

# UN GLOBAL COMPACT

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## COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

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2022 - 2024

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### Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: 20/06/2022

To: 20/06/2024

### PART I. STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OR EQUIVALENT

#### Dear Stakeholders,

In order to ensure that Turkish exporters can solve the problems they face in foreign markets together, it started its organizational activities in 1937 and in 1940, the structure, which includes 8 separate exporters' unions as the Mediterranean Exporters' Associations, was established as Çukurova Cotton Exporters' Association, Southern Provinces Livestock Exporters' Association, Mersin Grains, Pulses and Oils. Its foundation was laid as the Seeds Exporters Association with three Exporters Associations.

AKİB, which is one of the locomotive institutions of the region with both its vision and services, strives to fulfill critical missions such as increasing the competitiveness of our country's products in foreign markets, protecting brand values and existing markets, as well as its work and activities to protect the rights and interests of its members.

In the 1970s, the concept of Sustainable Development began to be discussed when it was realized that economic policies posed an ecological threat and were insufficient to establish social justice. As the relationship between the climate crisis and trade strengthens, sustainability has ceased to be an environmental sensitivity and has brought about a necessary evolution in companies' business models and has become a survival issue in competition. Since it is an issue that crosses all sectors horizontally, states and policy makers have implemented a series of regulations. Since sustainable policies have a dynamic process due to their economic and ecological dimensions affecting each other, multiple alliances should be established, alternative futures should be planned, and all stakeholders and components we come into contact with should be mentored on green skills and green recovery strategies.

Based on this awareness of responsibility, we will continue to operate on the construction of a production philosophy that is responsible for protecting the interests of our members while not depleting the resources of the planet and future generations, and we will continue to place the 10 Fundamental Principles of the Global Compact at the center of our activities, continuing with our promise since 2022.

Regards.



**Mehmet Ali ERKAN**  
Secretary General

## **PART II. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS**

- To contribute and support UN's sustainability goals from June 2022 to today we, as Mediterranean Exporters' Association (AKIB) has been giving importance to render it's activities more sustainable and spread them to the world of trade since the activity area of the Mediterranean Exporters' Association is trade. Because it's a part of both trade and Mediterranean Region, AKIB feels itself responsible to enhance UN's and UN Global Compact's universal values and respect them. Our mission is enhance sustainable and value-added exports by creating a competitive advantage with human and environment-oriented production. In this context AKIB organized training courses, different projects and improved it's stakeholders relations by following activities and steps;
  - From June 2022 to June 2024, we had 97 training courses about trade where sustainability and sustainable development were the main themes. Most of our courses were online and open access to touch more and more people who want to benefit.
  - As AKIB, we give value to enhance our instutional sustainability capacity and for this aim within the scope of sustainability capacity development training, a working/mentoring group consisting of individuals determined from the branches of the institution was formed, and an important step was taken to both increase the corporate sustainability capacity and provide consultancy to the members on this issue.
  - In order to ensure that members' exports are sustainable, they were informed about the EU Green Deal, CBAM and other related issues via e-mail, announcements and training regularly (weekly/monthly).
  - As of September 2023, two personnel in the position of expert assistants under the department manager were recruited to the Sustainability, Project and Education department of AKIB in order to increase it's activities and improve it's capacity.
  - In order to touch the social dimension of sustainability, AKIB organized the Due Diligence Corporate Social Responsibility Training Series. During the training, we reached 53 people from various sectors, mostly textile.
  - As AKIB, we have taken part in 12 various projects related to all areas of export since 2022. These projects are mostly related to exports, some of them are designed for entrepreneurship, some for innovation and some for the development of exports. Our partners in these projects were from various sectors such as public, private and public-legal institutions and organizations.
  - And as AKIB, we have developed various collaborations with these partners since 2022 in line with the values and objectives of the UN Global Compact.
  - 5 employees of the institution were entitled to receive a certificate by participating in a 12-hour social compliance and awareness training.
  - Gaining awareness is important in creating a sense of responsibility. For this reason, as AKIB, we carry out activities to raise awareness through Green Bulletins and monthly webinars.

### **PART III. MEASUREMENT OF OUTCOMES**

- Since the date we signed the training and seminars organized within the scope of awareness-raising activities supporting the ten principles of the UN Global Compact on human rights, labor standards, environment and anti-corruption, more than 3,000 people have participated and gained awareness.
- Since the date we became a signatory on sustainability issues, which is the value on which the UN Global Compact, the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative, is based, 23 bulletins have been shared with our members, one every month, and they have been provided with information about good practice examples.