



Communication on Progress
Year: 2010

Statement of Continued Support of the UN Global Compact

In our pursuit of setting practical examples of sustainable development's principles applications, The Cooperation for Fair Trade in Africa (COFTA) hereby confirms its continued support to the 10 principles of the UN Global Compact. In respect to human rights, environmental sustainability, transparency and accountability, we express our support to advance the application of these principles in our management, operations and partnerships.

As those principles are compatible with the Fair Trade principles, we are committed to include them in the organizational culture and day to day business conduct.

Company name: Cooperation For Fair Trade in Africa

Sector: Fair Trade

Number of employees: 9

UN Global Compact signatory since: -

Contact person: Hilda Githaiga

Address: P.o Box 46337-00100

Email: info@cofta.org or communication@cofta.org

Phone: 254 20 3866005/6/7

Brief description of nature of business

The **Cooperation for Fair Trade in Africa (COFTA)** is a network of Fair Trade Producer Organizations in Africa that was established in 2004 by African producers. As a continental FT network, COFTA is involved and works with disadvantaged grass root producers to eliminate poverty in Africa through Fair Trade. It aims to be the continental voice lobbying for greater market access and Fair Trade advocacy for African producers, thus striving to empower the marginalized and disadvantaged to become organized, active and self reliant African business owners. COFTA has the following main departments that carry out the organisation activities :-

1. **Network & Member Development** – Strengthening COFTA’s Role in membership growth & country network development
2. **Market Access:**
 - i. Increasing Sales
 - ii. Broadening Market & Product Base
 - iii. Increasing Competitiveness – Success in the Market
 - iv. Certification – Labeling & Traceability
3. **Advocacy & Lobbying**
 - a. Economic justice
 - b. Climate justice
 - c. Food and political sovereignty
 - d. Intellectual Property Rights
4. **Organizational Growth and Development:**
 - a. Secretariat Development
 - b. Resource Mobilization
 - c. Visibility
 - d. Research & Documentation
 - e. Development of Programs/Program Focus

The network ensures the following principles are upheld:

1) Creating Opportunities for Economically Disadvantaged Producers: - Fair Trade is a strategy for poverty alleviation and sustainable development. Its purpose is to create opportunities for producers who have been economically disadvantaged or marginalized by the conventional trading system.

2) Transparency and Accountability: - Fair Trade involves transparent management and commercial relations to deal fairly and respectfully with trading partners.

3) Capacity Building: - Fair Trade is a means to develop producers’ independence. Fair Trade relationships provide continuity, during which producers and their marketing organizations can improve their management skills and their access to new markets.

4) Promoting Fair Trade: - Fair Trade Organizations raise awareness of Fair Trade and the possibility of greater justice in world trade. They provide their customers with information about the organization, the products, and in what conditions they are made. They use honest advertising and marketing techniques and aim for the highest standards in product quality and packing.

5) Payment of a Fair Price: - A fair price in the regional or local context is one that has been agreed through dialogue and participation. It covers not only the costs of production but enables production which is socially just and environmentally sound. It provides fair pay to the producers and takes into account the principle of equal pay for equal work by women and men. Fair Traders ensure prompt payment to their partners and, whenever possible, help producers with access to pre-harvest or pre-production financing.

6) Gender Equity - Fair Trade means that women’s work is properly valued and rewarded. Women are always paid for their contribution to the production process and are empowered in their organizations.

7) Working Conditions - Fair Trade means a safe and healthy working environment for producers. The participation of children (if any) does not adversely affect their well-being, security, educational requirements and need for play and conforms to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as the law and norms in the local context.

8) Child Labour - Fair Trade Organizations respect the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as local laws and social norms in order to ensure that the participation of children in production processes of fairly traded articles (if any) does not adversely affect their well-being, security, educational requirements and need for play. Organizations working directly with informally organized producers disclose the involvement of children in production.

9) The Environment - Fair Trade actively encourages better environmental practices and the application of responsible methods of production.

10) Trade Relations - Fair Trade Organizations trade with concern for the social, economic and environmental well-being of marginalized small producers and do not maximize profit at their expense. They maintain long-term relationships based on solidarity, trust and mutual respect that contribute to the promotion and growth of Fair Trade.

Scope of COP

This communication on progress covers the following aspects;

- a. COFTA management and management structure.
- b. COFTA operations and activities.
- c. COFTA relationship with the network members.
- d. COFTA relationship with its partners.

Human Rights	
UN Global Compact principles covered:	<p>Principle 1: Business should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights</p> <p>Principle 2: Business should ensure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses</p>
Human Rights Current	<p><i>Commitment</i></p> <p>COFTA aims to provide and maintain as much as possible a safe and healthy working Environment. In general we aim to offer Health and Safety preventive measures, minimize injuries at workplace, waste materials and create awareness to safe working environment so as to increase quality of service for both our members and staff</p> <p>As a Fair Trade Network we are aware of the health and safety conditions in the producer groups and our members, we seek, on an ongoing basis, to raise awareness of health and safety issues and improve health and safety practices in producer groups.</p> <p><i>A brief description of our Processes or Systems</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and safety measures are undertaken • Provide safe and healthy working conditions for staff • The organization ensures that representatives of employees are not subject to discrimination in the workplace, and also members do not discriminate producer groups working closely with. • The network will partner with HIV/AIDS care support groups/ organizations to support and promote HIV/AIDS awareness creation and containment campaigns in its areas of operations. The organization will also entrench favourable HIV/AIDS policy in its company HR (Employment) policies. • As an organization, COFTA will embrace and promote the spirit of accommodating all forms of diversity be it cultural, racial or occupational both at the workplace and during programme implementation. All our programming approaches will aim to create peaceful co-existence amongst the communities we serve. More so, integrating counties within Africa and the African continent with the rest of the world through fair trade will be our ultimate goal. <p><i>Activities implemented in the last year</i></p> <p>Health & safety workshop in Kisii 2008</p> <p>Measurement of outcomes and value added for our company</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sales improvement for our members • It opens opportunity for members when they are selling to fair trade buyers • Reduces chances of producers getting sick, with protective clothing and masks especially for those carving out soapstone's <p>Training on Health and Safety standards assessment within the context of the new certification system for SFTMS (Sustainable Fair Trade Management System) for 30 producers in 5 countries; Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, South Africa and Senegal.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Human Rights Future Ture</p>	<p><i>Activities planned for next year</i></p> <p>Monitoring health and safety standards through our Fair Trade application and review process.</p> <p>Internal audit for SFTMS, which includes H&S measures in the 5 countries; Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, South Africa and Senegal.</p>
---	---

Labour Rights	
UN Global Compact principles covered:	<p>Principle 3: Business should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining</p> <p>Principle 4: Business should support the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour</p> <p>Principle 5: Business should support the effective abolition of child labour</p> <p>Principle 6: Business should support the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation</p>
Labour Rights Current	<p><i>Commitment</i></p> <p>The Organisation ensures that there is no forced labour in its workplace and members, we adheres to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and national / local law on the employment of children.</p> <p><i>A brief description of our Processes or Systems</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members interested in becoming our members have to prove that there is no child labour • We advocate for Safe working conditions for the producers • <p><i>Activities implemented in the last year</i></p> <p> </p> <p>Training on labour standards assessment within the context of the new certification system for SFTMS (Sustainable Fair Trade Management System) for 30 producers in 5 countries; Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, South Africa and Senegal.</p> <p><i>Measurement of outcomes and value added for our company</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring visits are carried out to ensure organisations the 10 principles are upheld • Membership termination for those found going against the rule
Labour Rights Future	<p><i>Activities planned for next year</i></p> <p>Continue the on-going monitoring activities.</p> <p>Internal audit for SFTMS, which includes labour rights standards measures in the 5 countries; Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, South Africa and Senegal.</p>

Environment	
UN Global Compact principles covered:	<p>Principle 7: Business should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges</p> <p>Principle 8: Business should undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility</p> <p>Principle 9: Business should encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies</p>

Environment Current	<p><i>Commitment</i></p> <p>COFTA is committed to ensure its members and producers use raw materials that originate from sustainably managed sources, and have the least overall impact on the environment.</p> <p><i>A brief description of our Processes or Systems</i></p> <p><i>Any members who wants to join COFTA has to be environment friendly</i></p> <p><i>Activities implemented in the last year</i></p> <p>Members planted seedlings and involved in Afforestation projects in 3 countries; Kenya, Senegal and Tanzania.</p> <p>During workshops environmental awareness is emphasized</p> <p>Attendance of the World Ecological Forum in Sweden, July 2010</p> <p>Training on Environment standards assessment within the context of the new certification system for SFTMS (Sustainable Fair Trade Management System) for 30 producers in 5 countries; Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, South Africa and Senegal.</p> <p><i>Measurement of outcomes and value added for our company</i></p> <p>Producers' response.</p> <p>Number of countries involved in Environmental activities.</p> <p>Suspension of members who are not following the environmental standards.</p>
	Environment Future

Anti-corruption	
UN Global Compact principles covered:	Principle 10: Business should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery
Anti-corruption Current	<p><i>Commitment</i> COFTA commits to ensure that all its members are not involved in any corrupted business and are applying transparency and accountability standards in their business operations.</p> <p><i>A brief description of our Processes or Systems</i> Through the Fair Trade standards our members apply transparent management and commercial relations to deal fairly and respectfully with trading partners.</p> <p><i>Activities implemented in the last year</i> Regular monitoring of all Fair Trade standards</p> <p><i>Measurement of outcomes and value added for our company</i> Monitoring and evaluation reports.</p>
Anti-corruption Future	<p><i>Activities planned for next year</i> Nothing at the moment</p>

How do you intend to make this COP available to your stakeholders?

This Communication On Progress Report will be circulated to all our members, partners and to other interested stakeholders. It is made available to the public through the Global Compact Website and COFTA Website.

Donations, awards

We support the community in various activities among them are: