August 2nd, 2019

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

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I am pleased to confirm that Handicap International Federation, usage name Humanity & Inclusion (HI), 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.

We also pledge to participate in and engage with the UN Global Compact in supporting the 10 principles while implementing HI’s social mission:

- Principles 1 and 2 linked to respect of human rights are at the heart of our values and principles of intervention: HI works alongside people with disabilities and vulnerable populations, taking action and bearing witness in order to respond to their essential needs, improve their living conditions and promote respect for their dignity and fundamental rights.

- On labour conditions (Principles 3 to 6), HI refrains from using suppliers, service providers or consultants which infringe national and international rules governing basic labour rights (child labour, forced labour, discrimination etc.), human rights (active involvement in conflicts, violation of human dignity, security, health etc.), commercial practices and environmental protection. HI’s position is based on international legal frameworks, in particular the United Nations’ Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the protocols of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the various international human rights’ conventions.

Regarding child labour in particular, HI is committed to the protection and promotion of children’s rights and reaffirms its policy of zero tolerance of any form of child abuse. Our Code of Conduct: Prevention of abuse and safeguarding sets forth the “expected behaviours and practices constituting the organisation’s minimum standards and actions to be avoided”. In HI’s Child Protection policy, child labour refers to the employment and work of children below the age of 15. HI is extremely vigilant with regard to this age limit in order, amongst other things, to preserve children’s access to schooling and vocational training. Furthermore, and with due regard to national legislation, HI is careful to employ people over the age of 18 and encourages all those working in collaboration with HI to do likewise.
- On environment (Principles 7 to 9), HI is committed to the principle of "not harming" the environment by making a commitment to reduce its ecological footprint. To achieve this, HI adopts a global approach with good practice objectives applying to all its sites, with particular attention to its intervention areas.

- Finally on Principle 10 relating to Anti-Corruption, HI will not tolerate any form of fraud, bribery or corruption in the conduct of its activities and has introduced measures to reduce the risks and consequences. HI adopts a pragmatic approach to preventing and fighting fraud, bribery and corruption, based on an analysis which takes into account: risks specific to each of the countries in which HI works or has offices; risks inherent in each function/profession exercised by its staff; and risks related to each sector of activity in its intervention setting.

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 further 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,

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