

RIBA UNGC Communication on Engagement 2021-23

Period Covered: April 2021 to April 2023

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To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that the RIBA reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

As an organisation we have ensured we work with partners globally to deliver intended improvements to make a positive impact in these areas. Activities have covered written material, as panel members at COP discussions and promoting and addressing Diversity & Inclusion.

This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents. In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organisation has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Yours sincerely

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Part II. Description of Actions

Please use the box below to describe the actions your organization has taken in support of the Global Compact.

COP 27 and 28: As an admitted observer organisation, the RIBA prepared for and attended COP 27 and 28, advocating for transformative shifts in building design and construction, for a sustainable future.

Engaging with policymakers to improve the built environment: through meetings, events, consultation and parliamentary inquiry responses, RIBA has called on the UK Government to reduce the environmental impact of the built environment.

UK Global Future Cities Programme: The RIBA, as a part of the cross-profession UK Built Environment Advisory Group, was the Strategic Capacity Development programme partner. Working in close partnership with UN-Habitat, delivered an SDG aligned [Strategic Capacity Development Programme](#) for the ten countries and 19 cities of the programme.

A Decade of Action: A [survey](#) of RIBA members' understanding, commitment and implementation of the SDGs in architectural practice.

Inclusive Design Overlay to the RIBA Plan of Work: Release of the [Inclusive Design Overlay](#) (that can be understood and applied by all built environment professionals), to embed an inclusive design framework within the RIBA Plan of Work (a guide for briefing, designing, constructing, and operating building projects).

Addressing discrimination in the architects' profession through providing learning and development events that promote equity for all people, encouraging architecture practices to publish gender and ethnicity pay gaps (and take action to address them), and forming the RIBA EDI Leaders Action Group to support our members in taking collective action to eliminate discrimination in employment in the profession.

Education White Paper: Delivered a [White Paper](#) providing recommendations to ensure architecture students have the skills to address key societal challenges, including the climate emergency.

Design Performance for Climate Action RIBA has sponsored a new free-to-access training programme, providing architecture students across the UK with a solid foundation in climate-responsive building design.

Promotion of UNGC: membership and encouragement of RIBA Chartered Practices to join the [UNGC](#).

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

Please use the box below to include the most relevant qualitative and/or quantitative indicators to measure the outcome of the activities described in Part II above.

COP 27 and 28: RIBA records and makes available its activity at each COP and reflects upon the [outcomes](#).

Engaging with policymakers to improve the built environment: RIBA has successfully lobbied Government on key issues such as the regulation of embodied carbon, and the UK Government has committed to consulting on their approach and interventions to mainstream the measurement and reduction of embodied carbon in the built environment.

UK Global Future Cities Programme: UKBEAG conducted ongoing measurement with programme members, contained in the [final report](#). The UK Government have provided a [Global Future Cities Programme](#) 'Completion Review' in which they describe "*the numbers trained and capacity built exceeded log-frame targets*".

A Decade of Action: responses to the survey indicate the level of knowledge and competence of architects with respect to the SDGs, sustainability, and ethical practice. This report gives a view of how far the SDGs are embedded in architectural practice. It gives a picture of much achieved, but much more left to do.

Inclusive Design Overlay to the RIBA Plan of Work: Diverse and industry-wide representation among the Inclusive Design Overlay Steering Group, Authors, and Peer Reviewers. Monitoring of downloads of the publication.

Addressing discrimination: the effectiveness of RIBA activity is measured through engagement monitoring.

Education White Paper: Measured by adoption of recommendations, and downloads of paper.

Design Performance for Climate Action: RIBA monitors the number of students who attend the programme.

Promotion of UNGC: membership and encouragement of RIBA Chartered Practices to join the Compact: visitors to the webpage.