



COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Submitted by SDSN Association, Inc. on behalf of the
UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

Period covered: January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2023

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

August 22, 2023

To our stakeholders,

I am pleased to confirm that the Sustainable Development Solution Network reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labor, Environment, and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, 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. A full description of SDSN's projects and programs is available at www.unsdsn.org. We hope you will visit our site for more information, and to learn how you can get involved and collaborate with us.

With all best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey D. Sachs", is positioned above the printed name.

Jeffrey D. Sachs
President

Part II. Description of Actions

Incorporate the GC principles into internal operations and communicate progress.

The SDSN Association, Inc., which hosts the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, has procedures and processes in place to ensure all staff, sub-award recipients, vendors, and partners follow the 10 principles. This includes respect for human rights; safeguarding labor rights and ensuring zero tolerance for forced or child labor from all affiliates, vendors, and sub awardees; and policies to uphold the principles of non-discrimination. As a mission-driven NGO promoting the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we have a number of policies to promote environmental responsibility in all our activities; this includes the selection of more sustainable office supplies and event materials and the offsetting travel emissions. We have additional procedures in place against corruption, extortion, and bribery. Policies can be shared upon request.

Promote the GC and its principles through one of the following activities (at least one of the following options is required)

Deliver education on topics related to the Global Compact

The SDSN implements a number of education initiatives. The SDG Academy was launched in September 2016 with the mandate of creating and curating the best educational content on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To date, learners in over 190 countries have participated in the current library of more than 40 fully-online courses and over 1,500 video lectures.

To support the SDGs and Agenda 2030, the SDSN is mobilizing its Leadership Council, Thematic Networks, and more than 1,900 university members to create unprecedented educational opportunities for students and practitioners of sustainable development around the world. The SDG Academy aims to provide trans-disciplinary training to the largest-ever cohort of students of sustainable development. Uniquely, the SDG Academy is operated through a consortium of institutions and works with SDSN members around the world to integrate high-quality online education into universities' curricula. You can learn more about SDG Academy courses (and enroll!) at sdgacademy.org.

Global Schools is an initiative of the SDSN in support of [UNESCO's Global Action Program on Education for Sustainable Development](#) (ESD). Global Schools' mission is to create a world where every primary and secondary school student is equipped with the knowledge, values, and skills necessary for effectively responding to the greatest challenges of this century and shaping a sustainable and prosperous world. Global Schools adopts two key approaches in its global strategy to implement Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in schools and classroom: grassroots advocacy and outreach to schools, as well as research partnerships with universities to design localized curriculum.

SDSN, in partnership with the SDG Academy, Global Schools, the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens, and UNESCO, leads a high-level global task force to accelerate policy and research efforts on Education for Sustainable development across K-12, tertiary, and professional education sectors. This initiative is called [Mission 4.7](#). In addition to advocating for the achievement of SDG Target 4.7 at global, national, and local levels, Mission 4.7 curates and creates relevant educational resources, pushes countries for greater investments in quality education, and identifies ways to train and support educators around the world.

Conduct applied research and thought leadership in relation to the Global Compact

The SDSN's core mission is to support decisionmakers through applied research and thought leadership. We publish a number of key inputs to this process. Recent outputs include the [Sustainable Development Report 2023](#), released in June, which tracks country performance on all 17 goals. We have also published national and regional indices in the reporting period: [Rapport sur le Développement Durable pour le Bénin 2023](#), [Europe Sustainable Development Report 2022](#), [L'SDSN Italia SDGs City Index per un'Italia Sostenibile: comprendere dove siamo per capire dove andare](#), [Benin Sustainable Development Report 2022](#), [Índice de Desenvolvimento Sustentável das Cidades – Brasil 2022](#), [SDGs for Malaysian States 2022](#), and [Arab SDG Index and Dashboard Report 2022](#).

Other highlights from across the SDSN include updates to the [SDGs Today](#) website; this project aims to make SDG data more accessible and features a wide selection of real-time SDG datasets. Our network [SDSN TReNDS](#) has a number of projects, including one to promote the use of citizen-generated data by national statistical agencies to track SDG progress.

From the SDSN's 43 National and Regional Networks (i.e. local chapters), SDSN Northern Europe's [SDG Impact Assessment Tool](#), launched in February 2019, continues to be a great success story with nearly 10,000 users. Several of the Asian SDSNs are contributing to the ASEAN Green Future Project, which aims to accelerate action for decarbonization to achieve net zero by 2050 for the ASEAN region.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

To date, 800,000 learners in over 190 countries have participated in SDG Academy courses. SDSN's research products, particularly the annual [Sustainable Development Report](#) and [World Happiness Report](#), have been downloaded millions of times and cited in dozens of times. These documents, as well as the work the [Science Panel for the Amazon](#), have been covered widely in the popular press.