



Communication on Engagement (COE)

Stichting Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From April, 1st 2021 to March, 30th 2023

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

June 12th, 2023

To our stakeholders:

Since 2003, GRI has been a signatory of the UN Global Compact (UNGC). I am pleased to confirm that GRI reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles which encompass Human Rights, Labor, Environment, and Anti-Corruption.

Our Communication on Engagement contains a statement of continued support for the UN Global Compact, an account of the practical actions we have taken in alignment with its principles, and a measurement of outcomes we have achieved.

In the reporting period starting on April, 1st 2021 to March, 30th 2023, we have actively engaged in numerous projects and activities in collaboration with the UN Global Compact, both with the global office and the local networks. You will find a summary of these endeavors in this Communication on Engagement.

Building upon our previous successful collaborations, such as the 'Action Platform for Reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)', GRI and the UN Global Compact have committed to continuing promoting the relevance of transparency and sustainability reporting as a driver of business accountability and action to support the achievement of the SDGs.

Our partnership with the UN Global Compact has yielded the launch of ground-breaking SDG reporting resources, that helped break down the collective challenges that the SDGs present into measurable disclosures, based on globally recognized frameworks. By consistently updating our resources on SDGs reporting, such as *An Analysis of the Goals and Targets*, we support companies in understanding the private sector's role and relevance for the SDGs, as they can assess and articulate their impacts and contributions effectively.

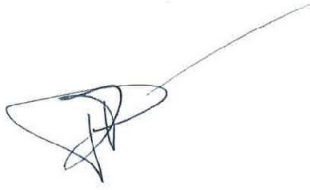
Accurate and robust reporting from the private sector also provides policymakers and other stakeholders with highly valuable data to monitor progress and drive the implementation of the SDGs at the national level. Our active engagement with stakeholders on an annual basis at the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development enables us to address key topics in sustainability/SDG reporting, including leveraging the private sector data to assess business contribution to the SDGs at the country level.

Moving forward, our partnership will focus on scaling the impact of our reporting resources and developing joint training materials to support reporting practitioners while combating green-washing and SDG-washing. As an initial step, we will transform the *Analysis of the Goals and Targets* into a user-friendly online database.

We remain committed to engaging in facilitating corporate reporting on the SDGs, enabling businesses to integrate the SDGs into their reporting processes, and inspiring action towards the Global Goals. To this end, we will continue to develop, and share thought leadership on

advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, enabled by sustainability reporting.
And continue to collaborate with UN Global Compact on this important topic.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' and 'W' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Peter Paul van de Wijs

Chief Policy Officer, GRI

Part II. Description of Actions

This section outlines the actions that GRI has taken with the UN Global Compact and in support of its Ten Principles:

- Building on the collaboration for the Action Platform for Reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the UN Global Compact and GRI launched an updated version of '[An Analysis of the Goals and Targets 2022](#)', at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2022. The publication consists of an inventory of possible disclosures per SDG, at the level of the 169 targets, based on a wide range of disclosure and indicator sources, including internationally recognized frameworks and standards. The 2022 version includes an updated list of disclosures which adds to the first edition, dating from 2017. The publication leverages the GRI Standards and the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact.
- In the reporting period, the UN Global Compact and GRI continued bringing together key stakeholders at side events to the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, such as former participants of the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee¹, to maintain momentum for business engagement on the SDGs and for governments to leverage the fundamental role the contributions and impacts of the private sector plays in achieving the 2030 Agenda. The topics addressed are at the forefront of business reporting on the SDGs, such as how double materiality is at the heart of business sustainability reporting and the SDGs.
- GRI has also provided technical input on the update of the UN Global Compact Communication on Progress Questionnaire seeking the alignment with existing standards and reporting frameworks.²
- To provide expert insights on business engagement on the SDGs, GRI launched a podcast series 'SDGs: The Rising Tide', that examines challenges in reaching the Global Goals and the existing solutions to address them. The podcast episode on SDG 16 counts on the UN Global Compact's perspective on governance and peace.
- GRI engaged with the UN Global Compact Office as well as Local networks on the topic of due diligence. In the reporting period, GRI participated as a speaker in a UNGC network working group on Business and Human Rights.
- GRI also attended local network meetings and presented on the development of a national framework for climate accounting at a local network meeting.

¹ Participants of the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee advised the Action Platform for Reporting on the SDGs on their personal capacity and brought thought leadership on private sector engagement in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

² To find out more about how the questions in the Communication on Progress align with the GRI Standards, check out the Questionnaire (https://storage.pardot.com/591891/16760672179TOYKmhV/UNGC_CoP_Questionnaire__Jan2023_.pdf) as well as the Guidebook (https://storage.pardot.com/591891/1677164626UVOSM5Bv/UNGC_CoP_GuideBook__Feb2023_.pdf).

- GRI continued to participate in the UN Global Compact Leaders' Summits during the reporting period.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

This final section indicated the outcomes resulting from the activities carried out by GRI in support of the UN Global Compact and its Ten Principles:

- Alignment between the UN Global Compact's Enhanced Communication on Progress and the GRI Standards, promoting consistency and comparability in sustainability reporting.
- The updated version of '[An Analysis of the Goals and Targets 2022](#)' incorporates metrics from 26 disclosure sources, including CDP, SASB, UN Guiding Principles, World Benchmarking Alliance, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, and the World Economic Forum. By using this tool, reporting practitioners are able to effectively integrate the SDGs into their reporting processes, enabling any business to effectively report on their efforts towards achieving the SDGs.
- The updated version of '[An Analysis of the Goals and Targets 2022](#)' facilitates increased adoption of the GRI Standards and the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact in sustainability reporting.
- Increased knowledge of the impact and contribution of the private sector in achieving the SDGs, as enabled by sustainability reporting, by convening key stakeholders at side events to the UN High-Level Political Forum.
- Increased knowledge sharing by drawing from lessons learned from case studies that demonstrate how private sector data can be leveraged at the country level to assess business contributions to the SDGs.
- Continuous development of thought leadership and sharing of best practices to advance sustainability reporting practices, specifically on business reporting on the SDGs.