

Benchmarked to Global Standards:

The GRI Index, the UN Global Compact and the Women's Empowerment Principles

28 May 2022 marks 20 years of engagement for Aitken Spence PLC as a signatory to the UN Global Compact. This was an integral step in the company's formation of a formal sustainability strategy, incorporating priorities for long-term social, environmental and economic sustainability, viability, profitability and integrity of the company. Aitken Spence internalised these 10 principles from the inception of the Group's sustainability

strategy and our progress can be viewed in this report as connected through this GRI Index.

The Group became signatory to the Women's Empowerment Principles in 2010/2011, among the first entities in the world to do so.

Aitken Spence PLC aligns with the Global Reporting Initiative's frameworks for

sustainability reporting as it is the most widely used framework in the world affording us comparability of information. Our report for this financial year is 'In Accordance' with the GRI Standard reporting framework to disclose our performance information. Requirements of these global benchmarks also influences the Group's integrated sustainability policy and its implementation framework.

The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact
<p>Human Rights</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights Business should make sure they are not complicit in human rights abuses.
<p>Labour Standards</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining. Businesses should uphold the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour. Businesses should uphold the effective abolition of child labour. Businesses should uphold the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.
<p>Environment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges. Businesses should undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility. Businesses should encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.
<p>Anti-corruption</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

The 7 UN Women's Empowerment Principles
1 Establish high-level corporate leadership for gender equality
2 Treat all women and men fairly at work – respect and support human rights and nondiscrimination
3 Ensure the health, safety and well-being of all women and men workers
4 Promote education, training and professional development for women
5 Implement enterprise development, supply chain and marketing practices that empower women
6 Promote equality through community initiatives and advocacy
7 Measure and publicly report on progress to achieve gender equality



Refer to the following icons in the GRI Index, showing the connection between the Ten Principles of the UNGC, and the seven principles of the Women's Empowerment Principles;

UNGC Principles:



Women's Empowerment Principles:



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The 7 Sustainable Development Goals Aitken Spence PLC has aligned to as a group



Goal 4 – Quality education: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. *Targets 4.3, 4.4, 4.6, and 4.7*



Goal 5 – Gender equality: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. *Targets 5.1, 5.5 and 5B*



Goal 6 – Clean water & sanitation: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. *Targets 6.3, and 6.4*



Goal 8 – Decent work and economic growth: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. *Targets: 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.8, 8.9, and 8.10*



Goal 9 – Industry, innovation, and infrastructure: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation. *Targets 9.1 and 9.4*



Goal 12 – Responsible consumption and production: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. *Targets 12.2, 12.5, 12.6, 12.8 and 12B*



Goal 15 – Life on Land: Working towards contributing positively towards protecting our biodiversity and all ecosystems. *Targets 15.2 and 15.5*

This annual report is our Communication on Progress on the implementation of action for voluntary endorsements of Aitken Spence PLC, namely the UN Global Compact (UNGC) and the Women's Empowerment Principles. Information presented in the annual report will be linked through the GRI disclosures as mapped in the GRI Index.

 COMMUNICATION ON PROGRESS	<p>This is our Communication on Progress in implementing the principles of the United Nations Global Compact and supporting broader UN goals.</p> <p>We welcome feedback on its contents.</p>
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