

May 8, 2023

## **COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)**

**Period covered by this Communication on Engagement : January 2021-December 2023**

### **Statement of Continued Support**

To our stakeholders: I am pleased to confirm that the World Bamboo Organization reaffirms its support of the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labor, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our fourth Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome any comments on its contents, or how we can improve our communications to our stakeholders and to the general public. In this COE, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

The World Bamboo Organization has fully embraced the United Nations declaration of 2021 to 2030 as the [‘Decade on Ecosystem Restoration’](#) - the massive global ‘call to action’ to mobilize the political and financial support necessary to restore deforested and degraded ecosystems over the coming decade. We, and our stakeholders, see real potential where bamboo can help with many of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. On January 25, 2021, WBO Executive Director Susanne Lucas took part in a webinar hosted by Panjab University, Chandigarh India, entitled *Bamboo and the SDGs*. <powerpoint attached>

The World Bamboo Organization has also signed [The Kew Declaration on Reforestation for Biodiversity, Carbon Capture and Livelihoods](#) to protect and restore the world’s forests. This important manifesto outlines key requests to policymakers, reforestation financiers and practitioners, to enable better decision-making for global reforestation to safeguard forest biodiversity, mitigate climate change and improve livelihoods.

WBO also was a signatory of the online "A Statement from Business Leaders for Renewed Global Cooperation".

Our structure is horizontal and consists of “ambassadors” from around the world, all of whom are volunteers. We have expanded our corps of Ambassadors and are proud of the 56 individuals representing 25 countries. You can read about our team on our website, [www.worldbamboo.net](http://www.worldbamboo.net)



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Now with the end of Covid19, many of our ambassadors are able to travel to give presentations around the world in which they have emphasized the potential of bamboo in the SDGs. In continuation of our commitment to the Global Compact, we have encouraged our corporate members to join the UN Global Compact. In September 2022, we had the opportunity to host the 4<sup>th</sup> World Bamboo Workshop in Vietnam, Binh Duong province. Over 200 participants from 30 countries heard presentations ranging from Forest Stewardship Certification of bamboo in Vietnam, plantation development, *in vitro* propagation, nutrition of bamboo shoots, sustainable building techniques using bamboo, and take part in a 3-day hands-on workshop. We continue to share articles that reflect our support for corporate sustainability and the SDGs via social networks such as Twitter and Facebook by sharing UNGC posts to our over 18,000 followers.

2-3 June 2023 WBO Executive Director Susanne Lucas will be a speaker at the first ever European Bamboo Expo, focused on promoting sustainable bamboo development in Europe. Degraded lands and unemployment in southern Europe provide an opportunity to develop bamboo raw material through agroforestry for various industries, as well as mitigating climate change, and this Expo aims to catapult this concept among various interested parties. [www.europeanbambooexpo.eu](http://www.europeanbambooexpo.eu)

The 5<sup>th</sup> World Bamboo Workshop will take place this coming October 2023 in Guatemala, on the Caribbean Coast, with the theme, *Building Resilient Communities with Bamboo*. [www.worldbambooworkshop.com](http://www.worldbambooworkshop.com)

The 12<sup>th</sup> World Bamboo Congress will be held in Taiwan in April 2024, with support coming from the Taiwan Forestry Bureau, the Taiwan Bamboo Society and the National Craft Research and Technology Institute. The theme of the congress is "BambooNow" and will emphasize the role bamboo has in helping the planet through the SDGs. You can see more on the Congress website, [www.worldbamboocongress.org](http://www.worldbamboocongress.org)

Because our concern for the planet's environment, we want to become more active in developing sector-specific tools and resources on corporate sustainability issues in collaboration with the UN Global Compact. Our members are focused on bamboo, and together we can provide targeted expertise on many aspects of bamboo to the UN Global Compact working groups and develop special initiatives. Because many of the billions of people working in bamboo are rural poor, and a large percentage are women, we are particularly concerned with human rights and labor issues. Therefore, the Ten Principles are extremely valid points to WBO.

We are proud to be participating in the UN Global Compact; thank you for the opportunity.  
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susanne Lucas".

Ms. Susanne Lucas, Executive Director and CEO - WBO

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*The mission of the World Bamboo Organization is to promote and support the use of bamboo as a sustainable and alternative natural resource through the development of partnerships and alliances, and the creation of mechanisms for global communication, information exchange, and technology transfer. We are a United States tax-exempt 501c6 organization.*