



January 25th, 2019

Steven Kolb
CEO President
Council of Fashion Designers of America
65 Bleecker Street, 11th floor
New York, NY 10012

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

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I am pleased to confirm that the Council of Fashion Designers of America 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 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.

As a not for profit membership based trade organization, the mission of the CFDA is to strengthen the impact of American fashion in the global economy. Sustainability is a core pillar of the CFDA alongside philanthropy – and is embedded into programs and initiatives providing education and thought leadership to students, emerging designers, professionals, and industry. Our membership is a community of 500 plus designers- with a growing, shared commitment to advancing fashion's journey to sustainable innovation. Additionally, in 2018 the CFDA became NGO members of the Sustainable Apparel Coalition, and work to educate our members about the Higg Index as the leading tool in measuring supply chain impacts.

We pledge to participate in and engage with the UN Global Compact in the following way(s):

1. Conduct applied research and thought leadership to advance best practices

- The CFDA's recent launch of an open access Sustainability Resource Hub, Guide and Toolkit to Sustainable Strategies symbolizes our commitment and marks an important milestone of building more action within our community and fashion as a whole;
<https://cfda.com/news/introducing-cfdas-sustainability-initiatives-resource-hub>
- The ten principles of the UN Global Compact and the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals are referenced within these resources as primary frameworks- and we are committed to sharing these universal principles and encouraging their implementation through our programs and communications plans.



2. Promote the UN Global Compact Ten Principles and educate a variety of audiences about sustainability.

- As we expand our Sustainability Initiatives, the new CFDA resources will be shared in tandem with ongoing active engagement- through live workshops, conversations, and community events. We pledge to engage students, educators, and professionals in open dialogue about sustainability and the work of the UN;
- We believe in the potential of a positive call to action in action- fostering collaboration between the circles of education, industry and our NGO peers – with the UN Global Compact representing a key collaborator in advancing transformative practices. Through CFDA Educational Initiatives we engage with more than 23 leading American fashion design colleges and a growing global fashion education community- who together hold potential to create positive change- through thoughtleadership and mindful design practices;
- The UN Global Compact team has been invited to present to our membership and to engage withing the CFDA+ Lexus Fashion* Initiative, in 2019.

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 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.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'St. Kolb'.

Steven Kolb
President and CEO
Council of Fashion Designer of America