

## CONNECT International Sustainable Green Policy

### Introduction

The European Union has implemented a range of documents and laws related to sustainability, covering various aspects such as environmental protection, climate change, energy efficiency, and sustainable development. Some of the key EU documents and laws related to sustainability are The European Green Deal that is the EU's roadmap for making the EU's economy sustainable. It includes initiatives and strategies related to climate action, circular economy, biodiversity, and sustainable agriculture, 2030 Climate and Energy Framework that sets the EU's climate and energy targets for 2030, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing the share of renewable energy, and improving energy efficiency, EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 that focuses on conserving biodiversity, protecting ecosystems, and restoring degraded ecosystems within the EU. It aims to halt biodiversity loss and restore nature for the benefit of people and the planet, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The EU aligns its policies with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. The EU works towards achieving these goals within its member states.

Sustainability ensures the organization plays a role in conserving natural resources, preserving biodiversity, and mitigating climate change. By reducing its environmental impact, the organization contributes to a healthier planet. Embracing sustainable practices enhances the organization's reputation. Stakeholders, including members, partners, and young people, are increasingly valuing environmentally responsible businesses. Sustainability efforts can strengthen trust and credibility within the community.

Sustainability drives innovation. Embracing eco-friendly technologies and practices can lead to the development of new products, services, and educational models. This innovation can give the organization a competitive edge.

These are the main reasons that **Connect International** wants to have sustainability and green policy as its guiding principle. It sets out the organization's core principles and values regarding environmental responsibility. It serves as a compass, guiding decision-making processes and actions across all levels of the organization. The policy establishes a consistent approach to sustainability within the organization. The green policy acts as a communication tool both internally and externally. It communicates the organization's commitment to sustainability to members, stakeholders, partners, and the wider community.

### **Recommendations:**

Main recommendations that Connect International proposes, in conjunction with the full commitment to sustainability, compliance with environmental laws and regulations are the following:

#### **1. Travel**

Encouraging the use of public transport, carpooling, and cycling

Limiting air travel and promoting virtual meetings

#### **2. Recycling and Waste Management**

Implementation of a comprehensive recycling program

Promoting reusable items

Responsible disposal of electronic waste

Encouraging paperless operations

#### **3. Energy Efficiency**

Energy conservation in office spaces

Proper maintenance of office equipment and appliances

#### **4. IT Tools and Green Technology**

Maximizing the use of cloud computing and virtualization

Organizing educational activities virtually

Promoting remote work to reduce office energy consumption

#### **5. E-volunteering**

Engaging more online digital volunteers

Training programs and workshops on sustainability

Recognizing and rewarding e-volunteering efforts and engagement

#### **6. Partnerships**

Collaborating with environmentally responsible organizations

Encouraging partners and members to implement sustainable green policies

#### **7. Monitoring and Reporting**

Regular monitoring of progress

Annual sustainability reports for stakeholders

### **Conclusion and Call to Action:**

It's essential to involve key stakeholders and members in the development of this policy to ensure its effectiveness and acceptance within the organization. Regular reviews and updates of the policy will also help in adapting to changing circumstances and emerging green technologies.

**Connect International** invites members and partners join us in our mission for a greener future. Let's take a stand together, embracing sustainable practices within our organization. By reducing our environmental footprint, we can create a positive impact on our planet, our community, and our organization. Take the pledge to adopt eco-friendly practices in your daily activities. Whether

it's reducing paper usage, conserving energy, promoting recycling, or advocating for sustainable choices, your actions matter. Be a sustainability champion within our organization, inspiring others to follow your lead.

**Note:** This policy paper provides a comprehensive framework for addressing the sustainability and green management from the position of the **Connect International**. It is essential for members and partners to customize these recommendations according to their specific national and regional contexts while adhering to the overarching principles of inclusivity, collaboration, and continuous improvement.