



February 11, 2009

H.E. Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10017  
USA

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

I am pleased to confirm that S M Sehgal Foundation, a Trust registered in India since 1999 supports the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption.

S M Sehgal Foundation (Sehgal Foundation) is established by Dr. Suri Sehgal, a scientist and agricultural entrepreneur to further the well-being of rural communities in India. The Foundation set up the Institute of Rural Research and Development (IRRAD) in India in 2008 which aims to be a premier knowledge institution for rural development and poverty reduction. IRRAD envisions rural people motivated and empowered to make their lives more secure and prosperous through education, better health, improved skills, and supportive governance.

IRRAD's mission is to implement Integrated Sustainable Village Development (ISVD) in select village clusters, through its three centers that serve as resources of talent and infrastructure for the execution of IRRAD's programs. The Capacity Building center serves to build capacities in rural development to catalyze, plan and manage their own agenda for change; Rural Research center undertakes research on developmental issues and assesses impact, and Policy, Governance and Advocacy center aims at better rural governance at grassroots through empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to rise against corruption by getting access to their entitlements.

The Suri Sehgal Centre for Conservation Science at Bangalore is established by Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE) is supported by S M Sehgal Foundation and has been recognized as a Center of Excellence by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. Currently some of the national level initiatives undertaken by the Center include; support to the UNESCO's World Heritage Sites Program and the program on Conservation of Biodiversity in the Western Ghats in collaboration with Critical Ecosystems Project Fund (CEPF) of Conservation International.

The Foundation was accorded a Special Consultative Status by UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2005 and is also a member of Clinton Global Initiative.

The activities of these centers align with the principles set forth by the UN Global Compact.

With this commitment, we express our intent to advance these principles within our sphere of influence, and will make a clear statement of this commitment to our stakeholders and the general public.

*Special Consultative Status with the Economic and  
Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations*



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We also pledge to take part in the activities of the UN Global Compact where appropriate and feasible – through, for instance, participation in Country/Local Networks; involvement in specialized initiatives and work streams; engagement in partnership projects; and reviewing and providing commentary to participating companies on their Communications on Progress.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Rajat Jay Sehgal  
Executive Director

**Institute of Rural Research and Development**

(An initiative of S M Sehgal Foundation)

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