



PRESS RELEASE

OVER 120 LATIN AMERICAN BUSINESS LEADERS GATHER TO EXPLORE CORPORATE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

ISSUED AT 0900 ON 1 APRIL 2011, SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

On 31 March 2011, a **Business Roundtable entitled Human Rights and Business Practices: Understanding Responsibilities** provided space for a unique exchange among business leaders in relation to a rapidly developing area of corporate responsibility. The session brought together experiences of 150 individuals - over 120 business representatives (with almost 60 domestic Brazilian companies represented), together with representatives from NGOs, civil society, academia and the United Nations. The Roundtable focused on:

- **United Nations Framework:** The Guiding Principles for implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework, with a focus on the business case for human rights due diligence.
- **Shared Challenges:** Shared challenges and dilemmas relating to: Communities, security and land; Forced labour and child labour in the supply chain; Basic services and human rights (water, telecommunications, energy) and Freedom of association and collective bargaining.
- **Good Practices:** Business leaders sharing experiences and practices regarding how to ensure corporate respect for human rights.

The Roundtable was convened by the Global Business Initiative on Human Rights (GBI) in partnership with the Ethos Institute, Conectas Human Rights, the UN Global Compact Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean and Levy & Salomão Advogados. GBI works with regional and local business organisations, human rights organisations, UN Global Compact Local Networks and individual experts to convene business-to-business learning sessions.

At the close of the Roundtable the Ethos Institute announced a meeting to take place on 19 April 2011 in São Paulo with a focus on business and human rights and the next step for companies in Brazil on this agenda.

The Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights are available at:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/TransnationalCorporations/Pages/Reports.aspx>

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