

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)



Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: January 2022

To: January 2024

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

06/03/2024

To our stakeholders,

I am pleased to confirm that Trias NGO 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 an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Lode
Delbare

General
Director

Part II. Description of Actions

- Trias participated in international conferences organized or supported by the United Nations, such as:
 - ❖ The COP27 in Egypt and the COP28 in Dubai: Trias was there with a delegation of the Brussels Office partnerships team, together with representatives of partner member-based organizations (MBOs). Trias and these MBOs inspired companies through their active role in panels and through many formal and informal networking opportunities.
 - ❖ The World Potato Congress in Dublin in May 2022: Trias was there with a delegation of the Brussels Office partnerships team, together with representatives of partner member-based organizations (MBOs). Trias and these MBOs inspired companies through their active role in panels and through many formal and informal networking opportunities.
- Trias played an active role in several multi-stakeholder partnerships addressing - amongst other objectives - the CSR of companies. Some already existed before 2022, others were created since. Some examples:
 - ❖ Partnerships in the potato value chain, including sector federation Belgapom, research institute ILVO, technical schools VTI and VLTi Torhout, companies Waltson, Agristo (and others), local authorities in Belgium and abroad. By joining forces in a socially responsible and environmentally sustainable way, living and working conditions of hundreds of family farmers and their families have been improved.
 - ❖ Partnerships in cocoa/chocolate, with companies such as Ethiquable, Manner, Chocolatoa, Silva Cacao, ZOTO and many more, local authorities in Belgium and abroad and research institutes. Sensitizing on fairtrade, inclusive and environmentally sustainable (agroforestry) production is a key component of these partnerships, supporting all main principles of the UN Global Compact.
- Trias engaged multiple companies in issues related to the Global Compact where Trias plays an active role, mainly on human rights, labour and environment. Some examples:
 - ❖ Equitable commercial partnerships were developed between farmer organizations supported by Trias and private companies in Europe, e.g. between Coopemapi (Brazil), Meli and Colruyt Group in the context of an international value chain project on honey, between Coopebas, Upino, Cooindelo & Cocama (DRC) and Terracore in cocoa trade, between KAPCCO (Uganda) and Efico on coffee trade, and many more.
 - ❖ Trias co-organized an event on collaboration between NGOs and private companies on March 23, 2023 where at least 100 Belgian and international companies engaged in presentations and workshops on due diligence and other related themes.
- Trias actively engages in networks and platforms focused on building the SDGs together with a variety of stakeholders, including private sector:
 - ❖ Beyond Chocolate: partnership for a sustainable Belgian Chocolate Industry, launched by the Belgian federal government, composed of cocoa traders, chocolate producers, retailers, universities and research institutes, certification organizations, social impact investors, NGOs and trade unions. All parties subscribe to the same goals of a living income for cocoa farmers, zero deforestation and abolition of child labour by 2030 and work together towards reaching these goals.
 - ❖ The Shift: the Belgian sustainability community that brings together diverse members and partners (private companies, NGOs, academic institutions, public administrations) in actively moving towards a more sustainable economy and society.
- Trias created a new legal structure, Trias+, to be able to perform consultancies towards – amongst other organizations – private companies. These consultancies should always:
 - ❖ Be in line with the mission of Trias, i.e. supporting family entrepreneurs and their organizations following the principles of the UN Global Compact.
 - ❖ Be in a partnership logic, where the company (or other organization contracting Trias+) equally adheres to the principles of the UN Global Compact.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

- Since the start of the value chain project with Meli and Colruyt Group in May 2022, more than 50 tons of organic honey from the Brazilian cooperative Coopemapi has been sold to Belgian customers. This project started a sustainability trajectory at Meli and reinforced the sustainability trajectory of Colruyt Group.
- In Ecuador, 7 farmer organizations involved in multi-stakeholder partnerships (in both the potato and cocoa value chain) that adopted new sustainable production methods reached a combined sale of USD 6,881,919 in 2022.
- In Peru, 6 farmer organizations involved in multi-stakeholder partnerships (in both the coffee and cocoa value chain) that adopted new sustainable production methods reached a combined sale of USD 24,694,933 in 2022.
- In 2023, Trias Central America and Caribbean, together with CLAC and Fairtrade, entered a trajectory on Due Diligence and Corporate Social Responsibility with 2 producer organizations in Honduras and the Dominican Republic.
- In Burkina Faso and Guinea in 2022, 2,867 small-scale entrepreneurs established viable business relationships supported by contracts and 1,921 financed their entrepreneurial activities thanks to credit obtained from microfinance institutions following mechanisms for facilitating access to participatory and inclusive financing.
- In the Ugandan Rwenzori region in 2022, Trias reached 20,000 members of agricultural organizations in climate change resilient farming techniques and inclusive entrepreneurship. On international market access, one of these organizations - the coffee cooperative KAPCCO - shipped 2 containers of coffee to Belgium (Efico) and 1 to Italy (Caffè River) in a new partnership.
- In 2022, 630 members (including 132 women) of COCAMA, COOPEBAS and UPINO were supported in sustainable production and market access, leading to the sales of over 210 tonnes of dried cocoa beans.
- In 2022, Trias launched a pilot project in Indonesia called UPSCALE or "Upscaling People-managed Sustainable and Climate-Resilient, Inclusive and Adaptive Local Enterprises" to strengthen the organic rice and cassava businesses, that already resulted in sales reaching € 124,647.
- In 2023 Trias+ was launched and signed 2 consultancy contracts for a combined revenue of € 20,000.