoken on Sustainability at several industry events in this context: PPAI, PSI, ASI, Remadays, etc...

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#### 2) IPPAG Partner Supplier network

We encourage our Cooperative members to purchase goods via our established network of Partner Suppliers. These suppliers have been fully assessed and are periodically monitored. Consolidating purchases from our 35 member companies in this way helps to minimise risks and promote compliance in all the countries we are active in. Partner Suppliers are made aware of IPPAG and its members commitment to the UNGC.

#### Outcomes:

- Since January 2021: 3 suppliers who did not meet our criteria and expectations have been excluded from the program and 5 new suppliers have been fully assessed and integrated. Thus continuing to help our member companies operate their purchasing within a trusted and reliable network of suppliers, meeting high standards in terms of compliance and CSR.
- 420 suppliers with verified data and member validation fully categorised and documented on our internal Responsible Sourcing platform.

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### 3) IPPAG and IPPAG member membership of Amfori BSCI

As of January 2017: IPPAG has been a member of Amfori on a central level and acts to coordinate sustainability, CSR and compliance efforts carried out by its individual member companies who are also Amfori members.

We assess and audit our Partner Suppliers using Amfori's BSCI initiative framework and our members also conduct BSCI audits with their individual suppliers.

IPPAG centrally provides BSCI training, awareness, advocacy, support and coordination to its members.

#### Outcomes:

7 active Amfori / BSCI members in 2022

12 BSCI audits carried out by IPPAG centrally / 50+ by members directly

250+ producers assessed via the BSCI platform

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### 4) IPPAG support + training:

ie: organizing learning and dialogue events, workshops and training for their members on the UN Global Compact and specific topics relevant to corporate sustainability:

Our 3 x yearly group meetings always include a specific session dedicated to our Responsible Sourcing Program and internal CSR program: directed at Company managers but also and essentially at all company purchasing and sourcing staff.

In addition to our meetings, we have a strong internal network, facilitated by our IT sharing platforms, for all IPPAG purchasing staff: as they act as our 'frontline' being directly concerned by these issues in their day-to-day tasks. IPPAG provides tools and data to help them to source responsibly, and to integrate the UNGC principles into their processes: by providing guidance and joint framework / processes.

On a smaller scale: regional groups of purchasing / sourcing staff are also in close communication and hold regular joint webinars.

IPPAG also attends global / local annual industry events related to CSR and Sustainability issues:

examples: the Amfori annual conference, Asia Inspection Quality workshops, Industry specific Compliance panels (via ASI, PPAI and PSI), etc...

#### Outcomes:

- Strong support system and high levels of exchanges for otherwise 'isolated' purchasing staff. IPPAG acts to facilitate and relay expertise, information and best practices.

- As of 2021: 2 x annual "Member and Partner Education days" with a selection of educational contributions from member companies, industry experts and suppliers

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#### 5) the IPPAG "on track" initiative and carbon tracking tool

As part of the "IPPAG Sustainability Pledge": [www.ippagsustainability.com](http://www.ippagsustainability.com)

We have created an internal 'Carbon Tracking Tool' to be used by all IPPAG members: to calculate / demonstrate / compare / reduce / and compensate the carbon emissions related to the products that we propose and sell.

The tool is ISO 14067 certified and increasingly being used as an industry standard in close collaboration with key stakeholders and organisations.

A few words on the chosen methodology

Life cycle analysis (LCA) is a method that aims to assess the environmental impact of a product through its life cycle, going from extraction, transformation, production, packing, shipping and use to end of life. For each step, CO2 emissions will be calculated:



The tool then takes into account:

The product's subcategory / its country of origin and destination / how it is transported / its gross weight / its materials / its packaging

#### Methodology:

*LCA-type approach (compliant with ISO 14064)= 'Life Cycle Analysis': from the extraction of the raw material to the end of life process for each product*

*GHG (Greenhouse Gas) emissions based on the most suitable emission factors from certified tools and databases (Carbon Base®, DEFRA, SIMAPRO, Ecoinvent, etc)*

*For each product: "IPPAG On Track" takes into account: its material (up to 5 different ones composing the product – 2 per default) based on the product weight – packaging of the product (type and weight) – internal batteries - energy consumption – country of origin + country of destination + via when needed – means of transport – product category*

*To these specific product data are then added energy consumption (IEA 2017 database + DEFRA 2019 source) and the end of life process (DEFRA source for municipal treatment and electronic treatment)*

#### Outcomes:

- Implementation across our 30+ member countries: the tool is being used to create awareness, assess the carbon impact of previous collections / orders: and make better informed choices for future ones. The tool also facilitates the calculation and offsetting of each IPPAG member's carbon Footprint, via carbon credits invested in various local projects.
- expanded use through external licensing to key industry manufacturers and wholesalers.

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### About the IPPAG Cooperative:

The IPPAG Cooperative is made up of over 35 market leading promotional item wholesalers and distributors spread across the world: [www.ippag.net](http://www.ippag.net)

Mission: "The Cooperative facilitates its member's common desire to share and grow together within the promotional items industry: gaining in expertise, excellency and efficiency through shared projects, resources and initiatives."

The IPPAG Cooperative is based in Switzerland, and is run by a general manager, and an elected Board: the current Chairman is Mr Byron Chavarria from Guatemala, and the current Board members are the managers of our Romanian, American and Dutch member companies. With its 35+ members, the companies forming the IPPAG Cooperative have over 2,300 employees around the world, with in-depth experience in a wide range of industries and a combined annual turnover of more than €355 million.

### IPPAG in 2020 / 2022 : our 4 pillars: "IPPAG shares, IPPAG exchanges, IPPAG has vision, IPPAG cares"



Company highlights, member insights, market know-how, best practices  
Partner Suppliers, supply chain database, survey data, tools...



Meetings, supplier and industry events, workshops  
Webinars, training, focus and discussion groups  
Online communities, blogs, information and education resources...



'Think Tank', future of the industry, trends and marketing  
Company purpose, management models and industry leadership...



Sustainability, CSR, Supply chain management, Carbon tracking initiative  
Partner Supplier program, BSCI auditing and implementation  
Social Project: the IPPAG Convergences Awards





IPPAG's commitments:

Committed to a sustainable and purpose-driven **INDUSTRY**

**Awareness / Education / Action**

*IPPAG Sustainability Pledge*

*Universal, certified and exclusive IPPAG Carbon tracking tool*

*Partner Supplier program, and Responsible Supply Chain*

*Sustainability consultancy / Mentoring of sustainable suppliers*

In service of a rapidly evolving and innovative **MARKET**

**Adaptability / Trends / Digitalisation**

*Supporting the transition to Product Media / promotional marketing solutions / 'phygital' gifts*

*IPPAG international marketing campaigning and resources*

*Client case stories & local / regional / global marketing insights*

*'Think Tank' for the future of the industry*

Within a visionary and united **COMMUNITY**

**Relationships / Values / Togetherness**

*Educational, inspirational and collaborative member and supplier events*

*Research, resources, best practices and data*

*Workshops, webinars, training, focus and discussion groups*

*« IPPAG on tour » visits*

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Should any more information be required about any of our activities or programs:

Please contact Miss Florence Mosnier, IPPAG Cooperative General Manager:

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