

# Communication on Engagement 2022-2023 to the UN Global Compact

Vienna, February 2024

## 1. Statement of Commitment

ICEP is an independent Austrian association engaged in the sector of global development. The organization aims at integrating people in economic cycles, by connecting them with businesses and laying the foundation for self-empowerment. The team at ICEP works with partner organizations and companies in low- and middle-income countries as well as organizations in its home country Austria, on how to integrate people properly and sustainably in economic activities, emphasizing the important role that businesses can play in tackling global challenges.

ICEP is the initiator of the corporAID platform, which provides companies a forum to exchange knowledge and information around topics such as corporate social responsibility, business & development as well as ways to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in a business context.

The UN Global Compact Principles are one of the main pillars of our activities and lay the foundation for our shared understanding, which we try to advance in our sphere of influence. ICEP fully commits to pursuing these principles as part of our actions.

## 2. Description of Practical Actions

In 2022 and 2023, ICEP contributed to the UN Global Compact Principles in the following areas:

### **Business Partnerships**

ICEP supports companies to create value for their businesses as well as society along their global value chains. This goal is primarily achieved by initiating projects within the Business Partnership Program, governed by the Austrian Development Agency. In 2022, Lohmann & Rauscher's healthcare project in Malaysia received the prestigious TRIGOS Award. ICEP supported the hearing implant manufacturer MED-EL expanding its hearing healthcare programme to ten African and four Southeast Asian countries in 2022. A project of the paper and packaging manufacturer Mondi to introduce dual training for industrial maintenance technicians in Côte d'Ivoire was successfully completed. In 2023, a business partnership with Komptech started to establish Waste-Processing Training, fostering expertise in the Ghanaian waste sector.

### **Awareness, Dialogue and Knowledge Exchange**

Through the corporAID-platform, ICEP consistently provides new input on how to activate businesses for topics in the realm of international development. This is achieved by highlighting companies that already engage in a sustainable and inclusive way. By bringing businesses that respect and live the principles of the UN Global Compact in front of the curtain, ICEP raises awareness for the solutions that companies can provide in order to tackle global challenges. ICEP highlights synergies with the private sector and shows that responsible businesses can foster innovative solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2022 and 2023, ICEP published 8 more issues of the quarterly corporAID magazine, with the 100<sup>th</sup> magazine published in October 2023, covering topics directly related to the UN Global Compact Principles. The magazine is a quarterly supplement to the daily newspaper “DiePresse”, therefore providing access to a substantial audience. In addition, the corporAID-platform is increasingly moving its activities to the online world, with more dominant presence on social media platforms. New formats such as podcasts and short videos on key questions regarding business & development and global responsibility complement the broad spectrum of activities.

At the corporAID conferences 2022 (“Global Austria - New perspectives for a new normality” and 2023 (“Rethinking Economy and Development”), keynotes from and workshops with experts gave insights on how Austria and Austrian stakeholders can help shape global transformation processes. In addition, continuous dialogue with various stakeholders in the form of events on topics such as impact investment, blockchain for global sustainable development, African scale-ups, climate investments and green hydrogen were being held.

### **SDG Business Forum**

Since 2018, on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs, ICEP has been implementing the SDG Business Forum project with the aim to introduce Austrian companies to new markets in emerging and developing countries in the context of the Agenda 2030.

### **Lab of Tomorrow**

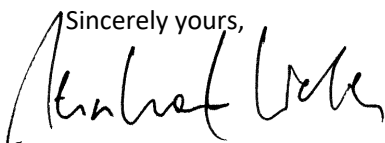
Starting 2022, ICEP in collaboration with the German GIZ and various public institutions, has adopted in Austria the "Lab of Tomorrow" business development programme to solve specific challenges in emerging markets. It inspires European and local businesses to jointly create new products and services that generate long-term impact on the ground. Consequently, one such lab took place in Belgrade, Serbia, in 2022, focusing on biogenic waste, while another was held in Tunis, Tunisia, in 2023, centering on innovation in renewable energy and energy transition.

## **3. Measurement of Outcomes**

The corporAID magazine has an annual volume of more than 250.000 magazines and several hundred individuals participate in our various webinars, workshops and conferences each year. Followers on our social media channels are continuously increasing. For the upcoming years, ICEP is aiming at further establishing its digital presence and thereby expanding its target audience and outreach with digital means. Our corporAID-newsletter reaches 3.000 individuals annually. ICEP has taken part in national policy processes and participated in Austrian networks that had the potential to enhance the active role of companies in achieving a sustainable and inclusive economy.

Detailed information can be found in the Annual Report 2022 (2023 pending), which is attached.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Bernhard Weber  
Managing Director