

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT

Adyan Foundation
Riverside Center,
Charles Helou Street 12-02,
Sin El Fil, Beirut,
Lebanon

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement: From April 2022 to March 2024

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Executive Director

26 March 2024

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that Adyan Foundation reaffirms its support to the United Nations (UN) 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 UN 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.

It is through our continued collaboration that we can achieve change.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Iskandar Adam
Executive Director, Adyan Foundation



Part II. Description of Actions

Adyan is a foundation for diversity, solidarity and human dignity that works locally, regionally and internationally for pluralism, inclusive citizenship, and spiritual solidarity, through home-grown solutions in education, media, policymaking, and intercultural and interreligious relations.

Adyan is deeply committed to the principles of the UN Global Compact, and makes continuing effort to strengthen this commitment and to promote it via our work and partnerships. Adyan is also aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and our work contributes to SDGs 4, 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17.

Over the past four years, Adyan has been an active member of the Global Compact Network Lebanon (GCNL). This has included participating in meetings and contributing to initiatives. In addition, Adyan has shared its expertise with other member organizations and businesses on matters related to diversity management, inclusive citizenship and Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB). Adyan has also embedded the principles of the Global Compact within its revised internal and external policies. Adyan worked with experts to ensure that within these policies are full commitments to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

In particular, this includes Adyan's commitment to developing detailed safeguarding, whistleblowing, gender and environmental policies that protect both its employees and beneficiaries through a detailed mechanisms and processes. Furthermore, Adyan's Code of Conduct continues to inform the organization's policies on fraud, bribery and corruption. Within these are a zero-tolerance policy; active measures to prevent fraud and corruption including regular internal and external audits; the existence of a Vigilance Officer (a Board of Trustees member who is external to the office); and sanctions towards employees and other relevant parties including full loss recovery.

Adyan's commitment to the UN Global Compact continues to be highlighted at the start of its Employee Handbook, where we note: "... being a member of the "UN Global Compact", Adyan ensures through its Ethos and Code of Conduct a professional framework that follows the international Human Rights standards and UN related conventions." This commitment to the UN Global Compact and its Principles is also included in a dedicated section.

These policies and values are intended for the use of the whole Adyan community, both internal and external. All employees and consultants are required to sign a commitment to upholding these guidelines. In this way, Adyan continues to promote ethical professional and personal behaviour not just of internal staff but also of other individuals and organisations with which we have engagement.

Part III. Implemented activities: Results and Outcomes

- **A Farewell and a Welcome:** Adyan Foundation recently bid farewell to Dr. Elie Al-Hindy, concluding his impactful three-year tenure as executive director, while welcoming Alexander Adam as the organization's new director. This transition marks a pivotal moment in Adyan's journey towards continued growth and innovation.
- **Adyan Unveils a Refreshed Identity:** Adyan Foundation recently revealed its updated visual identity, marking a significant milestone for the organization. The new logo, crafted with careful consideration, encapsulates the essence of Adyan's mission and values. Featuring an abstract and continuous looping form, the emblem signifies unity and perpetual flow, reflecting the interconnected spirit of Adyan's work. This refreshed visual identity serves as a testament to Adyan's enduring pursuit of harmony and progress in society.
- **Empowering Connections Through Technology:** In conjunction with the leadership transition and the unveiling of the refreshed visual identity, Adyan announced the launch of its new website. This dynamic online platform will serve as a central hub for information, resources, and engagement opportunities, furthering Adyan's mission to promote diversity, solidarity, and religious responsibility in an increasingly interconnected world.
- **Unveiling the new Bihorriya Platform on Freedom of Religion and Belief:** The Research and Learning Unit's launch of the [Bihorriya platform](#) in 2023 represents a pivotal moment in the fight for Freedom of Religion and Belief in the MENA region. This Arabic platform highlights the status of FoRB, tracking violations and advancements in Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco. The platform features a bilingual FoRB glossary and a resource section for scholars and practitioners, representing another pioneering initiative by Adyan in the region, contributing to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.
- **Working on Fundamental Rights and Freedoms:** One of Adyan's key workstreams remains focused on the promotion of fundamental freedoms, namely Freedom of Religion and Belief. Adyan works to encourage dialogue around, and acceptance of, this freedom in numerous ways, including its renowned Training of Trainers on Freedom of Religion and Belief course in Arabic, which is a translated and contextualized version of the English course on the FoRB Learning Platform, developed by NORFORB. Adyan also shared this expertise in local and international conferences, as well as working groups, such as the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD). Furthermore, Adyan has been leading the National Working Group on FoRB in Lebanon, joining together over 20 organizations and individuals implementing initiatives to promote this freedom in Lebanon.
- **Promoting Powerful Initiatives Against Hate Speech and Bullying:** Adyan's impactful educational campaigns, engaging over 200,000 participants, have made significant strides in combatting hate speech and bullying, fostering media literacy, and cultivating a culture of tolerance and respect in Lebanon throughout 2023.
- **Mobilizing Support for South Lebanon:** In response to the escalation of recent conflict, the Community Engagement Department swiftly mobilized partners and supporters to aid the communities in South Lebanon. Through collaborative efforts, Adyan secured a significant fund of 120K from three donors, demonstrating the power of collective action in times of crisis. Furthermore,



to ensure efficient and targeted support, a dedicated committee comprising members of our community was formed. This committee played a crucial role in identifying urgent needs and coordinating relief efforts on the ground. Through their outreach and communication, essential supplies, including fuel, were provided to nine villages and a public hospital in Bint Jbeil, benefiting 116 individuals and healthcare workers.

- **Solidarity in Action:** In its efforts to express solidarity with the people of Lebanon who are enduring desperate conditions caused by multifaced crisis, the project is people-focused and supports humanitarian aid for those who are struggling, especially the most vulnerable in society. The project focuses on the human dignity of all, and on fostering sustainable and inclusive social cohesion. To donate, please click [here](#).
- **Adyan, for the Rights of the Child:** Adyan Foundation has also partnered with UNICEF, during the past two years, to implement the “Qudwa” project, involving religious leaders and faith-based activists in awareness activities to promote the rights of the child. Zakiratuna, a project aimed at reviving positive memories among Syrian refugees in Lebanon, also resulted in a documentary that was broadcast all over Lebanon.
- **Women, Religions and Human Rights in Lebanon:** After successfully completing the first phase of the project and publishing the [report](#) on the situation of personal status laws in Lebanon, Adyan renewed its partnership with Danmission to advocate for breakthroughs in personal status laws to enhance women’s rights in Lebanon, with the involvement of participants from the MENA region.
- **The Youth Mock Parliament project (YMP):** The non-sectarian electoral law that was developed by experts in 2022, in addition to the comprehensive training program culminated in the election of the Youth Mock Parliament based on a non-sectarian electoral law. Around 25000 registered voters elected 64 deputies, out of 250 candidates. With the launch of the parliament, representatives worked to develop policies that serve the interests and priorities of youth and that aim to reach a citizenship-state that embraces diversity. Elected members also organized meetings and discussions with candidates of the actual parliamentary elections to lobby for their policies and set priorities.
- **Adyan advocates with new parliamentarians:** As part of its advocacy efforts, Adyan Foundation has been working with newly elected parliamentarians and their staff members to promote the values of diversity, solidarity and human dignity through inclusive narratives and policies.
- **Adyan’s Commitment to Social Cohesion in Iraq:** Adyan's presence in Iraq, established in 2022, signifies a dedicated effort to support and empower Iraqi communities towards a future of inclusivity and mutual respect. Operating under a carefully crafted long-term strategy, Adyan Iraq collaborates closely with stakeholders and strategic partners to address pressing issues and catalyze positive change.
- **Adyan expands in France:** In 2023, Adyan expanded its operations and opened Adyan France, through which the Alwan programme on Education on Living Together (France, Lebanon and Iraq) is being implemented.
- **Policy engagements:** Adyan has also actively participated in several policy discussions such as the Wilton Park Dialogues on Inclusive Citizenship as well as meetings of the 3RF: Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework.