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COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Please find attached the second Communication of Engagement (COE) Report from the University of Technology Sydney for the period January 2022 – December 2023.

We recognize that a key requirement for non-business participation in the UN Global Compact is the preparation and submission of a Communication on Engagement (COE) every two years. The following COE comprises these requirements including a 'Statement of Continued Support' by the Vice-Chancellor, a description of actions and measurement of outcomes.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Rosemary Sainty
Contact Point for the UN Global Compact
University of Technology Sydney

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

February 2024

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that University of Technology Sydney (UTS) reaffirms its support of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption, and action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The following document represents our required Communication on Engagement (COE) with the UNGC and describes the actions that our organisation has taken in support of the UNGC and its Principles (as suggested by the UNGC for academic institutions). These Principles closely align with our [UTS 2027 Strategy](#) including a commitment to partnerships in building a sustainable future. Our membership of the UNGC's Australian network (Global Compact Network Australia) demonstrates this commitment.

In the area of sustainability, UTS students and staff continue to make major contributions to encourage action on, and provide sustainability solutions for climate change, both within our own communities and more widely within our society. This has included our signing of a commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, renewable energy leadership programs, and campus sustainability measures. UTS has a long track record supporting research and initiatives as part of our response to climate challenges, as well as building an exciting future delivering social impact. In addition, UTS Business School is a signatory to the UNGC related Principles of Responsible Management Education (PRME). Finally, UTS is proud to have ranked 14th in the world and 4th in Australia for the 2023 Times Higher Education Impact Ranking (based on the UN SDGs).

We commit to sharing the following information with our stakeholders, and welcome feedback on its contents.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Andrew Parfitt
Vice-Chancellor and President
University of Technology Sydney

Part II. Description of Actions

The following section lists actions in support of the Global Compact Principles and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as per UNGC suggested activities for academic institutions.

Key references include:

- [UTS Sustainability Report 2022](#)
- [UTS Annual Report 2022](#)
- [Centre for Social Justice & Inclusion Social Justice Report 2022](#)
- [Institute for Sustainable Futures \(ISF\) Annual Review 2021 & 2022](#)
- [The UTS Business School's "Our commitment on climate action"](#)
- [The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2023](#)

Actions	References	Highlights
Incorporate the GC/SDG principles into internal operations:	<p>UTS Annual Report 2022: provides an overview of the University's position on sustainability (p.26 - 27) including completion of the UTS Climate Positive Plan outlining a pathway for the university to be climate positive by 2029; completion of the UTS SDGs Communication and Engagement Plan, which aims to embed the SDGs into UTS's education, research, and operational activities; and the development of the UTS Sustainability Strategy 2023–27.</p> <p>UTS Sustainability Report 2022: Our Sustainability Report has adopted the SDGs framework for its reporting structure. For examples of a demonstrated commitment to the SDGs/ GC principles in our operations see SDG 12 - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (p.24); SDG 13 - Climate Positive Plan for decarbonization, Gas and electricity usage efficiency initiatives (p.26-27).</p> <p>Centre for Social Justice & Inclusion Social Justice Report 2022: Demonstrates our social impact in operations and strategies that reflect a long-term independent commitment to social impact and human rights (p.50).</p> <p>Principles of Responsible Management Education (PRME) signatory status: UTS Business School's "Our commitment on climate action" - setting measurable, targeted</p>	<p>UTS ranked 15th globally and 2nd in Australia in the 2022 Times Higher Education Impact Ranking (based on the UN SDGs) as well as placed 2nd globally for meeting sustainability challenges in clean water and sanitation, and 3rd for addressing responsible consumption and production. In 2023, UTS was ranked 14th in the world and 4th in Australia.</p> <p>Decarbonisation goals achieved: 9.5% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2021/2022 compared with 2020/2021 National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGERs) scheme results.</p> <p>UTS won the Outstanding Leadership Team award at the Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) Green Gown Awards in recognition of our organic waste recycling process, demonstrating the circular economy in action and involving staff and students across the university from operations, to research,</p>

	goals and implementing action across all aspects of our work to align with the UTS Climate Positive Strategy.	teaching and learning and communications.
Deliver education on topics related to the Global Compact / SDGs	<p>UTS Sustainability Report 2022: See contributions to education and the curriculum under SDG 4 (p.10 - 11) Further, UTS has created a generic Sustainability Module on our teaching platform available to all post graduate subjects together with a sustainability Resource Collection. UTS has undertaken a SDG mapping exercise in undergraduate courses with a view to embed sustainability into the undergraduate curriculum over the next 5-6 years.</p> <p>Centre for Social Justice & Inclusion Social Justice Report 2022: See - Enabling equitable access to education (SDG 4); Women in Engineering and IT (WiEIT) Program (SDG 5); Humanitarian Access Program (SDG 4, 10) and 2022 launch of the Climate Impact Lab (SDG 13). See also - UTS SOUL Award - fostering social justice leadership and volunteering mindset in 2000 undergraduate and post graduate students in 2022 (p.18); and UTS BUILD program - developing competencies of students as global citizens and future leaders with 1,100 participating students (p.21).</p> <p>UTS Business School as a signatory to the Principles of Responsible Management Education (PRME) - We are committed to educating students to be socially responsible in alignment with our vision to be a socially committed business school focused on developing and sharing knowledge for an innovative, sustainable, prosperous economy in a fairer world. E.g. Newly launched Bachelor of Management in Sustainability and Social Impact in 2023 (Business School).</p>	<p>In 2023, UTS was ranked 14th in the world and 4th in Australia in the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking (based on the UN SDGs) including in Teaching – to ensure enough skilled practitioners to deliver on the SDGs and make sure all alumni take forward the key lessons of sustainability into future careers.</p> <p>UTS' Transdisciplinary Innovation subject Industry Innovation Project won the Next Generation Learning and Skills category at the International Green Gown Awards (following on from winning the same category at the Australasian awards in 2021). The subject pairs students with community and business partners to work on real-world sustainability challenges.</p>
Conduct applied research and thought leadership in relation to the Global Compact/ SDGs	<p>UTS' Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF) Annual Review 2021 & 2022- conducted project-based applied research across a broad range of sectors to effect positive change- socially and environmentally. In 2022 formalised approach to impact, articulating in practical terms the ways in which our research and engagement can be transformational and impactful.</p> <p>UTS Sustainability Report 2022: See research projects across SDGs 1,2, 3,6,7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 (p.6-30) from social housing and global water issues to ground-breaking research and industry</p>	<p>In 2023, UTS was ranked 14th in the world and 4th in Australia in the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking (based on the UN SDGs) including in Research – research impacts universities made to the world.</p> <p>ISF's Smart Irrigation Management for Parks and Cool Towns (SIMPACT) project, led by an ISF researcher, is Australia's largest smart green infrastructure project. In 2023, the project won multiple</p>

	<p>collaboration on algae for carbon capture, and coral resilience and climate change.</p> <p>Centre for Social Justice & Inclusion Social Justice Report 2022: See - Social Impact Grants support UTS researchers and practitioners to undertake projects that benefit the community. In 2022, the Centre for Social Justice awarded 11 grants of up to \$5,000 for projects that contribute to the social good (p.28).</p> <p>UTS Annual Report 2022: Global Goals month – significant institutional initiative specifically aimed at raising awareness and engagement amongst students and staff about the SDGs and the ways in which UTS is seeking to address them through research, operations and teaching.</p>	<p>awards including the Energy & Environment prize at the World Smart City Awards.</p> <p>ISF Advocacy: In 2021 and 2022 we shared our expertise with the world at the UNFCCC COP26 and COP27 and opened the conversation to the broader community in a series of public panel discussions and debates.</p> <p>Australian Network for the UNGC (GCNA) addressed UTS Global Goals Month 2022 to highlight the role of the GCNA and its commitment to the SDGs, to the UTS community (staff, students, precinct).</p>
Provide support to UN Global Compact business participants in their own sustainability efforts	UTS Business School's Australian Positive Organisational Scholarship (POS) Community of Practice – in support of PRME and SDGs 3 (good health and wellbeing) and SDG 17 (partnerships).	Annual 2023 event: Unlocking Sustainable Success - addressing "ESG" (environment, social and governance) and cultivating individual and organisational flourishing – promoted to GCNA members.
Lend capacity to Global Compact Local Networks and/or the Global Compact Office	Support of local Australian network (GCNA): Attendance at GCNA AGMS, forums and webinars throughout 2022-2023.	Contributor to the 2023 National Consultation of Academia/PRME participants of the UNGCNA including clarification over membership and identification of engagement opportunities including with the SDSN (Sustainable Development Solutions Network).

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

Qualitative and/or quantitative indicators to measure the outcome of the activities can be found in the references below.

For highlights see:

- UTS Annual Report 2022: Sustainability (p.26 - 27)
- UTS Sustainability Report 2022: Contains both metrics and narratives for its activities in research, teaching, and operations in support of each of the 17 SDGs.
- Centre for Social Justice & Inclusion Social Justice Report 2022: Targeted research, teaching and program outcomes have social impact and collectively contribute to community. Data on UTS's social impact goals can be found in the Social Impact Dashboards (p.32).
- The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings (based on the UN SDGs), where UTS was ranked 15th globally and 2nd in Australia (2022) and ranked 14th in the world and 4th in Australia (2023) are based on detailed qualitative and quantitative data and a rigorous assessment process. Evidence-based metrics are measured against a series of questions. Evaluation is based on statements, provided evidence, and evidence in the public domain.