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ARMENIAN GENERAL BENEVOLENT UNION

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: February 2021

To: June 2023

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent

Please use the box below to include the statement of continued support signed by your organization's Chief Executive or equivalent.

To our stakeholders,

I am pleased to state that the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU Lebanon) continues to support the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, education, environment and anti-corruption. With this second commitment, we express our intent to continuously support the UN Global Compact and renew our ongoing commitment to the initiative. We are aware and we acknowledge the importance of submitting a Communication on Engagement (COE) that not only describes our organization's efforts to support the implementation of the ten principles, but also defines our willingness to engage with the Global Compact. We support public accountability and transparency and, hereby, according to the Global Compact COE policy, we are submitting our third Communication on Engagement (COE).

Heartily,
Gerard Tufenkjian

President

NB: Activities/ Initiatives are listed in chronological order.

| | Activity/Initiative | Partners | SDGs Targeted | UN Global Compact Principles | Description |
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| 2021 | March 5, 2021: Webinar titled “Women Coping with the Pandemic in a Warzone”. | AGBU Lebanon x AiW (Arab Institute for Women) x Women in War think tank | SDG 3: Good health and well being SDG 5: Gender equality SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions SDG 17: Partnership for the goals | Human rights | On International Women’s Day, AGBU Lebanon alongside their partners organized a panel discussion at the Lebanese American University. The webinar looked at warzones where COVID-19 represented a tiny risk factor amidst other tragedies exacerbated by arbitrary cuts from which only the rich managed to escape. It addressed women’s resilience through art and the many ways female artists dealt with the Covid-19 pandemic. |
| | March 13, 2021: Launching of the MIND-SET-GO! Program. | AGBU Schools x Waznat Career Guidance and Consultancy | SDG4: Quality Education SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals | NA | AGBU Lebanon schools launched a program that offered the students and members of the community knowledge on how to deal with stress and trauma, as well as tips on how the youth should develop their social, emotional, and critical thinking skills. |
| | May 7, 2021: Signing of MOU. | AGBU Lebanon x Lebanese League for Women in Business (LLWB) | SDG 5: Gender equality SDG 10: Reduced inequalities SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals. | Human rights and Labor | AGBU Lebanon signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aiming to collaborate towards the “Support and Accelerate Women’s Inclusion” (SAWI) project which aims at developing national action plans for the responsible inclusion of women in formal economies across the Middle East and North Africa. This MoU set the basis for future collaborations with LLWB on drafting more gender-inclusive policies and raised awareness on the importance of the inclusion of women in organizations. |
| | | | SDG4: Quality Education | Human rights | |

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| | June 4, 2021: launch lecture series titled “Embattled Dreamlands.” | AGBU Lebanon x Lebanese League for Women in Business (LLWB) | SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals | | AGBU Lebanon launched the first in a new lecture series focused on the conflict in Karabakh. The first panel discussion of the series, examined how the memory of the past deeply affects the reality of the present. Historians and authors interestingly evoked the “burden of history” and the historical dynamics of the war between the Armenian and Azerbaijani nations. |
| | December 7, 2021: Conference titled “Genocide Through the Lens of Culture.” | AGBU Lebanon x Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International (IFI-AUB) x Lepsius Haus - Potsdam | SDG4: Quality Education SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals | Human rights | On the occasion of the International day for commemorating Genocide which is on December 9, a webinar titled “Genocide Through the Lens of Culture” was organized by AGBU Lebanon. Adding on the numerous topics discussed under the theme of Genocide and coming from diverse corners of the world, historians, academicians, and journalists focused on memorialization, cultural destruction, and narrative construction, in different countries such as Armenia, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. Cultural genocide is a topic often overlooked by researchers and politicians. However, it poses a great threat to the cultural heritage and memory of the people being discriminated against. |
| | December 19, 2021: Panel discussion “Enhancing Women Participation and Representation in the Decision-Making Process for a Better | AGBU Lebanon x Taqaddom x Fifty - Fifty | SDG 3: Good health and well being SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions | Human rights | This event shed light on the role of women in Lebanese politics and how important it is for them to participate in the affairs of the state. Speakers from Lebanon with feminist and political backgrounds exchanged their opinions and ideas regarding the women’s inclusion in Lebanese political life. This discussion, like many others, serves as a platform for |

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| 2022 | Lebanon: History and Prospects.” | | SDG 17: Partnership for the goals | | the community to exercise its fundamental freedoms of expression, speech, choice, and knowledge. |
| | 2021: AGBU Lebanon Dispensaries officially join the Ministry of Public Health’s network of primary healthcare centers. | AGBU Lebanon | SDG 3: Good health and well-being SDG 17: Partnership for the goals | NA | AGBU Lebanon Dispensaries officially joined the Ministry of Public Health’s network of primary healthcare centers. Among the outcomes are to benefit from the National Vaccination Program, to distribute medicines to the community free of charge, and to give in-depth special training for the dispensaries’ medical team. |
| | February 18, 2022: AGBU Schools’ launch a program to teach about the very crucial topics of human rights and freedom of thought and expression. | AGBU Lebanon x Amnesty International MENA | SDG4: Quality Education SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals | Human rights | AGBU Schools’ 11th and 12th graders learned about the very crucial topics of human rights and freedom of thought and expression. In light of the situation in Lebanon and the global world, students learned about the difference between human rights violations, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, and how important activism and lobbying are to hold governments and violators accountable for their actions. |
| | March 7, 2022: Panel Discussion titled “Strengthening integrational dialogue and partnership on gender equality & climate change.” | AGBU Lebanon x AiW at LAU | SDG 3: Good health and well being SDG 5: Gender equality SDG 13: Climate action SDG 17: Partnership for the goals | Human rights and environment | Various panels addressed the environment as a basic human right, the relationship between climate change and gender, gender equality and women’s rights, the impact of climate change on women and girls in the region, the importance of including women in climate decision-making and strengthening intergenerational dialogue and partnership on gender equality and climate change. Speakers such as women’s rights activists, university professors, journalists, and climate change advisors |

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| | | | | participated in panel discussions to examine this salient topic. |
| April 2022: Food Box Distribution Program. | AGBU Lebanon | SDG 1: No Poverty SDG 2: Zero Hunger SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities | Human rights | AGBU Lebanon continued its food box distribution initiative which was first established in February 2020 lasting till April 2022 serving 1,200 households every 40 days throughout their 5 community centers. |
| June 22, 2022: Second lecture series of “Embattled Dreamlands” war titled “Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict-International Law Perspectives.” | AGBU Lebanon x Lepsus Haus | SDG4: Quality Education SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals | NA | The widely-attended webinar joined three legal experts for a fruitful discussion about the multiple and clashing international law frameworks relating to the Artsakh war. The questions of the right to self-determination in international law, violations of human rights, and post-war issues were considered. The speakers and the audience alike were engaged in the analysis of the war in Artsakh and the understanding of the different international law concepts relating to it. |
| July 1, 2022: Workshop titled “Building Cross-Cultural Dynamics: Reshaping conflicts through Communication.” | AGBU Lebanon x the International Center for Human Sciences (CISH-UNESCO) x Hanns Seidel Stiftung, Generations Bridges NGO x Father’s Tribute NGO | SDG4: Quality Education SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals | NA | Representatives from AGBU Lebanon took part in the workshop which was held in the CISH premises in Byblos. The workshop aimed to provide the participants with knowledge about the various indicators and aspects of culture, the relationship between language and culture, intergenerational communication, and social inclusion. It also discussed the connection between individual and collective identities and cross-cultural conflicts, as well as the effect of the transformed digital world on intercultural dialogue. Identity and diversity were recurring themes throughout the workshop. Speakers from various backgrounds shared their expertise with the participants. |

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| October 29, 2022: Webinar titled “For ^[1] the Sake of Lebanon’s Future: A Person, ^[1] A Citizen, and A State.” | AGBU Lebanon x One Voice Foundation | SDG4: Quality Education SDG 10: Reduced inequalities SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals | Human rights | The importance of minorities in Lebanon and the Middle East and new concepts such as the “Lebanon of History” were discussed at the conference organized by AGBU Lebanon. The conference shed light on matters related to diversity in Lebanon and the Middle East, and ways to protect this diversity and cultural heritage in the face of threats. Speakers from various backgrounds, political, religious and literary, stated their separate views regarding the heterogeneous nature of Lebanon’s political and social spheres, and how the citizens can help bridge differences between the different communities. |
| December 9, 2022: Conference titled, “Memory and Justice: Remembrance in the Aftermath of Political Violence.” | AGBU Lebanon x IFI x Lepsius Haus Potsdam | SDG4: Quality Education SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals | Human rights | The International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of Genocide and of the Prevention of This Crime, commemorated every 9th of December, is an important opportunity to raise awareness about crimes against humanity generally and the Armenian Genocide specifically. On this occasion, the conference focused on the politics of archives and their importance in providing justice in the aftermath of political violence. The conference shed light on the role of memory as a form of prevention of further violence and war crimes and as a way for enforcing accountability on the perpetrators. |
| December 12, 2022: Lecture titles "Savior in Armenian History: Atribute to Johannes Lepsius" | AGBU Lebanon x Lepsius Haus Potsdam | SDG4: Quality Education SDG 10: Reduced inequalities SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals | Human rights | The lecture revolved around the humanitarian work of Johannes Lepsius during the massacres of the Armenian people in Ottoman Turkey. Dr. Roy Knocke, director of the Lepsius Haus, shed light on the various works of Johannes Lepsius, a German pastor and historical archivist, who traveled around the Ottoman Empire, observing and seeing the crimes against humanity that were being |

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| | | | | perpetrated by the Ottoman Turks against the Armenians of the region. Lepsius became the spokesperson of the Armenians in the German Empire. Dr. Knocke showed the attendees never-before-seen live segments and archives of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide recorded by Lepsius. |
| 2022: AGBU Dispensaries medication distribution agreement. | AGBU Lebanon Dispensaries x YMCA | SDG 3: Good health and well-being SDG 17: Partnership for the goals | Human rights | AGBU Dispensaries partnered with Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) to provide AGBU with medication which are distributed to persons in need. |
| 2021-2022: AGBU Schools Waiver tuition fees of students. | NAAGBU Schools' | SDG 4: Quality education | Human rights | AGBU waived, on average, 66% of the tuition fees for 299 students for the 2021- 2022 academic year. |
| 2022: Signing of MOU | AGBU Lebanon x OMT Beirut Marathon | SDG 3: Good health and well-being SDG 4: Quality education SDG 17: Partnership for the goals | NA | AGBU-Antranik was right in the middle of the action at the OMT Beirut Marathon. Scouts, leaders, and volunteers handled security of the finish lines, filled and distributed goody bags, and cheered and encouraged the runners for their athletic achievement, spreading smiles across their faces. In addition to volunteering, several AGBU members courageously completed different categories of races. On this occasion, AGBU-Antranik received the "Best Entity for Volunteers' Support" award! |
| 2022: AGBU Dispensaries medication distribution agreement. | AGBU Lebanon Dispensaries x Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan | SDG 3: Good health and well-being SDG 17: Partnership for the goals | Human rights | An MoU was signed between the Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan and AGBU Lebanon to implement a project funded by a grant from the Rotary Foundation. This project grant worth \$132,500, would provide medical equipment and help expand patient treatment services. |

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| 2023 | January 30, 2023: Movie screening "Invisible Republic." | AGBU Lebanon Young Professionals | SDG 4: Quality education SDG 10: Reduced inequalities | NA | Due to the ongoing crisis in Artsakh and Azerbaijan's blockade of the Latchin corridor, 120,000 Armenians have been denied access to food, healthcare, and humanitarian necessities. The movie is a critical documentation of the true human experience. Lika Zakarian's film was presented in theaters all over the world in order to increase awareness of what took place and is now happening in Artsakh. The release is accompanied by a global awareness and education campaign initiated by the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) and Creative Armenia. An in-person screening was organized by the AGBU Lebanon Young Professionals, in order to inspire both the Armenian and non-Armenian society to support the people of Artsakh in times of need. |
| | March 6, 2023: Panel discussion on "Gender equality and technology" on International women's day. | AGBU Lebanon x AiW (Arab Institute for Women) x | SDG 3: Good health and well being SDG 5: Gender equality SDG 10: Reduced inequalities SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions SDG 17: Partnership for the goals | Human rights | The seminar took place on the occasion of International Women's Day. Two panel discussions took place, Panel 1 – The Digital Space: A Double-Edged Sword moderated by Dr. Gretchen King Assistant professor at LAU in which Mr. Mohammed Najem Executive Director of SMEX, Mr. Habib Akiki, Media Officer of Maharat Foundation and Mr. Ayman Mhanna, Executive Director of the Samir Kassir Foundation participated. and Panel 2 – Cases from the Region: Future of Women in the Digital World moderated by Ms. Lina Jarrous, a journalist from SEEDS for Legal Initiatives in which Rachel Dore-Weeks, Country Program Manager of UN Women in Lebanon, Mozn Hassan, Human Rights activist and Founder of Nazra for Feminist Studies and Nay El Rahi, Founder of Harasstracker participated. |
| | | AGBU Lebanon | SDG 1: No Poverty | NA | |

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| | October 2021, November 2022 and April 22, 2023: Clothing Drive. | | SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities | | AGBU Lebanon organized three annual Clothing Drives to benefit those who have been deeply affected by the socio-economic crisis. Members of the AGBU Lebanon, the global community, and other organizations donated clothes and home appliances. |
| | May 20, 2023: Workshop titled "Ignite Leadership, how to lead teams, communicate effectively and handle conflict within volunteer groups." | AGBU Lebanon x Dr. Rima Chaar | SDG 4: Quality education SDG 17: Partnership for the goals | NA | Through this workshop, participants were presented ways to enhance leaders' ability, manage volunteer engagement/performance and enable them to handle any current/future projects or initiatives within or outside the organization. They also learned about the characteristics of a leader, the different styles of leadership and how leaders build effective and successful teams. Through different case studies and activities, participants had the chance to identify fundamental competencies required to enhance teamwork abilities, and ensure successful volunteer performance. |