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Part I.

Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive

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

H.E. António Guterres Secretary-General
United Nations New York,
NY 10017
USA

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I am pleased to confirm that VSO supports the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. With this commitment, we express our intent to support the Global Compact advancing these principles, and will make a clear statement of this commitment to our stakeholders and the general public.

We also pledge to participate in and engage with the UN Global Compact through our work on partnerships with private sector organisations at the global level, and wherever we implement our programs. As a development organisation working through volunteers, VSO engages with the private sector in a number of distinctive ways that lever impact for poor and marginalised people. These include supporting the delivery of programmes through leveraging resources, and as a source of social innovation in developing new approaches. Each lever has varying potential for improving impact by contributing to SDG 17. We commit to approach partnerships in line with the following principles:

- Focussing on changes that make a difference to the lives of poor and marginalised people with clear objectives, monitoring and evaluation;
- Accountability and transparency – in and between each other, to donors and relevant authorities and to the people the partnership aims to benefit;
- Sharing learning and willingness to change as a result of learning
- Promoting sustainable local ownership and respect for sovereignty of local organisations.

We recognize that a key requirement for participation in the Global Compact is the submission of a Communication on Engagement (COE) that describes our organization's efforts to support the implementation of the ten principles and to engage with the Global Compact. We support public accountability and



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transparency, and therefore commit to report on progress within two years of joining the Global Compact and every two years thereafter according to the Global Compact COE policy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Goodwin', written in a cursive style.

Dr Philip Goodwin
Chief Executive

During the aforementioned period, VSO has been involved in the following actions;

- VSO is celebrating 20 years of partnership with Randstad. Randstad supports our livelihoods work through corporate volunteer placements, pro-bono secondments, infrastructure and knowledge and joint marketing efforts to recruit volunteers across the world. Apart from placing volunteers within our livelihoods projects their staff have also fundraised and added an additional component focussed on women's rights to our waste2work project.
- VSO is part of a consortium managing the Challenge Fund for Youth Employment set up by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The €145m programme aims to create decent employment for 265,000 young people including a 50% target for women in the Middle East, North Africa, West Africa, and the Horn of Africa. This is done through several competitive context-specific challenges per year to address supply, demand, or job-placement constraints to creating more jobs and/or improving the quality of work for people aged 15-35 in the focus countries. VSO strengthens the Fund's Social Impact work stream, and also provides Implementing Partners in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda with volunteer technical assistance to strengthen their operations and sustainability.
- As part of our EU funded Collective Action for Rights Realization (CLARITY) project in Tanzania using the UNGP Business and Human Rights framework, VSO aims to strengthen human rights, gender inclusion and corporate social responsibility in the goldmining industry. Communities are using their enhanced awareness of rights and regulations to advocate for stronger referral pathways, better coordination and information exchange between police and courts, equitable business opportunities for women owned enterprises, and a reduction in gender-based violence. The success of the program is based on supporting community- and self-organisations and creating multi-stakeholder platforms to enhance mutual trust and open communication. VSO's "volunteering for development" approach, where national and international expert volunteers work together with CSOs and community volunteers, created synergies on all levels and with all different stakeholders.