

## **COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT**

From: APRIL 2023 To: APRIL 2025

### **STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT**

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that Global Diversity Leadership Exchange reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles for 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 communications.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MaryAnne Howland', written in a cursive style.

MaryAnne Howland, Founder & CEO

## Part II. Description of Actions

Global Diversity Leadership Exchange (GDLE) is a 501c3. As a business association, our goal is to raise awareness of the UN Global Compact and its Principles and to cultivate new participants.

GDLE serves as a catalyst for innovative ideas and solutions for business growth inspired and led by senior level executives and global thought leaders who understand the nexus between diversity and inclusion and sustainability in the global economy.

GDLE is a Leadership Development platform for C-Level executives, government officials, NGO's, academia, and direct reports in business development, corporate social responsibility, sustainability, diversity and inclusion, finance, human resources, investor relations, marketing, operations, and social media. Diversity officers, senior executives, and those on the front lines of opening new markets learned that sophistication in best practices in diversity and inclusion in the United States are not exportable to far away places wide ranging from Abu Dhabi to Zanzibar.

GDLE supports an exclusive community of global leaders with a platform for the sharing of intelligence, experience, resources and networks to support the efforts of companies that strive for global cultural competency and high road social impact to support sustainable growth with sustainable solutions.

Since its membership with the UN Global Compact, GDLE has hosted three annual forums. In 2014, GDLE became a member of the UN Global Compact and held its first Exchange at the United Nations: *Connecting Cultures and Corporate Value*. In 2015, GDLE held its second Exchange at the United Nations: *Sustainable Profitability: Triple Bottom Line*.

In 2017, inside the time period for which this report covers, GDLE held its first International People With Disabilities Conference in Los Angeles in partnership with Bezgraniz Couture and sponsored by Mercedes Benz. The following pages provide a full description of our Action that aligns with our UNGC commitment and that is related directly and indirectly to four SDGs: (8) Decent Work and Economic Growth, (9) Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, (10) Reduced Inequalities, and (11) Sustainable Cities and Communities.

In 2019, GDLE held its New Nashville in a Global Market conference in partnership with Alliance Bernstein to focus on community-focused infrastructure and inclusive wealth building. GDLE is a peer-to-peer platform for C-level executives and thought leaders who understand the nexus between diversity, inclusion and sustainability in the global economy.

In 2023, after being on hiatus due to COVID from 2020-2022, we rebooted our mission in Africa, on a cultural exchange in Kenya with the Maasai, that has yielded plans for a US/Kenya joint project to educate, train and create jobs for environmental conservation in the Maasai Mara. Timeline for our first group mission is early 2025.