

Memorandum of Understanding

Between CSR Europe and the United Global Compact

WHEREAS, the United Global Compact (UNGC) is the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative with a call to companies to align strategies and operations with universal principles on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and take actions that advance societal goals.

WHEREAS, CSR Europe is the leading European business network for corporate social responsibility. It brings together over 10.000 companies in Europe through its membership of multinational companies and national business-led sustainability organisations.

WHEREAS, at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals to end poverty, inequality and injustice and tackle climate change by 2030.

WHEREAS, the European Commission envisages to embrace and drive the action on the UN SDGs throughout Europe

WHEREAS, based on their long standing experience and collaboration with business, investors, governments, academia and civil society, CSR Europe and the UNGC have built up unique knowledge and experience to drive business transformation towards sustainability by

- Providing learning networks and opportunities for business practitioners to advance on the sustainable development
- Engaging at national level the multistakeholder networks and projects to further advance practical impact to advance towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Engaging at the highest level with policymakers, at global, European and national level to support outlining smart policy measures to advance the level playing field and create the environment that makes higher levels of sustainability possible

WHEREAS, there is a need for close alignment in engaging the agents of change at a local, national, European and global level in order to facilitate and foster practical collaboration between the different stakeholders.

WHEREAS, UNGC wants a strong overall coordination of implementation of the UN SDGs by business and with stakeholders in the European region and CSR Europe's focus on the UN SDG is on innovative business transformation and action at local level through and with the network of National Partners.

WHEREAS, the Parties seek to catalyze actions and contributions in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and agree to collaborate in promoting common action and learning through and within their multistakeholder networks

WHEREAS, the Parties agree that it is their mission in Europe to expand and consolidate the ‘movement of the willing’ in Europe - from grass root actors up to top level leaders in business, civil society, policy, education and culture -, which have laid the foundations of CSR and Sustainable Development in this part of the world. Like never before, these actors and leaders can now show many more followers how they can use the UN SDGs as a common narrative for further compliance, innovative collaboration and enhanced impact.

THEREFORE, The Parties hereby agree as follows.

Article 1

Purpose

The purpose of this MOU is to set forth the terms and conditions of the collaboration between the Parties over the next three years.

The overall direction for this collaboration is

1. To the increase the delivery on the UN SDGs by business in collaboration with stakeholders and
2. To mutualize and leverage local, national and European contributions to the UN SDGs. By reaching out to the national UNGC Chapters and CSR Europe’s National Partners’ expertise and zones of influence - and by avoiding unnecessary duplication – the national entities will be able to inspire, encourage and support more enterprises and stakeholders across Europe to use the UN SDGs as comprehensive blueprint to deliver social equity and environmental security both at local and global level.
3. To that end, the Parties will dedicate special attention to the principle of subsidiarity, favoring those solutions that can help, achieve most impact at national, European and international level. Both parties will explore best possible resolutions in the case of Global Compact Local Networks and CSR Europe’s National Partners face collaboration challenges.
4. The collaboration is based on the understanding that CSR Europe promotes the UN Global Compact Ten Principles among its member companies, whereas the UNGC refers to CSR Europe as the primary vehicle for engagement on the EUs CSR strategies and initiatives.

Article 2

Responsibilities of the Parties

The specifics of the collaboration between the Parties are as follows:

(1) Commitment to mutual information sharing

The collaboration will ensure that both parties provide each other detailed information on their planning of activities in Europe and this through on an annual plan and a quarterly update. Information on policy evolutions and discussions will be shared continuously as so far it concerns the wider European region. Other information sharing on relevant issues will be included in the quarterly updates.

(2) Commitment to bi-annually reach out to the National Partners/UNGC Chapters with a joined electronic newsletter

The Parties agree that on a bi-annually basis an electronic newsletter will be send out to the respective national networks, member companies and stakeholders that provides an update on

- Key information from UNGC HQ and CSR Europe on sustainability / SDGs in Europe
- Activities examples from the respective networks in Europe
- Policy updates from Europe

(3) Commitment to organize bi-annually a webinar

These webinars for the National Partners and Local Networks in Europe will allow sharing success factors and challenges in the advancement on their work on the UN SDGs and encourage intra-network learning.

The webinars will include a focus on the opportunities for collaboration at the national level, encouraging Local Networks and National Partners to reduce overlap of activities and collaborate whenever possible.

(4) Commitment to leverage tools and resources

Both Parties agree to share and distribute all tools and resources they produce and strive to collaborate in the development of these tools. More specifically the Parties agree to support - where possible - practical collaboration platforms and incubators at a national, European level and international level. They will also explore the feasibility of co-development of new SDG Platforms.



(5) One voice towards policy makers

Both parties endeavor to stimulate a multistakeholder approach at national and European level focused on progress towards the UN SDGs. Hereto UNGC, CSR Europe will coordinate the contributions of their respective networks in the European Multistakeholder Platform on the SDGs and in the high level policy dialogue with the European institutions

Article 3

Status of the Parties

Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as creating a joint venture, an agency relationship or a legal partnership between UNGC and CSR Europe.

No provision of this MOU shall be construed so as to in any way interfere with UNGC and CSR Europe respective decision-making process with regards to their own respective affairs and operations.

Article 4

Financial arrangements

Unless agreed in advance in writing, each party will bear their own costs incurred as a result of actions taken under this MOU.

Article 5

Arrangements for implementation of the MOU

After the execution of this MOU, each party will designate a staff member who will act as focal point for the implementation of the MOU. This person will ensure the implementation of their organization's responsibilities under the MOU and facilitate an exchange of information between UNGC and CSR Europe on matters of common interest. The Parties will implement this MOU in accordance with their respective regulations, rules and administrative practices.

A joint midterm review of the MOU will be conducted to assess its success in contributing to the respective mission of the two Parties.



This MOU will be reviewed, updated and renewed as deemed necessary by the Parties after 3 years

Article 6

Termination

This MOU may be terminated by either Party on 2 months's notice in writing.

Article 7

Dispute Resolution

Any dispute arising from or in connection with this MOU, including its interpretation or application of any provision contained herein, will be settled amicably by the Parties.

Article 8

Duration and amendment

This MOU will become effective upon signature by authorized representatives of the Parties hereto ('Effective date') and will remain in effect for a period of 3 years unless it is terminated in accordance with Article 6 above. However, the Parties may decide to renew the MOU for a further period as set out in Article 5.

This MOU may be modified by mutual agreement in writing with the signature of the authorized representatives of the Parties hereto.



Article 9

Notices

Any notice required to be given to either party under this MOU shall be given in writing, shall be deemed given when actually received by the other Party, and shall be conveyed via first class mail, postage prepaid, or via private courier or electronic mail, as follows:

To UN Global Compact
Lise Kingo
CEO and Executive Director
405 East 42nd Street, New York, NY,
10017, USA

kingo@globalcompact.org

To CSR Europe
Stefan Crets
Executive Director
Rue Victor Oudart 7
B-1030 Brussels
Belgium
sc@csreurope.org

Signed on behalf of UNGC

Signed on behalf of CSR Europe

Lise Kingo
CEO and Executive Director

Hans Daems
Chair of the Board, CSR Europe

Date: 22 May 2017