

LEADERS BREAKFAST ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEXT TEN YEARS

A side event of the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit held in the Marriott Marquis
Times Square, New York, 24 June 2010



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



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Directorate of Political Affairs DP
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Novartis Foundation
for Sustainable Development



GLOBAL BUSINESS
INITIATIVE ON
HUMAN RIGHTS



Institute for
Human Rights and Business



Global Compact Network
Netherlands

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advancing human rights in business around the world



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“If we can ensure that there is leadership in the business community; that there is a sense that this matters in every country: in North America, in Europe, in Latin America, in Africa, in China, in India and that we have a common language, that will be so important for the agenda of human rights. It is an agenda that has been far too politicised and in many ways the business community and the mandate of John Ruggie can depoliticise the agenda and make it very clear that there are responsibilities.”

**Mary Robinson, Chair of the Board, Institute for Human Rights and Business
UNGC Board Member and Chair of the Global Compact Human Rights Working Group**

“At its heart, [business and human rights] is about a way of thinking, but that way of thinking has to be translated into management systems if it is going to have effect. De-mystifying human rights, making it clear that human rights are about simple things, continues to be a challenge.”

Professor John Ruggie, UN Special Representative on Business and Human Rights

“The issues that we face as we do business, that have [been] alluded to; issues like child labor, poverty, labor laws, cannot simply be solved alone. Part of our responsibility is to be part of these solutions.”

Paul Polman, CEO, Unilever

“It is not an “either-or-discussion”: Human rights impact assessments and reporting are just as important as supporting the development agenda. Both are critical. The moral compass must exist. The respect and implementation of business responsibility to respect human rights must be in place before a corporation should think about becoming a partner in development efforts.

“Getting it right” in this context will mean taking a position for human rights and addressing corporate due diligence.”

**His Excellency Secretary of State Martin Dahinden
Director General Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation**

“We really need to standardize guidelines, and I need to speak the same language with my clients in Guatemala, Panama, Peru, Europe, the United States, Canada, China, India, where my clients are based. I need to speak the same language with our stakeholders, with NGOs, with unions and with governments.”

**Alexandra Guaqueta, Head of Social Standards and International Engagement,
Cerrejón Coal Company**

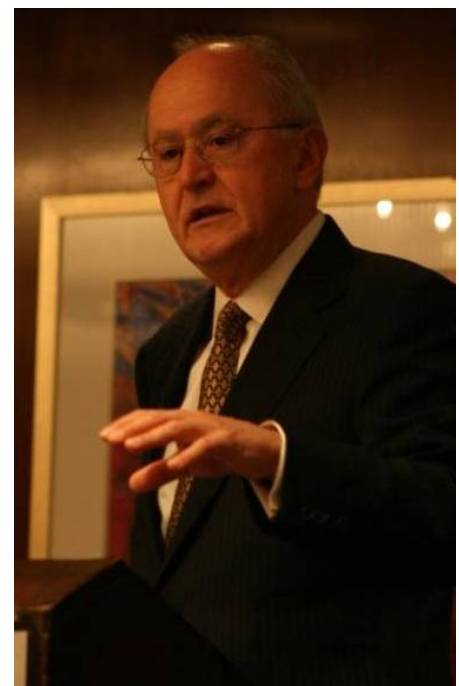
SUMMARY

On Thursday 24 June 2010, a group of over 300 individuals from business, government and civil society gathered in New York to attend a breakfast session focused on the human rights responsibilities of companies. The purpose of the breakfast was to highlight the work being done by the Special Representative on Business and Human Rights and also draw attention to the views of business, government and civil society leaders as to where this debate may be in ten year's time.

Mary Robinson, Chair of the Institute for Human Rights and Business, Board Member of the UN Global Compact and Chair of its Human Rights Working Group, moderated a panel featuring Professor John Ruggie, UN Special Representative on Business and Human Rights, Mr Jamshed Irani, Director of the Board, Tata Sons, Mr Paul Polman, CEO, Unilever Plc., His Excellency Ambassador Mr Herman Schaper, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations, and His Excellency Secretary of State Martin Dahinden, Director General Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The panel discussed the United Nations framework for Business and Human Rights ("Protect, Respect and Remedy") and how governments and companies can benefit from and support it.

The event was a side session at the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit. The Summit itself marked the ten-year anniversary of the UN Global Compact and provided a helpful platform for raising awareness of recent and likely developments on business and human rights, in particular the corporate responsibility to respect human rights.

The event was hosted by the Global Business Initiative on Human Rights (GBI), the Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB), and the Global Compact Network Netherlands (GCNL), with support from the Governments of Switzerland and the Netherlands, the Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development and the Global Compact Office.

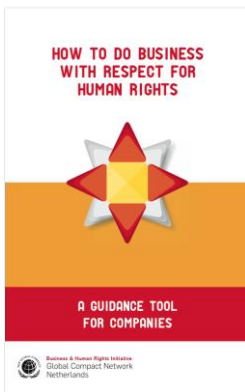


LAUNCH OF KEY RESOURCES

Two new publications on human rights due diligence were formally launched and introduced at the beginning of the meeting:



- ‘The “State of Play” of Human Rights Due Diligence: Anticipating the Next Five Years’ by the Institute for Human Rights and Business. This report presents a snapshot of the current state of understanding and implementation of human rights due diligence based on interviews with a number of multinational companies. The report can be found at www.institutehrb.org



- ‘How to do business with respect for human rights: a guidance tool for companies’ by the Global Compact Network Netherlands. This guidance tool is the result of lessons learnt from a Business and Human Rights Initiative led by the local network working with ten Dutch companies. It aims to help companies consider and implement human rights due diligence. The report can be found in the human rights section at www.unglobalcompact.org

Additionally, the Global Business Initiative on Human Rights launched the first two dialogues in a series of ‘Business Dialogues on Integrating Human Rights into Business:



- Getting started and showing leadership in integrating human rights into business management by Bob Corcoran, Vice President, Corporate Citizenship, General Electric Company and President of the GE Foundation.
- A rights-based approach: clarity, culture change and daily realities by Alexandra Guaqueta, Head of Social Standards and International Engagement, Cerrejón.

These are a series of interviews with business leaders from around the world on the importance of integrating human rights into business practice. The interviews focus on how to perform various aspects of human rights due diligence in practice. They can be found at www.global-business-initiative.org/resources

SPEAKERS



The Leaders Breakfast was chaired by Mary Robinson and the first presentation was made by Professor John Ruggie, focusing on the UN “Protect, Respect, Remedy” Framework. He drew attention to the corporate responsibility to respect and highlighted the need for this to be translated into the management systems of companies in order for it to take root. Additionally, he noted the need to demystify human rights for a business audience. Reference was made also to the request by the Human Rights Council to the Special Representative to develop guiding principles to “operationalize” the framework, as well as to provide ideas as to the possible next steps.

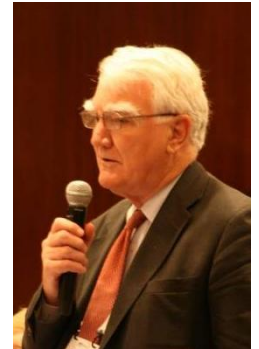
Paul Polman, CEO of Unilever, noted that there is significant pressure coming from consumers and NGOs for companies to act and that for a company like Unilever operating globally, frameworks are not enough since there are differing standards in certain places with regard to health and safety, worker treatment etc. Additionally, the need for a greater number of companies to create and adopt human rights policies was underlined. Jamshed Irani, Chairman of Tata Sons, recognised the need to look after the community in the areas where they do business.

Bob Corcoran of General Electric commented from the floor that realising rights is about realising potential and therefore essential for a business. Similarly Alexandra Guaqueta noted that understanding the business and human rights developments was essential for her company in Colombia and that it has helped her to speak a common language with clients and with the NGO community.

From the Government perspective, His Excellency Ambassador Mr Herman Schaper (Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations), noted their support for John Ruggie’s framework within the OECD Guidelines in particular. He also highlighted the important role governments can play in promoting consideration for human rights by business through providing support, setting appropriate incentives and disincentives for business, and supporting initiatives such as the work of the Special Representative. His Excellency Secretary of State Martin Dahinden (Director General Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) recognised the need for Government policies on these issues to be better joined up and that corporate respect for human rights should be a precondition. He clearly outlined the importance of realizing human rights in meeting development goals such as the Millennium Development Goals.

DISCUSSION POINTS FROM PARTICIPANTS

- There is important momentum in the business and human rights arena, which should be fully employed to move all parties in the debate further;
- There are few areas of corporate social responsibility that have developed as rapidly as the business and human rights agenda;
- The business and human rights framework of the Special Representative provides a good starting point, now widely accepted and supported;
- The publications launched not only demonstrate that some of its core features are possible in business practice, but that in many ways companies are already employing and integrating them;
- There is a need for alignment between the framework and other key CSR initiatives such as the OECD Guidelines, ISO 26000, and the UN Global Compact;
- There is a positive role which can be played by the Global Compact to achieve these objectives, including the value of the local networks and the role of leadership and best practice in catalysing action.



ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED FOR THE MEETING

AAR
 ABB
 Accenture
 Africa Corporate Governance Advisory Services
 Africa Institute for Corporate Citizenship
 Africa Leadership Forum
 Africa Progress Panel
 Air France
 Alfadel Group
 Al Mansour
 Allens Arthur Robinson
 Ambir Solutions
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 BSR
 CABO VERDE TELECOM (CVTELECOM), Cape Verde Is.
 Café de Eleta
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 Cape Town International Convention Centre
 Carey & Allende
 CDA
 CEAGRO Brasil
 Cefic
 Center for International Private Enterprise
 Center on Global Counter Terrorism Cooperation
 Central Warehousing Corporation
 Centro Regional Para America Latina y el Caribe, Colombia
 Cerrejón Coal Company
 Chevron
 CIBJO
 City and County of San Francisco
 CIWI GmbH
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 Coca-Cola Company (The)

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 KPMG International
 La Trobe University
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 Lazare Kaplan International
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 Maala - Business for Social Rep in Israel
 Maersk
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 Nomitek Mexico
 Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development
 NZ Superannuation Fund
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 Oxfam America
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 Perm Mission of the Ukraine to the UN
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Columbia Law School
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Compume
Confederation of Danish Industries
Conference Board
Control Risks
CPA Australia
CPC Industrial
Credit Agricole SA
Credit Suisse
CSR Singapore
CSR Turkey
Dalberg Global Development Partners
Danish Institute for Human Rights
Deloitte
Department of Public Information, UN
Det Norske Veritas
Deutsche Post DHL
DEZA
Due Process of Law Foundation
Duke University
Ecopetrol Colombia
Edelman
Edinburgh International
Egyptian Corporate Responsibility Centre
EHS Global Solutions
Eksport Kredit Fonden
Empresa de Energia de Bogota
Empresa y Desarrollo
Engro Fertilizers
ERSTE Bank
Ethics Australia
Ethos Brasil
European Commission
F&C Asset Management
Fairmount Minerals
FastForwardFund
Fauji Fertiliser Co. Ltd
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation Development Germany
Fersol
Foley Hoag
Forensic Pathways Ltd
Foundation for Post Conflict Development
FPT Visky Corp
French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
Fuji Xerox
Fundacion Andreani
Fundacion Wake Up World
Fundacion El Nogal
Gaten
GDF Suez
General Electric Company
General Mills
Georgetown University
Gerente Constructora Valle Real
Getulio Vargas Foundation, Brazil
Global Business Initiative on Human Rights
Global Citizenship, KPMG
Global Compact Focal Point of GTC
Global CSR
Global Financial Integrity
Globe Scan Incorporated
Government of Colombia
Government of Denmark
Plan Canada
PRI
Promon
Puma
PWC
Qarant Sigorta Insurance Company
Qatar Airways
Radda Barnen (Save the Children Sweden)
Respect
Responsible Business Solutions
Rio Tinto
RosyBlue Group
Rotary International
Sakhalin Energy Investment Co Ltd
SAMA
Sanlam: Group Compliance and Forensics
Santander
Save the Children Sweden
Science First
Seelex Info Exchange
Shell
Siemens
SKF, Sweden
Smarar Capital Holdings Ltd
Social Accountability International
St James Ethics Centre
Stakeholder Forum for the Sustainable Future
Statoil
Sumarse
Sumitomo Chemical
SustainAbility
Swedish Department for Int'l Trade
Swiss Government
Talisman
Tapiola Pension
Tata Steel
Teck Resources Ltd
Tecnicat
Telefonica Latin America
Telefonica SA
Telenor Group
Thales Group
The Danish Commerce & Companies Agency
Tima International GmbH
TMA Egypt
TMS Fashion
TNMTAB Management Systems
Tokyo University
Total S.A.
Trade and Development, MFA Finland
Transclick Inc
Transparency International
TUC
TUV Rheinland
TwentyFiftyLtd
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Harvard Kennedy School
Hess Corporation
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ICRC
IFC
IFOK GmbH
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Illinois State University
ILO
IMICB
Indus Motor Company/ Toyota
Infosys Technologies
Integra
Intel
International Organisation of Employers
Interpol
IPADE

UNGC Network Sudan
UNGC Network Switzerland
UNI Global Union
Unilever
UNITAR
United Development Consultants
University of Maryland
University of New South Wales
University of Pretoria
US Council for International Business
Userdis
Vietnam Holding Asset Management
Visao Susentavel
Viyellatex Group
Warwick Business School
Westpac
Wisekey S.A.
Women's Network for a Sustainable Future
Woodking 24 India
World Exchange Group
World Federation of United Nation Assocs
Yara
Yazigi Internexus
ZED
Zenith International