

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

Period covered by this communication on Engagement:

16.12.20 – 20.11.23

### **Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Director**

*17. November 2023*

To our stakeholders,

We are delighted to reaffirm that the Centre for the Ocean and the Arctic at UiT the Arctic University of Norway remains steadfast in its dedication to upholding the United Nations Global Compact and its ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

Through this recommitment, we declare our firm intent to actively champion the Global Compact and the promotion of these fundamental principles. We are committed to making a transparent and resounding declaration of this commitment to both our stakeholders and the wider public.

Kind regards,



Anne Husebekk,  
Director

## **Part II. Description of Actions**

The Centre for the Ocean and the Arctic is part of the UiT The Arctic University of Norway, and a subsidiary under the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries. It has been entrusted by the Norwegian Government with the vital role of gathering, analysing, and disseminating knowledge pertaining to the blue economy.

The Centre aspires to empower maritime industries to lead the green transition. Its societal mission involves gathering, analysing, and sharing information to promote the sustainable use of the ocean. Furthermore, the Centre aims to become a national leader in pioneering sustainable solutions for maritime industries. By disseminating this knowledge, it seeks to influence policies related to the Arctic and ocean sustainability.

In pursuit of this mission, the centre fosters collaboration among maritime industries, connects diverse perspectives to innovate sustainable solutions, advocates for the dissemination of insights and solutions to both public and private decision-makers, and actively participates in fostering a knowledge-based public discourse.

### **1) Global Compact Local Networks**

- a. The Centre is part of the Steering Committee for UN Global Compact's Sustainable Business in the Arctic
- b. The Centre is part of UN Global Compact's National Ocean Platform
- c. The Centre regularly takes part in workshops and events organised by the local network

### **2) Join and/or propose partnership projects**

- a. The Centre regularly seeks out opportunities where synergies can be optimised through collaborative projects

### **3) Internalise the Global Compact and engage companies**

- a. The Centre has internalised principles 7, 8 and 9 related to the environment. Regular engagement of companies happens continuously to encourage sustainable growth.

### **4) Participate in global, regional, and local events**

- a. The Centre has participated in several international events during this period. Examples include the UN Ocean Conference, and UNGC events during the United Nations General Assembly in 2022. It has also organised several events and meetings in Washington D.C. with a plethora of politicians, companies, and governmental bodies.
- b. The centre co-hosted a side event with the local UN Global Compact during Arctic Frontiers 2023. The focus was green corridors in the shipping industry.
- c. The Centre for the Ocean and the Arctic has taken initiative to hosting and organising an annual national ocean conference entitled *Blue Compass* with

SDG 14 at its core. The conference will take place in relation to the UN World Ocean Day on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June every year.

### **Part III. Measurement of Outcomes**

The Centre has presented new knowledge about the status, trends, challenges, and synergies within the blue economy through the launch of research reports, articles, opinion pieces, and lectures. Findings from these reports have been conveyed to authorities and businesses and have been integrated into international processes, such as the government's work on marine special planning.

Through its initiative to launch the annual ocean conference *Blue Compass*, the Centre engaged more than 300 participants in its inaugural year. The Centre continues its significant stakeholder engagement through its advisory board, steering committee, dialogue meetings and numerous partnerships across Norway and beyond.