



上智大学
SOPHIA UNIVERSITY

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

February 7, 2024

UN Global Compact Communication on Engagement

To our stakeholders:

With this letter, Sophia University expresses its continued support for the UN Global Compact and renews its ongoing commitment to the initiative and the Ten Principles. Broadly speaking, since our participation in 2015, we have engaged with the UN Global Compact in the following areas and the activities, the details of which are described in the attached report.

1. Deliver education on topics related to the Global Compact,
2. Conduct applied research and thought leadership in relation to the Global Compact,
3. Disseminate the Global Compact principles

As a long-term goal of its education and academic research and advocacy, Sophia University is also determined to contribute to dissemination of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Sophia University is an institution established by the Jesuits whose educational spirit of "For Others, With Others" has been the University's key concept in fostering the human resources serving Japan and the global society. Driven by this high motivation and moral commitment, the University is confident to lead the academic community in Japan and abroad to advance the Global Compact globally.

Cordially submitted,

Yoshiaki Terumichi
President
Sophia University

Part II. Description of Actions(from March 2022 to February 2024)

1. Deliver education on topics related to the Global Compact

(1) Establishing SPSF (Sophia Program for Sustainable Futures)

The Sophia Program for Sustainable Futures (SPSF) started in stages from AY2020, with the concept of "Top Global University Project", and by AY2022, all six departments had participated, and the number of students exceeded 150; in September 2024, the first cohort will graduate as early as the first.



SPSF provides students with a broad understanding of the world's diversity and teaches them the practical skills needed to contribute to building sustainable futures for others, with others. The students will learn about sustainability issues on a global and local scale and will collaborate with their peers and professors both on and off campus in order to determine how to achieve a sustainable future.

Obtaining a degree is part of the process of becoming a change agent, but it is not the ultimate objective in life nor in SPSF. As the circumstances and environment surrounding problems around the world continue to change, it becomes increasingly necessary to learn and adapt in order to build sustainable futures. To this end, the knowledge and expertise, the understanding of multiple perspectives, and the problem-solving competency cultivated at SPSF will form the foundation of the students' lifelong journey.

●Concept

- ✓Enhancing your expertise in your department
- ✓Broadening your horizons with global and local approaches
- ✓Aiming to build a sustainable future together with peers

●Features

- ✓Interdisciplinary approach
- ✓All courses conducted in English
- ✓Offering Bachelor's degrees in specialized fields of study

The SPSF curriculum consists of the SPSF Common Core (lectures and seminars on sustainable futures), Academic skills (basic studies to strengthen learning skills in English, including writing, critical thinking, discussion and presentation), Specialized Education and University-wide courses.

<https://spsf.sophia.jp/>

(2) Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies

The school was established in 2005 to focus specifically on the environmental problems that constitute one of the greatest challenges we face today. The curriculum combines social and natural sciences, in recognition of the fact that effective environmental study spans a number of scholastic disciplines, including law, policy, administration, economics, population, energy, and chemistry. The school is devoted to create graduates equipped to serve effectively as businessmen, specialists, or scholars in the area of environmental protection

<https://www.genv.sophia.ac.jp/english/>

(3) A large number of academic courses related to the

A large number of academic courses related to the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles on human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption are offered each year. Especially many courses on human rights, labor and environment are offered by the Faculty of Law,

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

(1) Establishing the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion

In July 2021, Sophia School Corporation which manages the university established the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion. This will enable us to identify as our achievements, the research and education, as well as social action by each institution of the School Corporation that are relevant to promoting sustainability goals, including the SDGs.

Therefore, we are increasingly expected to strongly communicate our efforts to society. At the same time, this has allowed us to monitor progress and organize a reporting line. We are determined to further

accelerate the development of campus settings for the promotion of diversity and the achievement of inclusive society.

Furthermore, the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion is actively hiring student staff, aiming to foster an environment where faculty, staff, and students collaboratively engage across disciplines to generate ideas. This initiative is intended to create new value from these collaborative efforts. Student staff actively participate in public relations, information gathering, and system design from the students' point of view, and not only support related departments, but also utilize the students' perspective and creativity to contribute to the tasks of the Office.

<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/eng/aboutsophia/global/sdgs/>

(2) Promoting research activities targeted at sustainability and SDGs
The university is pushing forward the cross disciplinary joint research activities across the faculties and graduate schools.

The Sophia Institute for Human Security (SIHS)

<https://dept.sophia.ac.jp/is/sihs/eng/>

Institute for Studies of the Global Environment

<https://dept.sophia.ac.jp/is/risgenv/en/>

(3) Promoting the students' voluntary activities toward sustainability
Voluntary activities of students are being carried out by a wide variety of circles such as humanitarian assistance, welfare volunteers, learning support volunteers, and environmental conservation activities.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/en/cases/en-club-and-sircles/>

(4) United Nation's Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) and ESG investment

Sophia School Corporation signed the PRI in November 2015 as the first signatory among Japanese universities in order to implement the principles of UN Global Compact in our investment management practice.

By signing the PRI, we incorporate ESG issues into our investment policy consistent with Sophia University's founding philosophy. As a school corporation and a responsible asset owner, we are committing to contribution towards the global sustainability issues all of us face through ESG investment.

In addition to the above, we are committed to the following initiatives:

- a. Signing "2021 Global Investor Statement to Governments on the Climate Crisis"
- b. Endorsing the TCFD <Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures>
- c. Endorsing the Climate Action 100+
- d. Endorsing "Investor Statement on Deforestation and Forest Fires in Amazon"
- e. Participation in the PRI collaborative engagement "Advance"

Sophia School Corporation's ESG Initiatives

<https://www.sophia-sc.jp/en/esg.html>

3. Disseminate the Global Compact principles

(1) Launching "Sophia University - SDGs & Sustainability" website

In April 2022, a portal site that covers the activities related to the university's sustainability and SDGs promotion was launched to disseminate information on education, research, and social contribution.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/en/>

(2) Publishing Sophia University SDGs & Sustainability Report 2021-2022

We have created an activity report on our efforts on sustainability and the SDGs.

Student staff conducted interviews and made articles about the efforts of student groups.

<https://sophia-sdgs.jp/en/efforts/3716/>



◆UN Weeks October 2022 flyer



On October 18 during the UN Weeks, the University and GCNJ jointly organized the Symposium on "Interlinkages between Paris Agreement and SDGs: Global and Local Initiatives" via on-line. In this symposium, the experts were invited to discuss the interlinkages between the SDGs, which comprehensively address social, economic, and environmental issues, and the Paris Agreement as well as the efforts made in abroad and in Japan.

Click here for details

<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/article/news/announcement/unweeksoctober2022/>

◆UN Weeks June 2023 flyer

Click here for details

<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/article/news/announcement/unweeksjune2023/>



◆UN Weeks October 2023 flyer



On October 23, during the UN Weeks, the University and GCNJ jointly organized the on-line session on "Transforming global food system for revitalizing actions for SDG." Dr. Eric Ponthieu, Strategy Director at Fair Trade Advocacy Office; Adjunct Professor at Bologna and Firenze Universities; Former Head of Unit at the European Economic and Social Committee of the EU, was invited to address a keynote speech, focusing on the interlinkages between SDGs in the global food system and environmental issues, followed by the panel discussion with the experts who shared their own

efforts and practices in Japan.

Click here for details

<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/article/news/announcement/unweeksoctober2023/>

Report on Sophia University's UN Weeks October 2023

<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/eng/aboutsophia/global/weeks/unweeks/unweeks-202310/>

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

1. Deliver education on topics related to the Global Compact

The SPSF (Sophia Program for Sustainable Futures), a cross-disciplinary English-medium degree program of six departments newly established in 2020, has received great responses from society. Students enrolled in the program are very enthusiastically tackling issues.

Feedback from the students are introduced here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNMEh4A1MUY&list=PLPmHXQbKIWTzvGLfOOEg4PRZTiEepD Xk&index=2&t=195s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpkuvDb2ImQ&list=PLPmHXQbKIWTzvGLfOOEg4PRZTiEepD Xk&index=3&t=190s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDs0jbCGJfI&list=PLPmHXQbKIWTzvGLfOOEg4PRZTiEepD Xk&index=4&t=122s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekAn8pKwFXc&list=PLPmHXQbKIWTzvGLfOOEg4PRZTiEepD Xk&index=5&t=133s>

Our students are highly motivated to learn and their interest in global issues such as environmental issues, human rights, etc is increasing regardless of the faculty. Interest in sustainability and SDGs is also increasing. As the number of academic courses dealing with these issues increases, the number of students taking these courses is increasing, and self-motivated learning is being practiced.

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

By establishing the Office of Sophia Sustainability Promotion, we have been able to identify as our achievements, the research and education, as well as social action by each institution of Sophia School Corporation that are relevant to promoting sustainability goals, including the SDGs.

Therefore, we are increasingly expected to strongly communicate our efforts to society. At the same time, this has allowed us to monitor progress and organize a reporting line. We are determined to further accelerate the development of campus settings for the promotion of diversity and the achievement of inclusive society.

Researches related to sustainability and SDGs are being developed by diverse groups regardless of faculty or graduate school, and further progress is expected in the future. Global collaborations such as MIRAI 2.0 project, which is a joint research promotion initiative by a

consortium of universities in Sweden and Japan with SDGs as the key concept, and SACRU (Strategic Alliance of Catholic Research Universities), in which Catholic universities around the world work together to tackle sustainability issues, are also expected to produce results in years to come.

Sophia achieved the highest rating "Five stars" in all categories in the 2023 PRI annual assessment.

<https://www.sophia-sc.jp/info/esg.htm>

3. Disseminate the Global Compact principles

The United Nations Weeks are now held flexibly in on-site, online, and hybrid styles. Particularly in events with online streaming, the number of participants has dramatically increased as it has become possible for people from all over Japan and around the world to participate. Participants include not only students and general adults, but also a large number of high school students, indicating a steady increase in sustainability awareness among the younger generation.

The report of the United Nations Weeks can be found here.

<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/aboutsophia/global/weeks/unweeks/unweeks-202206/>

<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/aboutsophia/global/weeks/unweeks/unweeks-202210/>

<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/aboutsophia/global/weeks/unweeks/unweeks-202306/>

<https://www.sophia.ac.jp/jpn/aboutsophia/global/weeks/unweeks/unweeks-202310/>