

20 October 2008

Dear Global Compact Participant,

We are writing to offer some key opportunities for your company to demonstrate leadership on business and human rights on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 2008.

1. CEO Statement

Your CEO is invited to add his or her name to the attached statement on business and human rights. The text was developed by the Global Compact Human Rights Working Group and the list of companies shown are the companies from the working group whose CEO has already agreed to sign.

The purpose of the statement is to communicate to business everywhere, especially business not yet participating in the UN Global Compact, that Global Compact participants regardless of headquarter location, where they operate, sector or size recognize that human rights are an important business concern. The content of the statement mirrors the pledge that Global Compact participants have already made and is meant to encourage other businesses to follow your lead and to help mainstream human rights. The statement will be published in the Financial Times on 10 December – Human Rights Day. The cost of placing the statement will be defrayed among the companies whose CEO agrees to sign taking into account the number of signatories and their size. Given the 60th anniversary, this is an historic opportunity to demonstrate leadership on this key topic. We very much hope that hundreds even thousands of CEOs from all sectors around the world will be willing to take part.

To indicate your CEO's willingness to add his or her name, please send an email referencing this letter to Sunok Lee (lee21@un.org) by 14 November.

2. Company policy statements

There is currently a global drive to encourage more companies to adopt human rights policies (whether integrated in existing policies or stand alone). If your company has such a policy, we would like to encourage you to send a link to it to the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (contact@business-humanrights.org) with copy to globalcompact@un.org so that your company can be recognized for having taken this key step along with the 220 other companies whose human rights policy is already displayed at <http://www.business-humanrights.org/Documents/Policies>

3. Reporting on human rights performance

There is also a global effort underway to encourage companies to improve reporting on their human rights performance. The UN Global Compact, Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative, and the Global Reporting Initiative recently launched a new initiative to foster greater integration of human rights principles into corporate sustainability reporting. The project - *Human Rights: A Call to Action* - calls on companies to make a commitment to improving one aspect of their reporting on their human rights performance in 2009. To find out more about the project or to participate in this Call to Action, you are invited to visit www.globalreporting.org/humanrights or email Bastian Buck (buck@globalreporting.org).

Finally, we would like to remind you that the Global Compact Office, Global Compact Local Networks and the Global Compact Human Rights Working Group stand ready to support you in your efforts to respect and support human rights. There are also excellent tools and guidance materials available in a variety of languages free of charge at http://www.unglobalcompact.org/Issues/human_rights/Tools_and_Guidance_Materials.html to help you in your efforts. Further information about the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights can be obtained from http://www.unglobalcompact.org/Issues/human_rights/UDHR_60th.html. Please contact Ursula Wynhoven (wynhoven@un.org) if you have any queries or for further information.

Yours sincerely,



Navi Pillay
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights



Georg Kell
Executive Director, UN Global Compact Office