

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

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement: January 2022 to December 2023

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

Please use the box below to include the statement of continued support signed by your organization's Chief Executive or equivalent.

11 March 2024

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that the AEPW reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, 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 non-profit organizations. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Yours sincerely,

Vacob Duer President & CEO

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

Describe the actions your organization has taken in support of the Global Compact. It is strongly recommended that the actions taken are related to one or more of the specific activities suggested.

For the reporting period 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2023, AEPW has taken the following actions in support of the Global Compact.

# **Engage Companies in Global Compact-Related Issues**

- WEConnect International and AEPW signed an MoU on May 2023. The MoU aims to launch a global campaign to identify and register women-owned businesses that can contribute to ending plastic waste in the environment and promote a circular economy.<sup>1</sup>
- Partnered Lombard Odier Investment Managers to launch a circular plastic fund to help drive the global transition to plastic circularity. AEPW is a seed investor with a US\$10 million capital contribution to the Fund. In addition, we act as a technical advisor, deploying a team of highly experienced professionals who provide industry-led expert advice on the technical feasibility, commercial viability, and scalability of plastic circularity solutions, as well as waste management technology and infrastructure.<sup>2</sup>
- Saudi Investment Recycling Company and the Alliance to End Plastic Waste signed an MOU to advance plastic waste management in Saudi Arabia. This partnership is in strategic alignment with KSA's vision to achieve a 94 percent landfill diversion by 2035 and to establish a robust Saudi circular economy. AEPW will support Saudi Arabia by leveraging on our global expertise and network.<sup>3</sup>
- In March 2022, AEPW participated in the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi where we expressed our support for resolution to begin discussions for plastic agreement to #EndPlasticWaste in the environment.⁴
- In November 2023, AEPW has engaged with Suez Consulting to produce an H&S toolkit for AEPW employees about the importance of H&S. A toolkit was also produced to guide and assist AEPW project partners with H&S matters. The introduction of the toolkit will be rolled out in early 2024.<sup>5</sup>
- In 2023, AEPW developed a human rights assessment toolkit to be used by AEPW staff to evaluate and provide guidance to AEPW project partners on human rights matters. Five audits were carried out on projects in Africa.

# Other Actions to Support the Global Compact and to Engage with the Initiative

As part of the Alliance's ongoing commitment to compliance and ethical business practices, we set clear expectations that align with global anti-bribery/anti-corruption laws and regulations. Our

 $^{\rm 5}$  UNGC Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> UNGC Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> UNGC Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

 $<sup>^3</sup>$  UNGC Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See Footnote 3.

Compliance Program expresses our commitment to ethical conduct and the dedication to build a sustainable organization.<sup>6</sup>

- AEPW has a global network of more than 70 member companies from across the plastics value chain including brand owners, resin producers, converters, waste managers, recyclers, and technology providers. 35% of them are participants of the UN Global Compact.
- The following are a few examples from the Alliance's portfolio of more than 50 projects that contributed to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
  - o Inkwazi Isu: Cleaning Up "South Africa's Playground" Project led by South African Healthcare Foundation and located in eThekwini municipality (Durban), South Africa.
    - #08 Decent Work and Economic Growth, #9 Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure,
      #11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, #14 Life Below Water.
  - O Dispensing Circularity through LoveRe's Smart Bins Project led by Aifenlei Hongkong Limited and located in Chengdu and Xi'an, China.
    - #9 Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, #11 Sustainable Cities and Communities
  - Rethinking Recycling, With and For the City Project led by Delterra and located in Olavarriá,
    Argentina.
    - #11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, #12 Responsible Consumption and Production, #14 Life Below Water.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> UNGC Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

#### Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

Please use the box below to include the most relevant qualitative and/or quantitative indicators to measure the outcome of the activities described in Part II above.

- Active on media (website, LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram) reporting on initiatives that strengthen our commitment to advancing waste management and plastic circularity.
- AEPW has engaged with Roland Berger to publish the <u>Plastic Waste Management Framework</u>. The paper lays out the policy levers and actions that can be used to develop national action plans for advancing waste management systems and help effect systems change.
- In the Progress Report 2022, updates were made in measuring and reporting the impact of our work. Our impact measures the following (non-exhaustive):
  - o Tonnes of unmanaged plastic waste reduced since the Alliance's inception.
  - o Tonnes of plastic waste that has been valorised through recycling or other means.
  - o No. of organisations the Alliance has actively engaged to help end plastic waste in environment.
  - Social benefit created measured by the number of new jobs created, informal waste workers with improved working conditions, and households with improved access to waste management.
  - o No. of participants reached by campaigns building awareness and promoting benefits of responsible plastic use/waste management.

These metrics are independently assured by DNV and help our partners and the public to better understand how we go about fulfilling our mission to help end plastic waste in the environment.

Link to Progress Report 2022: https://endplasticwaste.org/en/our-stories/progress-report-2022

LinkedIn: <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-alliance-to-end-plastic-waste">https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-alliance-to-end-plastic-waste</a>

Website: <a href="https://endplasticwaste.org/">https://endplasticwaste.org/</a>

