

Date: 05 May 2024

UN Global Compact Communication ON Engagement (COE)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: 1 May 2022

To: 1 May 2024

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that the Qatar Chamber 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. We furthermore inform you that our initiatives and efforts actively engage in supporting and promoting the goals and principles represented by the UN Global Compact.

We are fully aware of the UNGC's essential role in shaping the future of global business by urging companies to operate in a more responsible and sustainable manner.

We also recognize that it is paramount to submit this COE that describes our organization's efforts to support the implementation of the ten principles and to engage with the Global Compact.

Sincerely yours,



Ali Saeed Bu Sherbak Al Mansori
Acting General Manager

Description of Actions

Established in 1963, the Qatar Chamber (QC) is one of the oldest chambers among the GCC countries. Its main role is to organise business interests and represent the Qatari private sector locally and globally, as well as support the country's economic actors and productivity.

It plays a critical role in fostering a conducive business environment in Qatar. By organizing and representing the interests of the Qatari private sector, it facilitates dialogue between businesses and the government, ensuring that the concerns and potentials of private enterprises are included in national economic planning and policies.

Furthermore, QC offers a range of services to its members, including advocacy, networking opportunities, dispute resolution, and access to research and market data. It also plays an important role in promoting Qatar as a destination for international investment and helps local companies to expand their operations abroad.

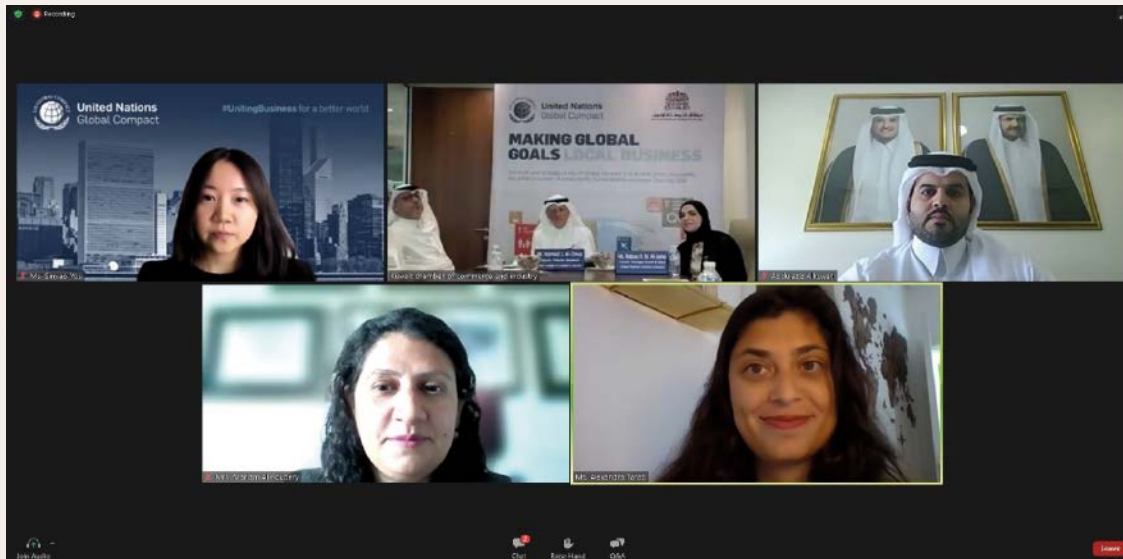
Since joining the UN Global Compact, the Qatar Chamber has hosted many events and organised a host of activities that align with the main principles of the UN Global Compact.

▪ **Promotion of the UN Global Compact**

In 2022, the Chamber participated in a webinar about the United Nations Global Compact. The webinar was organised by the Kuwait & Qatar -UN Global Compact Office with the participation of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce & Industry and several representatives of Qatari and Kuwaiti companies. It mainly aimed at promoting the UNGC among Qatar and Kuwait business communities.

During the event, the Chamber highlighted that the compact urges companies to do business responsibly by aligning their strategies and operations with Ten Principles on human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption; and take strategic actions to advance broader societal goals, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals, with an emphasis on collaboration and innovation.

It stressed the Chamber's keenness to encourage companies to join the UNGC and hold seminars and workshops to promote this global essential initiative.



- **Engaging in Global Events**

In 2022, the Qatar Chamber participated in the Business 20 (B20) and the ICC Executive Board Meeting in Bali, Indonesia. The summit was held under the theme of 'Advancing Innovative, Inclusive and Collaborative Growth' in support of the G20 theme of 'Recover Together, Recover Stronger'.



In 2023, the Chamber participated in the Private Sector Forum (PSF) that was held on the sidelines of the 5th UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) in Doha.

The event was organized by the Qatar Chamber along with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), and Microsoft.



In 2023, the Qatar Chamber participated in the 13th World Chambers Congress (13th WCC), the world's largest economic forum for chambers and businesses.

The congress took place in Geneva, Switzerland, and was co-organized by the International Chamber of Commerce, ICC World Chambers Federation, and Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services.

The 13th WCC program was derived from the theme 'Achieving peace and prosperity through multilateralism' and was narrowed down to three main topics, 'multilateralism', 'innovation', and 'sustainability'.



In the same year, the Chamber participated in the Business 20 (B20) Summit in New Delhi, India.

The B20 Summit, which took place in New Delhi, India, is the official engagement group for the G20 dialogue comprising businesses from around the world. The B20 communicates the views of businesses worldwide, from various industries, on global economic and trade governance issues, which is then delivered in a single voice in the form of actionable policy recommendations to the G20.



Last year, the Qatar Chamber also participated in the UN Private Sector Forum 2023, which was held on the sidelines of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and in conjunction with the SDG Summit 2023 in New York, the USA.

Organised by the UN Global Compact, the International Chamber of Commerce, and UN DESA in collaboration with several other supporting partners, the forum brought together chief executives, Heads of State and Government, and UN leaders and representatives of private sector and international companies.



- **Labour**

In 2022, the Chamber participated and supported the “8th Labour and Workers Conference” which was held under the patronage of Minister of Labour H E Dr. Ali bin Smaikh Al Marri under the theme ‘A Closer Look and an Impact Beyond the World Cup’.

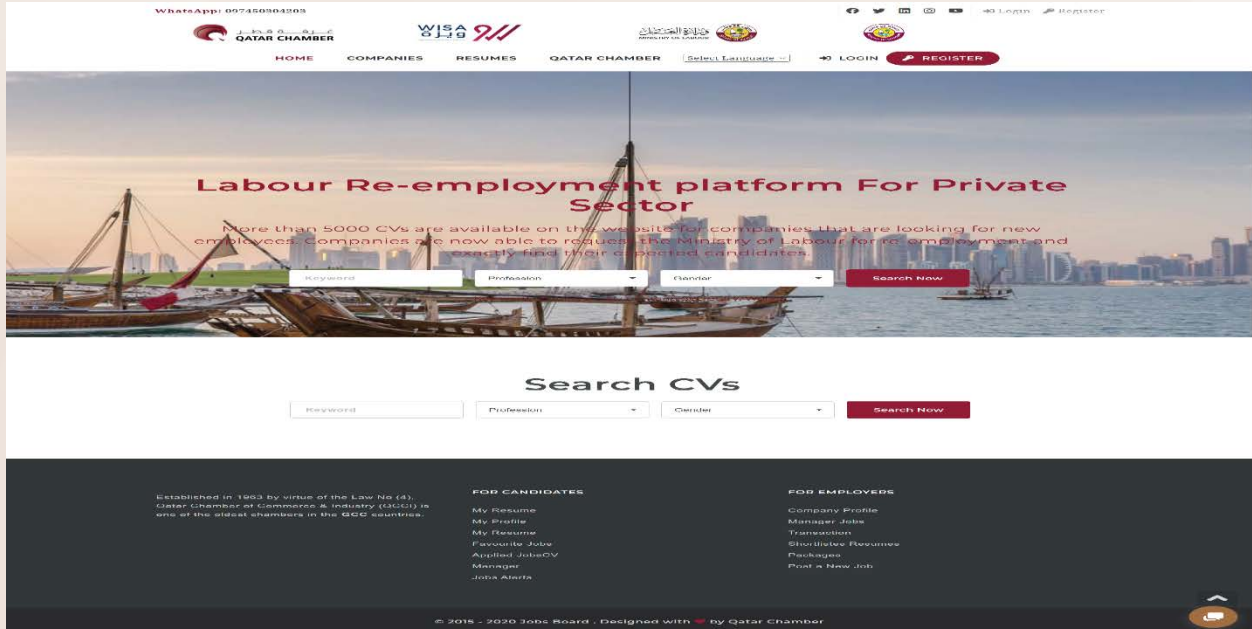
During the conference, the Chamber stressed that the State of Qatar has become at the forefront of the most prestigious international indicators in the field of protecting workers' rights, as the labour reforms adopted by the state are praised by all international partners, observers, European parliaments and international organizations.

It stressed that the Qatari private sector is not isolated from these reforms, as it takes it upon itself to abide by these laws and legislation related to workers, and to translate them into the labour market.



In the same year, the Chamber, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour (MoL), launched the ‘Labour Re-employment Platform for Private Sector’, an electronic platform aiming to assist companies to recruit employment from the local market.

The platform aimed to help companies to obtain skilled and experienced labourers from the local market instead of recruiting from outside the state which saves time and maintains the continuity of projects. It contributed to streamlining the transfer of employment from some companies that have reduced their businesses or that have redundant workers to other new companies willing to hire new workers.



In 2023, the Qatar Chamber held a meeting with a delegation from the International Labour Organization (ILO). During the meeting, both sides discussed ways to enhance cooperation for the benefit of the Qatari private sector.



Anticorruption and Integrity

Over the past two years, the Qatar Chamber has organised several seminars on combating money laundering, terrorist financing, and financial crimes.





▪ Entrepreneurship

In 2024, the Qatar Chamber signed an agreement with the “Young Entrepreneurs Club” to enhance cooperation between both parties and facilitate participation in seminars, fairs, workshops, and any other relevant events.

Additionally, it sponsored and participated in the 'First Young Entrepreneurs Forum' which was held under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Sports and Youth. During the event, the Chamber assured the importance to encourage and assist entrepreneurs to ensure the continuity and sustainability of their businesses.



▪ Social Responsibility

In 2024, the Chamber participated in the second edition of the “Qatar CSR Summit” which was held under the patronage of the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani.

The UN Global Combat supported the summit as a Sustainability Partner.

CSR Summit is a significant event that focuses on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Qatar. It addresses how organizations can align their economic, social, and environmental objectives with their operational strategies.

The Summit served as a prime platform, bringing together professionals, industry leaders, academics, and stakeholders from around the globe to discuss, deliberate, and foster the growth of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) practices.

Additionally, the Chamber organised a workshop entitled the "International Standards of Social Responsibility ISO 26000", with the participation of 38 participants from various governmental and private entities.

The workshop aimed to assist institutions in both the public and private sectors in improving their performance of social responsibility to achieve sustainable development.



▪ Sustainable Development and Climate Chamber

In 2024, the Chamber signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah International Foundation for Energy and Sustainable Development to enhance cooperation on projects that support the Qatar National Vision 2030 and the battle against climate change.

The agreement stemmed from the Chamber's commitment to adopting initiatives that align with Qatar National Vision 2030, address key global environmental and energy issues, and urge Qatari companies to adopt sustainability practices.





- **Enhancing the public-private partnership**

In 2024, the Chamber held several meetings with government officials to enhance the partnership between the public and private sectors. It held a meeting with HE Saad bin Ali bin Saad Al Kharji, Chairman of the Tourism Authority, and HE Eng. Khalid Ahmed Saleh Ahmed Al Obaidli, Chairman of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority.

These meetings addressed the most prominent challenges facing the tourism and real estate sectors, as well as the viewpoints and proposals of businessmen for their development.

