



Global Compact Network
Netherlands

**Project
Business & Human Rights**

Start project: october 2008

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Project Business & Human Rights

Reasons for the Project:

- 6 out of the 10 GC principles concern Human Rights
- the report of John Ruggie 'Business and Human Rights' in april 2008
- the availability of David Vermijs, a Dutch assistant of John Ruggie
- the interest and initiative of 10 (big) Dutch companies



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Three **core elements** in the report of
John Ruggie:

1. State **duty to protect** against human rights abuses by third parties—including business entities
2. *Corporate **responsibility to respect** human rights. ‘Do no harm’.*
3. Need for more effective **access to remedies**



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Responsibility of Business to respect
asks for **due diligence**;
five elements:

- Adopting a **human rights policy**
- **Human rights impact assessments** of activities (analysis of risks)
- **Integration** of human rights policy throughout the company (in business processes)
- **Tracking performance** (through monitoring and auditing)
- **Effective grievance mechanism**



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Goals Project:

- **assessment** of human rights policy of the 10 participating companies, in the light of John Ruggie's framework (*phase 1*)
- **exchange** views and experiences (working groups) (*phase 2*)
- development of **good practices** (*phase 3*)



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Planning Project:

*Phase 1: **assessment** of human rights, by:*

- Interviewing key persons
- Study of documents
- Results: Individual company reports

Phase 2 (yet to start):

- **working** groups of participating companies on specific issues (july-august)

Phase 3:

- Developing **good practices**
(end-report: end of september)