



# BELGIAN SDG CHARTER

The Belgian SDG Charter on the role of private sector, civil society and public sector in international development

## THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR



- Promote democracy, support and strengthen transparency, good governance, rule of law and anti-corruption initiatives
- Incorporate good governance and ethical business practices in decision making, especially in relation to investors and suppliers



- Develop local competences and invest in training along our supply chain, integrating know-how about the SDG framework into local markets
- Create decent work in an inclusive work environment
- Respect and protect human rights and labour standards
- Be transparent towards all stakeholders, including our customers, in communications and reporting about our impact on society



- Consistently strive for the transition to a low-carbon economy through use of renewable energy, innovative low- carbon technologies and sustainable sourcing of resources
- Create resource efficient and circular business processes
- Systematically reduce our environmental footprint



- Create economic, social and environmental value by providing valuable goods and services in a profitable manner
- Support the local private sector, in particular (M)SMEs in countries where we operate
- Lead by example in contributing to society through taxation in countries where we operate

## THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY



- Defend and promote good governance and democracy in and through local and international civil society
- Facilitate peer-to-peer exchange of knowledge and expertise –creating synergy between local actors, institutions and administrations- on specific governance aspects of sustainable development



- Support and strengthen social movements and citizens actions to achieve sustainable development and transform systems, power relations, institutions
- Support and strengthen the provision of public goods and services in domains linked to the SDGs, based on our own added value and expertise
- Be a watch-dog for the respect of human rights of people in Belgium and in developing countries, through advocacy and lobbying efforts



- Push for adherence to and development of national and international standards on the protection of ecosystems
- Consistently share knowledge about the planetary boundaries and advocate for the transition to a carbon-neutral and circular economy
- Contribute to this transition by systematically reducing our environmental footprint



- Urge that private sector development be inclusive and that finance, investment and trade go hand in hand with respect for human rights, workers' rights and protection of the environment

## THE ROLE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR



- Push and implement coherent policies for development including a safe, democratic, conflict-free society with rule of law and equal access to justice mechanisms
- Facilitate and foster the exchange of expertise and collaboration between efficient, responsive, transparent, accountable and inclusive institutions worldwide



- Integrate and promote a human rights based approach across all 17 SDGs, taking into account criteria such as respect for core labour standards and embedding social and environmental safeguards in the goals, design, specifications, tender evaluation and supplier selection
- Ensure development of and universal access to social services
- Encourage and facilitate citizens' participation and dialogue, in particular for the most vulnerable groups in society



- Promote sustainable consumption and production through amongst others an enlarged and transparent set of criteria for government procurement
- Promote equitable access to and use of preferably renewable natural resources
- Support development of resilient agriculture systems, renewable and clean energy



- Foster inclusive economic growth and support development of fair and ecologically sustainable trade with a strong focus on global value chains
- Urge for integrity and good governance in corporate culture, including transparency, accountability and ensuring payment of local fair taxes through adequate regulation
- Devise and support effective resource mobilisation to support local development in all areas above and respect international commitments on development financing

# COMMITMENTS

## THE SDG CHARTER

Acknowledge the importance of our own roles and our shared responsibilities as private sector, civil society and public sector in the implementation of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Recognize the interdependence between the roles of the private sector, civil society and public sector, and the increasing need for these actors to work together- as true partners - in crafting impactful solutions to common global challenges.

Endorse the content of this Charter and its call for concrete commitments individually and collectively, towards advancing all 17 SDGs (hereunder grouped within 4 P's – Peace, People, Planet and Prosperity).

Pledge to make sustainable development along the SDG framework an integral and essential part of our own core business, operations, budgets and projects.

Commit to seeking out expertise from and constructive dialogue with external partners, in order to align our efforts and ensure policy coherence in advancing the sustainable development agenda.

Aim where possible to advance and leverage our own efforts through multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral partnerships, along tangible Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and subject to regular reporting and evaluation mechanisms, towards advancing concrete SDGs at a subnational, national and international level.





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# SIGN THE SDG CHARTER

ORGANISATION

NAME

SURNAME

FUNCTION

SIGNATURE