

I/R/23/001
29th November 2021

To
The Secretary General
United Nations Global Compact
New York, NY 10017
USA

Subject: Communication on Engagement with the UN Global Compact

Dear Mr/Ms Secretary General,

Warm greetings from ISSME!

We are writing to express our continued support for the UN Global Compact and its Ten Principles on human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption. We are a non-government, not-for-profit, leading global industry organization for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and we have been a non-business participant of the UN Global Compact since 2013.

As an industry association, we are committed to advancing the UN Global Compact principles and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within our sector and beyond. We believe that MSMEs have a vital role to play in contributing to a more sustainable and inclusive world.

In this letter, we would like to share with you some of the practical actions that we have taken to support the UN Global Compact principles and to engage with the initiative.

We also provide some measurement of outcomes and the impact of our actions.

- **Governance:** We have established a committee that oversees our sustainability strategy and activities. The committee consists of the Chairperson and three Board Members and meets once in a month to review our progress and challenges. We have also adopted a small business good governance code of conduct that guides our members and staff on ethical and responsible business practices. The policy is aligned with the UN Global Compact principles and is communicated to all our stakeholders.
- **Human Rights:** We respect and promote human rights within the MSME sector around the globe. We have conducted an informal economy survey to identify and address the potential human rights risks and impacts on the MSME sector. We have also developed a training or awareness program to educate our members and staff on human rights issues and best practices. We have also participated in several national, regional, and international events to advocate for human rights in our sector and beyond.
- **Labour:** We uphold and advance labour rights and standards within the MSME sector around the globe. We have implemented a global certification system to ensure that our members and affiliates comply with the relevant labour laws and regulations. We have also launched an awareness program to support the well-being and development of the employees and

workers in the MSME sector. We are also planning to collaborate with other stakeholders or coalitions or networks on improving labour conditions in MSME sector and beyond.

- **Environment:** We protect and enhance the environment within the MSME sector around the world. We have adopted a strategy or plan to reduce our environmental footprint and increase our resource efficiency. We have also implemented a mass awareness program to promote environmental innovation and solutions among our members and affiliates. We have also supported several campaigns and actions to raise awareness and mobilize action on environmental issues in the MSME sector and beyond.
- **Anti-Corruption:** We prevent and combat corruption within the MSME sector around the globe. We have established a mechanism or system to monitor and report any incidents or allegations of corruption. We have also provided training as well as tools to equip our members, affiliates, and staff with the knowledge and skills to prevent and address corruption. We have also engaged in a number of dialogues and partnerships to foster a culture of integrity and transparency in the MSME sector and beyond.

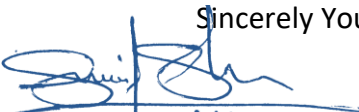
We are proud of our achievements and contributions, but we also recognize that we have more work to do. We are committed to continuous improvement and learning, and we welcome any feedback or guidance from the UN Global Compact and its network.

We look forward to our continued engagement with the UN Global Compact and its participants. We appreciate the opportunity to share our COE with you and we hope that it will inspire other industry associations and non-business participants to join and support the UN Global Compact.

We herewith submit the Communication on Engagement (COE) that describes our organization's efforts to support the implementation of the ten principles and to engage with the Global Compact for the period April 2021 to November 2023.

Warm regards,

Sincerely Yours,



Sunil D Sharma
Secretary General