



# **BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT**

**News, Engagement, Resources & Events**

## **July 2009**

*This Special Supplement on business and human rights has been prepared by the Human Rights Working Group following its meeting in Istanbul on 9-10 June 2009 to update Global Compact participants and stakeholders on recent developments on business and human rights.*

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## **NEWS & UPDATES**

### **1. UN Global Compact Human Rights Working Group meeting, 9-10 June 2009**

The GC HRWG met on 9-10 June in Istanbul. The meeting discussed the work of the SRSG on business and human rights; the use of stakeholder panels to respect and support human rights; the consultation process on a set of Women's Empowerment Principles for business; presentations by Global Compact Local Networks on their efforts to advance business and human rights; the role of business in human rights advocacy; the Global Business Initiative on Human Rights; business and human rights at the Leaders Summit 2010; a business and human rights dilemma on HIV/AIDS; corporate reporting on human rights; and what business can do to improve labour conditions in the supply chain. The meeting report can be downloaded at:

[http://www.unglobalcompact.org/Issues/human\\_rights/Meetings\\_and\\_Workshops.html](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/Issues/human_rights/Meetings_and_Workshops.html)

### **2. UN Special Representative on Business and Human Rights presents new report to the UN Human Rights Council**

On 2 June, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on business and human rights, Professor John Ruggie, presented his latest report to the United Nations Human Rights Council. The report builds and expands on the Special Representative's previous report which outlined a policy framework for business and human rights, based on three complementary pillars: the State duty to protect against human rights abuses by third parties, including business, through appropriate policies, regulation, and adjudication; the corporate responsibility to respect human rights, which in essence means to act with due diligence to avoid infringing on the rights of others; and greater access by victims to effective remedy, judicial and non-judicial.

Last year, the Human Rights Council was unanimous in welcoming the framework, and extended the SRSG's mandate by three years with the task of operationalizing it. The U.N. framework has already enjoyed considerable uptake by states, companies and civil society. Of particular relevance to companies is the elaboration in the new report on some aspects of the concept of the due diligence that companies need to undertake to become aware of, prevent and address adverse human rights impacts from their activities.

A briefing note for Global Compact participants is available at:

[http://www.unglobalcompact.org/Issues/human\\_rights/The\\_UN\\_SRSG\\_and\\_the\\_UN\\_Global\\_Compact.html](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/Issues/human_rights/The_UN_SRSG_and_the_UN_Global_Compact.html) The Special Representative's new report and a copy of the statement he delivered to the Human Rights Council on 2 June is available on the Business & Human Rights Resource Center <http://www.business-humanrights.org/Gettingstarted/UNSpecialRepresentative>.

### **3. The legacy of the Business Leaders' Initiative on Human Rights**

The Business Leaders Initiative on Human Rights (BLIHR) ended its six years of operations in March 2009. It was a business-led programme to help lead and develop the corporate response to human rights. It was chaired by Mary Robinson, President of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative, former President of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Among other things, the initiative produced four practical business and human rights tools, which are available at: <http://www.blihr.org/> These tools are described in the featured resources section below.

#### **4. Launch of Global Business Initiative on Human Rights**

GBI is a global business-led project committed to advancing human rights in business around the world. Launching in June 2009 in partnership with the UN Global Compact, the initiative will provide a global platform for 15 companies from different industrial sectors across the world to show leadership as well as a supportive environment in which to learn about how to respect and support human rights and integrate them into the management of their business. Additionally, GBI will include regional or national platforms for companies to engage with peers on business and human rights issues. There will be an opportunity for participating companies to involve business partners, customers and suppliers, and thus provide an innovative approach to enhancing the integration of human rights into corporate value chains. The Global Business Initiative on Human Rights benefits and builds on the lessons learned from BLIHR.

#### **5. Global Compact and UNIFEM Address Role of Business in Empowerment of Women**

On 5 March 2009, the United Nations Global Compact and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) convened *Advancing Women in the Global Marketplace*, a consultation to explore the role of business in improving the status of women around the world. The day-long event, took place just prior to International Women's Day brought together representatives of business, civil society, academia, labour, governments and the UN to develop a more coherent vision of the many ways in which business can help to empower women and advance gender equality. The meeting addressed issues such as creating the optimal workplace, women and entrepreneurship, and public-private partnerships to advance women.

As a central part of the day's discussions participants explored how a set of Women's Principles, developed in 2004 by the investment firm Calvert in cooperation with UNIFEM, might be useful to stimulate further progress in the advancement of women. The event also discussed the potential global application of the Women's Principles, and how they might be further enhanced to increase their international impact and reach. More information and the meeting report are available at:

[http://www.unglobalcompact.org/NewsAndEvents/news\\_archives/2009\\_03\\_05a.html](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/NewsAndEvents/news_archives/2009_03_05a.html) and [http://www.unglobalcompact.org/Issues/human\\_rights/5March2009\\_main.html](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/Issues/human_rights/5March2009_main.html)

#### **6. Responsible Investment in Conflict-Affected Countries**

The UN Global Compact Office has launched a project on Responsible Investment in Conflict-Affected Countries with the aim of clarifying what constitutes responsible investment in difficult operation environments. The project will include an extensive multi-stakeholder consultation process. The first expert group consultation meeting on "Responsible Investment in Conflict-Affected Countries" was held on Monday 8 June in Istanbul, Turkey. This expert group consultation meeting will bring together institutional investors and companies from around the world, along with select civil society and UN representatives to explore the key challenges faced by companies operating in weak states and the implications and potential leverage for institutional investors. A short report summarizing the initial findings will be developed by the end of June 2009 and will serve as the basis for the second phase of the "Responsible Investment in Conflict-Affected Countries" project. The final outcome of this project will be presented at the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit in 2010. For more information, please contact Melissa Powell ([powell1@un.org](mailto:powell1@un.org))

#### **7. Human Trafficking – Everybody's Business**

The UN Global Compact, UN.GIFT and ILO have published the results of the Private Sector Survey on Human Trafficking. The results suggest that the connection between human

trafficking and business has yet to be sufficiently recognized by most companies. By not addressing human trafficking, businesses risk falling foul of international standards, tarnishing their reputation, and ruining stakeholder relationships. Companies can avoid the risk of human trafficking by taking steps to make it harder for traffickers to traffic people using their products, premises or services and by helping raise awareness of the problem.

Using the results of the 'Private Sector Survey on Human Trafficking' as a basis for further action, the UN Global Compact, UN.GIFT and the ILO will continue to work together to better meet the needs of businesses in their efforts to address human trafficking. Currently, tools and guidance materials to help companies can be found on the websites of UN Global Compact ([www.unglobalcompact.org/issues](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/issues)), UN.GIFT ([www.ungift.org](http://www.ungift.org)) and ILO ([www.ilo.org/forcedlabour](http://www.ilo.org/forcedlabour)). A note with background information on human trafficking and the impact of business activity, as well as a summary of the survey results can be found at: [http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/news\\_events/9.1\\_news\\_archives/2009\\_03\\_27/Story\\_Survey\\_Final.pdf](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/news_events/9.1_news_archives/2009_03_27/Story_Survey_Final.pdf)

## **8. Institute for Human Rights and Business**

A new organization has been launched dedicated to helping improve global understanding of the relationship between business and internationally proclaimed human rights standards.

The Institute for Human Rights and Business, which was formed in early 2009 after extensive global consultations, will provide a trusted space to deepen understanding of specific human rights challenges and the appropriate role of business. By bringing together a wide range of perspectives around issues where the law may be unclear, where accountability and responsibility may not be well-defined, and legitimate dispute settlement mechanisms either non-existent, or poorly-administered, the Institute for Human Rights and Business seeks to contribute to ongoing efforts to ensure that the activities of companies do not contribute to harming human rights, and in fact lead to positive outcomes. More information is available at: <http://www.institutehrb.org>

## **9. Over One Million Workers at SA8000 certified Facilities**

SAI reports that over one million workers are now employed in SA8000-certified workplaces in over 1,800 facilities in 66 countries. This marks a major milestone in SAI's mission to carry out human rights at work. Many more workers work at suppliers that are working toward SA8000. The implementation of SA8000 standard internationally has encouraged transparent business practices, and aligned company policies with the Triple Bottom line of environmental, economic, and social aspects of sustainability. For more information, visit: <http://www.saasaccreditation.org/certifacilitieslist.htm>

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## **ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

### **1. Integrating Human Rights into Business Management: Consultation Draft**

The Guide to Integrating Human Rights into Business Management, an online tool produced jointly by BLIHR, UN the Global Compact and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), is currently open for consultation. The publication offers practical guidance to companies wanting to take a proactive approach to human rights within their

business operations. The publication is open for an initial consultation period until 30 June 2009. The Guide can be accessed at <http://blihr.zingstudios.com/>

## **2. Human Rights Dilemmas for Multi-National Corporations**

The online Solution Forum component of our Human Rights Dilemmas for Multi-National Corporations project will be launched mid-June 2009. The forum aims to enhance understanding of human rights themes and identify practical solutions for real-world dilemmas that challenge responsible business. It launches with an introduction to each theme as well a summary of how they impact business activities, operations and supply chains. Stakeholders are requested to engage in an ongoing dialogue by commenting on themes, suggesting additional dilemmas and offering solutions that will be added to the site throughout 2009 and 2010. The Solutions Forum is produced jointly by the United Nations Global Compact and Maplecroft, and is funded by the GE Foundation

To learn more about the Solutions Forum please see the initial press release ([http://www.unglobalcompact.org/NewsandEvents/news\\_archives/2008\\_12\\_10b.html](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/NewsandEvents/news_archives/2008_12_10b.html)) or email [solutionsforum@maplecroft.com](mailto:solutionsforum@maplecroft.com).

## **3. Women's Principles Process**

To facilitate the ongoing consultation process around a set of practical principles for business on empowering women, the Global Compact Office and UNIFEM have translated the principles and consultation questions into all six UN languages. The translations are available at: [http://www.unglobalcompact.org/Issues/human\\_rights/5March2009\\_Women\\_Principles.html](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/Issues/human_rights/5March2009_Women_Principles.html) The deadline for providing responses to the questions and other comments (to [laraine.mills@unifem.org](mailto:laraine.mills@unifem.org)) has just passed, but as work will begin on 13 July on revising the Women's Empowerment Principles to take account of comments received, there are still a few more days to send in comments.

## **4. Vote Human Rights**

Which human rights risks are most challenging for business in your sector? The UN Global Compact and the Danish Institute for Human Rights have developed a quick exercise to advance understanding of human rights risks that UN Global Compact participants have found most difficult to address. Results will be compiled into a "top 10" list for each sector with explanations of each issue's relevance. The exercise is easy to complete and is anonymous. Vote today: [http://www.unglobalcompact.org/Issues/human\\_rights/Vote\\_Human\\_Rights.html](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/Issues/human_rights/Vote_Human_Rights.html)

## **5. Road-testing of A Guide to Human Rights Impact Assessment and Management**

The road testing phase of this practical tool, developed by IBLF and IFC, is ongoing. The tool guides business on how to conduct a human rights impact assessment. Engaging in the road-testing process is a unique opportunity for companies to show leadership in the evolving area of human rights impact assessments for businesses, and actively contribute to the mandate of the UN Special Representative on Business and Human Rights. For more information on this engagement opportunity, contact [Desiree.Abrahams@iblf.org](mailto:Desiree.Abrahams@iblf.org)

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## **FEATURED RESOURCES**

### **Human Rights Tools and Resources:**

Described below are a selection of the most recently developed guidance materials on business and human rights. For a more complete list of recommended tools and guidance materials, please visit the Global Compact website:

[http://www.unglobalcompact.org/Issues/human\\_rights/Tools\\_and\\_Guidance\\_Materials.html](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/Issues/human_rights/Tools_and_Guidance_Materials.html)

#### **1. Embedding Human Rights in Business Practice III**

The Global Compact and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights co-publish a case study series on business and human rights offering an in depth insight into how some companies across the world are endeavoring to integrate human rights into their strategy and operations. The case studies are peer reviewed. The third volume in the series is currently in development and will include around ten case studies about the human rights practices of companies from a variety of sectors and regions, including: IKEA, ASN, Endesa, OMV, Engro, Xstrata, BP, Lexmark, Cadbury and Ford. As the case studies are completed, they will be uploaded to the Global Compact website and featured in the monthly bulletin. The final print version will be available this summer.

#### **2. Doing Business in a Multicultural World**

Helps companies address cross-cultural issues and explore how they can facilitate intercultural understanding in ways that benefit both business and society. A joint UN Alliance of Civilizations-Global Compact publication.

[http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/news\\_events/9.1\\_news\\_archives/2009\\_04\\_07/DBMW\\_Final\\_Web.pdf](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/news_events/9.1_news_archives/2009_04_07/DBMW_Final_Web.pdf)

#### **3. Sustaining Business and Peace: a Resource Pack for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises**

This new resource has been developed to assist SMEs in understanding how CSR strategies and activities can contribute to peace and development. This is a joint publication of International Alert, a London-based conflict resolution think-tank and UN Global Compact. For more information, please contact Melissa Powell ([powell1@un.org](mailto:powell1@un.org))

#### **4. The Arc of Human Rights Priorities**

The Human Rights and Business Project of the Danish Institute for Human Rights and the Global Compact have collaborated to launch a new approach to in-company human rights management: The Arc of Human Rights Priorities. The Arc builds upon the Sphere of Influence concept, and is designed to allow companies to focus their resources on the most urgent human rights issues in their operations.

The Arc of Human Rights Priorities maps human rights issues along two axes: Human Rights Impact and Company Connection. These dimensions allow companies to identify the human rights risks with the greatest impact and the most direct company responsibility. The Arc exercise identifies 'high-priority' issues for each company, including a graphic representation of the company's human rights profile. This prioritization allows companies to monitor, prevent and mitigate the most urgent issues, as well as find opportunities for the greatest positive impact.

For more information, contact Mike Baab at the Human Rights and Business Project:  
[mba@humanrights.dk](mailto:mba@humanrights.dk)

## **5. Maplecroft human rights risk indices and maps for business**

Maplecroft is currently researching its Human Rights Risk Report 2010. The report will be launched in the last quarter of 2009 and builds on the unique and tested methodology used in the Human Rights Risk Reports for 2009 and 2008. It includes a quantitative assessment and scoring of human rights risk at a national, sub-national and even site level using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) mapping techniques. Human rights risk is assessed across 24 different violations each of which are clustered under one of the following four categories: human security, labour rights, civil and political rights and access to remedy. Index scores for each violation are presented in country risk scorecards and interactive mapping applications. Maplecroft also produces more detailed country risk briefings and reports that analyze human rights risk, incidents and assess stakeholder viewpoints. To find out more, please contact [humanrights@maplecroft.net](mailto:humanrights@maplecroft.net) or see [www.maplecroft.com](http://www.maplecroft.com)

## **6. The Guide for Integrating Human Rights into Business Practice**

The starting place for any business committed to starting to map human rights into their existing management systems. The Guide gives a generic cross-business sector introduction to some of the key questions to ask and to resources available when developing policy and practice in this area. It is a joint publication between the UN Global Compact, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and BLIHR. For more information, please visit the BLIHR website at: [www.blihr.org](http://www.blihr.org)

## **7. The Human Rights Matrix and the Essential Steps**

In relation to 'due diligence' as part of the responsibility to respect, the Human Rights Matrix allows any business to take the first step, to move on from a strategic commitment to human rights to ensuring that existing or new policies are adequate in their breadth and depth to do so. For more information, please visit the BLIHR website at: [www.blihr.org](http://www.blihr.org)

## **8. Human Rights and Development**

BLIHR companies have worked, together with the Kennedy School at Harvard University and the Institute for Human Rights and Business to generate a diverse range of business case-studies which reflect some of the links between human rights, development and business growth and opportunities in emerging economies. For more information, please visit the BLIHR website at: [www.blihr.org](http://www.blihr.org)

## **9. Accountability Guide**

Human Rights also belong within the values and culture of any business and the accountability guide demonstrates, based on legal precedent and research within specific BLIHR member companies, how the links between human rights and good corporate governance and business ethics can be made. The Accountability Guide is a joint publication between the Harvard University Kennedy School and BLIHR. For more information, please visit the BLIHR website at: [www.blihr.org](http://www.blihr.org)

## **10. SA8000: The Next Decade**

SAI has released SA8000: The First Decade. Implementation, Influence and Impact. This book, edited by Debra Liepziger, was a multi-stakeholder effort - members of SAI's staff, Advisory Board, and program associates have contributed chapters to provide perspective on

the lessons learned from SA8000 and to set an agenda for the next decade. For more information, visit

<http://www.greenleaf-publishing.com/productdetail.kmod?productid=2765>

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## **EVENTS**

### **1. Register for UN conference on business and human rights**

The United Nations Human Rights Council has requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to convene a two day consultation on how to operationalize the UN Framework for business and human rights presented by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on business and human rights, Professor John Ruggie. The consultation will take place on 5-6 October 2009 at the United Nations in Geneva and will include States, the Special Representative, business representatives, members of NGOs and civil society and other stakeholders. Please find more information about the consultation and how to register on [www.businessconsultation.ohchr.org](http://www.businessconsultation.ohchr.org)