

## COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

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### Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: 2022-07-27 To: 2024-07-08

### Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Executive Director

July 8, 2024

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that WomenStrong International supports the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption. With this commitment, we express our sustained intent to support the Global Compact advancing these principles and will continue to make clear statements to this effect to our stakeholders and the general public. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

We also pledge to participate in and engage with the UN Global Compact to address issues relating to gender equality, women's empowerment, human rights, and poverty, all issues at the core of WomenStrong International's mission.

In this Communication on Engagement, we describe the actions WomenStrong International has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles, as suggested for an organization like ours.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan M. Blaustein".

Dr. Susan M. Blaustein Executive Director WomenStrong International

## **Part II. Description of Actions**

As a global non-governmental organization, WomenStrong International has supported the UN Global Compact and its Ten Principles by taking the following actions:

- Engaged companies, non-governmental organizations, and individuals in Global Compact-related issues. This includes advancing progress on gender equality, human rights, and poverty.
- Joined and proposed partnership projects on corporate sustainability. As a grantmaking organization, WomenStrong is a part of a larger effort to change practices to become more sustainable and to better respond to the needs of local networks and organizations. In addition, WomenStrong's Learning Lab is an opportunity for grassroots organizations around the world to learn from and support one another with technical and organizational resources committed by companies with robust CSR and corporate sustainability programs. WomenStrong also provides technical capacity strengthening to improve the resilience of our grantee partners, women-led organizations focused on supporting the sustainability of their communities.
- Participated in events aligned with the Global Compact and with making progress toward the SDGs, including events hosted by the UN Commission on the Status of Women, UN Women, USAID, UNDP, and the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment at Columbia University.
- Utilized Global Compact resources for research and development of publications.
- WomenStrong's Executive Director teaches a graduate course at Columbia University focused on gender and urban sustainability, including lectures on the circular economy, rethinking transportation and energy systems, land use, etc., all of which necessitate private sector partnership and engagement.

## **Part III. Measurement of Outcomes**

- Expertise and support provided by WomenStrong International to general audiences, partners, and WomenStrong's members aim to advance the UN Global Compact, its Principles, and the SDGs.
- Engagement in events and dialogues focused on one or more of the Ten UN Global Compact principles issues relating to Global Compact has resulted in partnerships designed expressly to advance those very principles through a set of concrete actions.
- WomenStrong members that participate in WomenStrong's Learning Lab recognize the significance of the corporate sector in enabling and facilitating collective learning.
- The use of Global Compact resources as references in WomenStrong publications furthers public awareness of the Compact while supporting progress toward the achievement of specific SDG targets and ultimately the SDGs.