



EUROPE BUSINESS ASSEMBLY

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ECOSOC High Level Segment Forum

05.05.2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Written Statements for the 2020 ECOSOC High Level Segment

In this year's written statement to the 2020 ECOSOC High Level Segment (HLS) Europe Business Assembly would like to reiterate its commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In particular we would like to draw the attention of ECOSOC to areas such as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), accessible education, freedom of speech and journalism standards.

At EBA we strongly support the UN vision for world future and believe that Corporate Social Responsibility is one of key mechanisms that allows businesses to support the SDGs.

It encourages modern businesspeople to be more socially accountable—to themselves, their stakeholders, and the public. By practicing corporate social responsibility companies become more conscious of the kind of impact they are having on all aspects of society, including economic, social, and environmental.

Furthermore, we believe that businesses engaged in CSR operate in ways that enhance society and the environment, instead of contributing negatively to them. Examples of CSR should be promoted via independent international forums and online platforms. As an NGO we organise such forums and are happy to share our platform with interested parties.

Another paramount area is accessible education, particularly in the developing countries. The international community should build a sustainable foundation for the world's future through educating the new generation. The idea of the university of the future should also be actively debated with a view to building a university available to people around the world. New technology and online learning can be used as the main tools to achieve this. EBA runs a series of debates on the University of the Future online from Oxford and can share the platform with any organisations or individuals that wish to contribute.

Last but not least, protection for journalists has been an important topic of recent times—impartial journalism is one of the democratic pillars of our free society and we at



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EBA strongly believe that journalists should be able to carry out their work independently and without fear.

However, what is equally important is to ensure that journalistic ethical standards are upheld, and those who try to exploit the journalistic profession for financial or publicity reasons must be held responsible and their victims are protected.

An establishment of an independent body under the auspices of the UN for mitigating this kind of issue can protect journalists, journalism standards and balanced information. EBA is happy to offer a structure and working framework for this institution.

We wish you a successful forum!

Your sincerely,

Ivan Savvov

Director General
