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Communication of Engagement (COE)
Centre for Economic Policy Research

Period covered by this Communication of Engagement

From 24/02/2020

To: 27/04/2023

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive Officer

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

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I am pleased to confirm that the Centre for Economic Policy Research supports the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. With this commitment, we express our intent to support the Global Compact advancing these principles and will make a clear statement of this commitment to our stakeholders and to the general public.

We also pledge to participate in and engage with the UN Global Compact by promoting the UN Global Compact Ten Principles and educating audiences about sustainability, implementing the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles through your own strategy and operations and encouraging others to participate in the UN Global Compact.

We recognise that a key requirement in the Global Compact is the submission of a Communication on Engagement (COE) that describes our organisation's efforts to support the implementation of the ten principles and to engage with the Global Compact. We support public accountability and transparency, and therefore reconfirm our commitment to report on progress according to the Global Compact COE policy.

Yours sincerely,

Tessa Ogden
Chief Executive Officer
CEPR

Part II. Description of Actions

1. Incorporating the UN Global Compact principles into internal operations

CEPR has been working to incorporate the Global Compact principles within its internal policies and operations.

- CEPR's CEO has emailed all staff members to inform them that the organisation is actively supporting the ten principles of the UN Global Compact.
- CEPR also provides annual compulsory training for all staff members covering a variety of topics related to the ten principles of the UN Global Compact. Recent topics covered include Diversity awareness ("*Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: A Beginner's Guide*" (corresponding to Principles 1 and 6)) and Climate change awareness ("*Climate Change & Sustainability Essentials*" - 2022 Edition (corresponding to Principles 7 and 8)). CEPR is currently exploring potential topics for 2023; the training will take place in August 2023.
- Furthermore, most of the ten principles have been incorporated into CEPR's internal policies. Some examples are:
 - *Principle 10*: [CEPR's Anti-corruption, Fraud and Bribery Policy](#). The Centre requires all staff to act honestly and with integrity and safeguard the resources for which they are responsible. CEPR does not tolerate any level of fraud or corruption and any suspicions of fraud are thoroughly investigated. CEPR applies the policy to its staff and its affiliated researchers, as well as to any suppliers, contractors and service providers.
 - *Principle 6*: CEPR supports Principle 6 by ensuring that no employee or potential employee is discriminated against on the grounds of gender, race, or disability. CEPR extends the concept of equal opportunity to include discrimination on the grounds of religious or political beliefs or sexual orientation. Equal Opportunities at CEPR are outlined in the **CEPR's Recruitment Policy** (available upon request).
 - *Principle 7, Principle 8*: In 2021, CEPR issued its **Environmental Policy Statement** (available upon request), which outlines the Centre's commitment to Principles 7 and 8. The Policy encourages staff to use resources responsibly. In addition, it sets targets related to the reduction of waste, recycling and usage of renewable energy. The policy is currently being reviewed and updated to cover wider areas and confirm CEPR's commitment to environmental responsibility. CEPR has recently appointed a Vice-President for Climate, Professor Mar Reguant, who provides thought leadership for research and policy on climate change across all CEPR's programme areas and Research and Policy Networks and leads on climate policies across all areas of CEPR.

- *Principle 4 and Principle 5*: CEPR has a code of conduct for its researchers, which addresses issues of ethics in research and disclosure of interests. In support of the UN Global Compact Principles, CEPR has recently amended its Code of Conduct for researchers to include specific provisions on the prohibition of the use of forced labour and child labour by researchers funded by the Centre when conducting fieldwork.

2. Promoting the GC and its principles through the following activities

○ *Disseminating the Global Compact principles*

CEPR is promoting the Global Compact Principles on its website as well as on the websites of two of its largest research programmes focused on development economics, **Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries (PEDL)**, and **Structural Transformation and Economic Growth (STEG)**.

<https://cepr.org/about/partners>

<https://steg.cepr.org/about>

<https://pedl.cepr.org/content/about-pedl>

○ *Conducting applied research and thought leadership in relation to the Global Compact*

- Some of CEPR's activities linked to the Global Compact Principles are listed below:

(Environment, Gender, Anti-discrimination efforts)

Two of CEPR's largest research programmes mentioned above (PEDL and STEG) have cross-cutting themes that correspond to the UN Global Compact mission and principles. PEDL and STEG prioritise the funding of projects with a gender and environmental angle. In the past three years, PEDL has funded 26 research projects with an environmental focus and 50 projects with a gender focus. STEG has funded 23 projects on climate and 44 projects on gender.

- In 2019, CEPR created its Research and Policy Networks (RPNs) with the aim of building a community of researchers around a particular topic and ensuring that policy issues are considered. One of the most active RPNs has been the [Climate change RPN](#). Since its foundation the Climate Change RPN has organised 16 events (webinars, workshops and conferences) and has published multiple discussion papers on topics related to the economics of climate change.

Another RPN focuses on [Sustainable Finance](#). This RPN has held five events and has published an eBook and a Policy Insight.

- CEPR also coordinates the [Women in Economics Initiative](#), focusing on improving female representation in the economic profession. In its efforts to address the gender imbalances in economics, CEPR collaborates with several partners, including the

European Central Bank, the Bank for International Settlements and SciencesPo, and has held over 20 events including conferences and a regular seminar series.

- CEPR also supports an initiative led by the UK's Royal Economic Society to improve diversity in undergraduate economics – **Discover Economics**. It aims to broaden the appeal of economics to potential students and attract more students from groups with low representation in economics (women, state school/further education college students, LGBTQI+ students, and ethnic minorities).

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

Below are the most relevant indicators to measure the outcome of the activities described in Part II.

- CEPR's ethical training for staff
 - Two training courses for staff provided
 - 50 (23+27) certificated issued
- One Policy amended (Code of conduct of researchers)
- One policy created (Environmental policy)

- Three calls for proposals dedicated to Climate Change (PEDL)
- 49 project proposals funded on Climate Change (PEDL+STEG)
- 94 project proposals funded on Gender issues (PEDL+STEG)
- 21 events focused on Climate Change (Climate Change RPN and Sustainable Finance RPN)
- 20 Events focusing on Gender Issues (Women in Economics Initiative)

- Three: number of links to the Global Compact principles from the organisation's webpage and associated programmes (CEPR, PEDL and STEG websites)