# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CHARTER

MAY 2020



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This sustainable development charter reflects Meridiam's mission statement, values, practices and global approach to invest in public infrastructure projects that benefit the community, with a stringent respect of ESG requirements. This charter was developed in a context characterized by the:

- urgency to act for an integrated development of resilient infrastructures;
- maturity of markets regarding the extra-financial benefits of investments;
- evolution of regulations and frameworks;
- internal and external accountability for the sustainable development performance of our projects.

# MISSION STATEMENT

Together with our investors and partners, our mission is to deliver sustainable and resilient infrastructure that improves the quality of people's lives.

# **MERIDIAM VALUES**

- Passion and commitment towards our mission
- Team spirit
- Entrepreneurial perspective
- Integrity
- Light-hearted
- Hard-working
- Flexibility
- Multicultural awareness
- Inclusion



# **OUR COMMITMENTS**

As a long-term investor in public infrastructures, Meridiam seeks to develop, invest and manage projects that offer a stable return rate in addition to beneficial outcomes for local communities. Our approach is to follow our 6 core commitments driven by a vision for a sustainable development:

#### We act for the next generation

and make decisions today that are sustainable and relevant in the long term.

- Our projects are:
- essential: the infrastructures we select answer specific needs in a given context (transport, energy, social building) and provide development solutions;
- resilient: provide solutions that are adaptable to withstand a shock (climate-related, physical) before recovering their original form:
- In addition to evaluating the extra-financial risks of our projects, we also analyze and monitor the positive-impact of our infrastructures from the inception phase to the construction and operation of the asset with the use of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDG) framework;

We respect rigorous Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) standards and strive to limit and contain risks that could have an undesirable impact on our societies and environment:

- We have responsibilities to respect:
- fundamental social rights: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Labor Organization (ILO) Conventions, OECD Recommendations, Global Compact;
- international principles and frameworks: the Equator Principles and the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), the UN-SDGs and the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD):
- the investment principles of our partners: European Investment Bank (EIB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), International Finance Corporation (IFC), Proparco.

- ESG is integrated in every step of our activities (from the identification of project opportunities to their development and management) and assimilated within the multi-disciplinary teams of Meridiam;
- For each project, we require nothing less than the application of the highest standards of quality in terms of ESG:
- for the European and North American markets, this means guaranteeing the respect of local regulation on various topics such as workers' rights, health insurance, protecting biodiversity and natural habitats;
- in developing markets, we rely on the requirement frameworks of Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), the IFC Performance Standards or the EBRD Performance Requirements for example.

We are local and believe in frequent and constructive dialogue with public and private actors and local citizens;

- we prioritize partnerships with local foundations rather than international organizations to implement support measures for the local population
- we commit to the employment of local workers during the construction and operation phases of projects to bolster the local economy;

We keep our word and commit to managing costs and delays in projects;

We go beyond by being active members and shapers of the global community of responsible investors in infrastructures and commit to align the interests of stakeholders (investors, public bodies and communities);

We love what we do and we love sharing our experience, vision and ambition with the rest of the world.

These principles constitute our moral compass and the backbone of our business model.



#### **OUR BUSINESS APPROACH**

# Protect the environment

#### **During the Investment process**

- Ensure that the main environmental impacts are taken into account at project level:
- prevent negative impacts on the ecosystem and biodiversity;
- use the most resilient, durable and ecofriendly materials in accordance with our investment partners;
- contribute to the measures against climate change by integrating the analysis of climate change risks and opportunities to the business strategy of project companies;
- take into account these criteria when selecting main contractors and their respective subcontractors;
- apply a positive screening using the UN-SDG framework to identify the main development points and benefits of each project.

 Favor projects with a high environmental added value: for example waste management or clean and renewable energy technologies.

#### **During the Asset management process**

- As a shareholder, address environmental issues and encourage our partners to implement environmental management systems in order to:
- reduce environmental impacts during the construction phase (waste, noise, discharges to water, the air etc.) and during the operating phase:
- implement a system of performance indicators, ensure the reporting and the control of these issues:
- measure the carbon footprint of each asset.

# Respect fundamental rights and develop the human capital

#### **During the Investment process**

- Ensure that the main social risks are identified and managed by our partners, namely the contractors, and that they:
- ensure the respect of social standards in their HR policies;
- consider these risks when selecting main suppliers and subcontractors.

#### **During the Asset management process**

 As a shareholder, ensure that the social standards are effectively applied by the main contractors and their subcontractors, notably:

- respect of trade union rights and the promotion of a social dialogue (responsible contractor policy);
- revention of all types of discrimination and promotion of equal opportunities;
- no use of child labor or of any type of illegal
- acceptable working conditions: remuneration, social security, prevention of violence at work, termination provisions (local workforce);
- the promotion of health and safety in the workplace including the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases;
- apply the indicators of the UN-SDG tool to measure the involvement level of suppliers and subcontractors on health and safety and child labor monitoring, prevention and mitigation.

# Respond to expectations of the community

# **During the Investment process**

- Ensure that the partners and/or the grantors initiate a dialogue with public authorities and stakeholders concerned with the project and that their expectations are taken into consideration;
- optimize positive economic and social impacts of the project (creation of local employment etc.);
- ensure that potential risks on the local community are covered by preventive measures (expropriation conditions, land acquisition and compensation of resettled people).

# During the Asset management process

- As a shareholder, ensure that the contractor is pursuing a constructive dialogue with public authorities and stakeholders concerning:
- conditions concerning the construction site: safety of local residents, noise protection, etc.:
- operating conditions: reduce nuisance from the project and initiate dialogue with local residents.

# Value the human capital of Meridiam

- Meridiam values the diversity and the complementary elements of its human resources and commits to:
- develop the skills and competencies of all employees;
- facilitate the development of individual careers;
- reward efforts and communicate on remuneration policies and social protection;
- promote social dialogue.

# Apply rules of good governance

- As a shareholder, ensure that each company in our portfolio respects our business ethics:
- prohibits all types of corruption and disloyal practices;
- respects applicable laws and regulations and contractual terms;
- applies our Sustainable Development Charter in its operations:
- o take into account our environmental and social standards;
- o develop sustainable partnerships with stakeholders (public authorities, contractors, suppliers, etc.);
- o implement control measures and audits aiming at managing the main ESG risks and to integrate these in their Risk Management;
- o use the UN-SDG framework to identify and monitor investments' impacts.





# **ENFORCEMENT OF THE CHARTER**

#### Promote sustainable development towards our stakeholders

- Confirm awareness among partners and grantors on these issues prior to projects procurement process initiation;
- Promote responsible behaviour towards partners in the consortiums, and ensure that their commitments are aligned with this Charter;
- Create awareness among Meridiam team members.

# Ensure compliance of Meridiam internal procedures with the Charter

- ESG performance criteria and the UN-SDGs are integrated in our project selection processes;
- ESG performance criteria and the UN-SDGs are integrated in our Investment and Asset management activities;
- Formalisation of our ESG demands towards our partners is a requirement of our procedures: commitments associated to environmental and social reporting.

# Report on performance with the Charter

- Integrate reporting specifically addressing our ESG and UN-SDGs performances for our investors;
- Take into account these issues in our risk management

