

**H.E. António Guterres**  
**Secretary-General**  
**United Nations**  
**New York**  
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**USA**



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Monday 15 July 2019

Our ref: ca/ungc001

Dear Mr. Secretary General

I am writing to confirm that CAFOD supports the ten principles set out in the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. We firmly agree that:

- Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights and make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.
- Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour; the effective abolition of child labour; and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.
- Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges; undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.
- Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

This commitment has driven CAFOD's engagement over many years in research and advocacy at UN, EU and UK levels and contribution to initiatives such as the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative, the Ethical Trading Initiative, the Bribery Act, work at the UN Human Rights Council and our work on the UK Modern Slavery Act and advice to businesses on its effective implementation. We commit to continuing CAFOD's work to ensure that more businesses achieve these objectives, and we would like to see them go further, in light of the urgent need to protect our planet and the most vulnerable communities set out by Pope Francis in the 2015 Encyclical *Laudato Si'*.

We will participate in and engage with the UN Global Compact to advance delivery of these objectives in the following way(s):

- Looking at how the ten principles can be further applied within the supply chains relating to our own operations, in particular linked to modern day slavery
- Further addressing the impact of our operations on climate change, including reducing our carbon footprint
- Ensuring that CAFOD continues to be an equal opportunities employer, and takes steps to reduce our gender pay gap

- Engaging with governments, businesses and investors to ensure they shift from funding fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy
- Exploring how to upgrade the UN Global Compact so that businesses are more accountable to citizens for their impacts on communities and the environment. In particular we will campaign to ensure that community leaders and land rights activists are not threatened or harmed for challenging large-scale investment projects by the private sector.
- Campaigning for greater business transparency and accountability on how business models affect human rights and the environment and working towards mandatory human rights due diligence to ensure that all businesses take action to prevent human rights abuses.
- Producing briefings and research to increase understanding of the impacts of businesses on human rights and the environment as well as ways to drive positive change.

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 that reads "Christine Allen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Christine Allen**  
**Director**