



Polish Institute
for Human Rights
and Business

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Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business
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Poland

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT

Period covered: 26.05.2014-26.05.2016

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to express continuous support of the Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business for the UN Global Compact and its ten principles.

With this commitment, we renew 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.

We also pledge to continue our participation in the activities of the UN Global Compact where appropriate and feasible, through e.g. awareness raising and capacity building efforts; sharing our human rights and labour rights expertise with other organizations; and engagement in partnership projects, as well as participation in UN Global Compact Local Network Poland and involvement in specialized initiatives and work-streams.

During the past 2 years Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business (PIHRB) has engaged in a number of activities supporting the ten principles and mission of the UN Global Compact, with the main focus of our activities being on the implementation of UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

Since its foundation PIHRB has been consequently raising the issue of business responsibility for human rights through research, policy recommendations development, advocacy, awareness rising and education activities. We have secured the interest on this issue and cooperation of the increasing number of partners representing various stakeholder groups incl. NGO's, CSO's, representatives of government, labour organisations, employer organizations and business.

Some of the results of the above mentioned cooperation and partnership with labour and civil society partners include the translation into Polish and publication of the "Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations

'Protect, Respect and Remedy' Framework", as well as the "UN Guiding Principles Reporting Framework with guidance" developed by Shift and Mazars, what made those documents available for the Polish-speaking audience, in both electronic and in case of the first two documents also in paper versions. Apart from those publications PIHRB has also issued several Working Papers on such issues like reform of the NCP OECD in Poland or involvement of the Polish NGOs in the development of the National Action Plan on business and human rights, as well as shorter opinion-pieces and commentaries via PIHRB Commentary series and short articles and contributions in various magazines and newspapers.

In all major events organised by PIHRB, UNGC mission, and in particular its human rights dimension has been promoted and where relevant supported – by the invitation and presentation of representatives of UNGC Polish Network and by providing contribution of our experts to the UNGC Polish Network publications¹. Our experts also spoke on numerous occasions to various audience groups on the importance of respecting human rights, including labour rights when doing business as well as contributed to various events. Already in the early days of the PIHRB existence our expert was also speaking on those issues at the session of the European Parliament (EP) Sub-Committee on Human Rights, following development of a report – commissioned by the EP - on the role of the NHRIs in implementation of the UNGPs.

In the period covered, three major education-focused events have been organised by PIHRB in cooperation with international partners – representatives of CSOs, think tanks, business and government institutions, all of them concentrated on implementation of UNGPs, aimed to raise awareness and build capacity of various groups in the area of Business and Human Rights.

First seminar was dedicated to the NGO's role in advancing implementation of the Human Rights and Business agenda and development of the National Action Plan on business and human rights in Poland, while the following two interactive workshops co-organized with active engagement of the private sector partners aimed to increase understanding of Human Rights and Business issues by business and improve participants' skills in the area of non-financial reporting.

Furthermore, additional educational activities available to everyone interested have been implemented (webinars) in order to raise awareness of general public regarding Human Rights and Business area and reinforce educational outcomes of the seminars.

Cooperation with social partners, CSO's and business has multiplied the results of actions through the networks of mentioned above partners as reflected in growing interests of new organizations in cooperation with PIHRB, and two large, multi-stakeholder and multi-partner projects currently underway, including EU H2020 funded SMART Project aimed to look at what are the barriers and enablers for corporate sustainability in the international, European, national and actor-specific regulatory ecology for the market actors.

¹ Beata Faracik, [Krajowy Plan Wdrażania Wytucznych ONZ ds. Biznesu i Praw Człowieka – rekomendacje](#), [w:] Biznes a Prawa Człowieka, The Global Compact Network Poland, 2015, s. 46-51

Beata Faracik, Joanna Szymonek, [Odpowiedzialność prawna przedsiębiorstw za naruszenia praw człowieka](#), [w:] Global Compact Yearbook – Polska 2014, The Global Compact Network Poland, 2014, s. 276-279

Furthermore, PIHRB has been actively involved in research, advocacy and development of the policy recommendations concerning the non-financial reporting, sustainable public procurement (research report and set of recommendations), reform of the NCP OECD in Poland, development (process and content) of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, etc. We have also contributed to the policy making by engaging in the work of the CSR Committee, an advisory body of the Minister of Economy, including development of that body's recommendations regarding implementation of the EU legislation of relevance to human rights and business agenda, contributing to the development of the Guidebook on non-financial reporting standards published under the auspices of the Ministry of Economy and its CSR Committee.

PIHRB also undertook effort to build and strengthen civil society partnerships by initiating and coordinating CSR Watch Coalition Poland (currently made of 13th CSOs) that in the autumn 2015 become member of OECD Watch. We are also cooperating regularly with other international NGOs coalitions like European Coalition for Corporate Justice.

Finally, we are undertaking efforts to ensure that also our day to day operations have smallest possible impact on our surrounding, e.g. we try to reduce the use of paper for office purposes and use only eco- and recycled paper, also for printing publications despite higher costs.

We will continue to offer our expertise in order to undertake variety of initiatives engaging different actors, shaping strong partnerships and promoting mission of UNGC as well as support companies to build their capacity in sustainability by following the ten principles of the Global Compact.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Beata Faracik', written in a cursive style with several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Beata Faracik
President of the Board
Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business