

creative space beirut

United Nations Global Compact Communication on Engagement 2023

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: June 11, 2018 To: June 11, 2023

Part I: Statement of continued support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I am pleased to confirm that Creative Space Beirut supports the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption.

We recognize that a key requirement for participation in the Global Compact is the submission of a Communication on Engagement (CEO). We support public accountability and transparency and have committed to report on progress this year and every two years thereafter according to the Global Compact CEO policy.

In our COE, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its principles.

Best regards,



Sarah Hermez
Co-founder and President

Part II: Description of Actions

Our mission at Creative Space Beirut is dedicated to fostering and supporting young design talent through an ecosystem of free education and work experience that facilitates equal opportunity into the design industry.

With a goal of becoming a multi-disciplinary and self-sustainable environment, Creative Space Beirut aims to expand into other creative disciplines, using free education to challenge elitist approaches in design and establish a more inclusive field.

Work on SDGs:

The key SDGs that we have worked on in the past 2 years are as follows:

SDG 4: Quality Education:

As a part of our mission, we are providing free design education to talented students who otherwise could not afford an education. We provide a full-time 3 year program in fashion design. Students are also provided with internship opportunities during their time at Creative Space Beirut and assisted in finding employment opportunities when they finish their studies. Our curriculum is comprehensive and is supported by renowned instructors that teach at prestigious international universities, such as Parsons the New School for Design in New York, Lebanese American University, and Académie Libanaise Des Beaux-Arts.

Our students come from diverse backgrounds and different cultures. We have Lebanese, Syrian, Palestinian and Armenian students from all over Lebanon.

In addition to our full time school program, we also launched an evening workshop program to help train interested pupils in the field of fashion design and expand their skills. These courses could allow the general public gain the necessary skills in various aspects of fashion design and allow them to further pursue their interests and gain the fundamental tools to work within the field.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities:

By providing equal opportunities, one of our values, to all underprivileged youth who are talented in design but cannot afford an education due to increasingly expensive private institutions, we have contributed to reducing inequalities in the elitist design industry. Students and alumni are also provided support during their time at Creative Space Beirut and by facilitating networking and career opportunities to help them enter into the fashion industry to allow them to become

independent. Some students are even hired back into the organization or offered collaboration opportunities with the organization to expand their portfolio.

Creative Space Beirut has been able to guarantee an 94% success rate of job placement within the industry for its graduates. So far, the alumni of CSB-SD have found themselves on an array of different paths. The graduates have gone on to launch their own brands, teach at renowned universities such as Académie Libanaise Des Beaux-Arts, Université de Balamand (Alba) and Lebanese American University (LAU), mentor and teach courses at Creative Space Beirut, partake in international exhibitions and fashion shows, and collaborate with designers and boutiques locally and internationally.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption:

Creative Space Beirut receives annual fabric donations from renowned international designers that offer their discarded fabrics. The fabrics are used by students for classes and in order to create their final collections. These donated fabrics would otherwise be thrown into landfills. We aim to only work with donated or deadstock fabric for our school to help alleviate some of the detrimental effects of the textile industry on the environment.

SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals:

In response to the rise of COVID-19 and the shortage of Personal Protective Equipment for medical staff, we converted our facilities into a 100% safe working space to produce PPE. The process saw the distribution of over 4,500 items to hospitals in need, free of charge. Supported by UNICEF Lebanon, the project provided income to 17 individuals - including students and alumni from Creative Space Beirut School of Design. This partnership paved the way to more production projects as a form of revenue to support the enterprise. As part of the production department that grew over the pandemic and in an effort to support the Lebanese and refugee communities through ethical production, in 2021 PwC collaborated with Creative Space Beirut to produce 17,550 custom-made non-medical masks that comply with WHO guidelines, to be distributed across PwC's global offices. The production of these masks engaged CSB's team, students and alumni, as well as tailors from marginalized communities. In 2022 Creative Space Beirut partnered with Dubai based company T by Tash to produce uniforms for their pop ups titled "skin care nation" around the gulf countries. Future production partnerships prove to be essential as a form of sustaining the enterprise.

Part III: Measurement of Outcomes

Outcomes are measured based on number of students enrolled, internships taken, collaborations and partnerships, as well as workshop attendees and alumni support.

So far, we have had a combined 10 students enrolled in the 2018 academic year, 17 students in 2019, and 17 in the 2020 academic year. We have had 17 alumni graduate since 2016 and have completed the 3 year program. Since 2019 33 students have been enrolled in the program.

For our evening workshops, we have had a total 66 attendees.

94% of alumni are successfully working in the fashion industry.

We receive an average of 100 fabric rolls per year which would otherwise be thrown into landfills. We pride ourselves on only using deadstock fabrics for our school production and projects to try and minimize the environmental waste that occurs from the fashion and textile industries.