



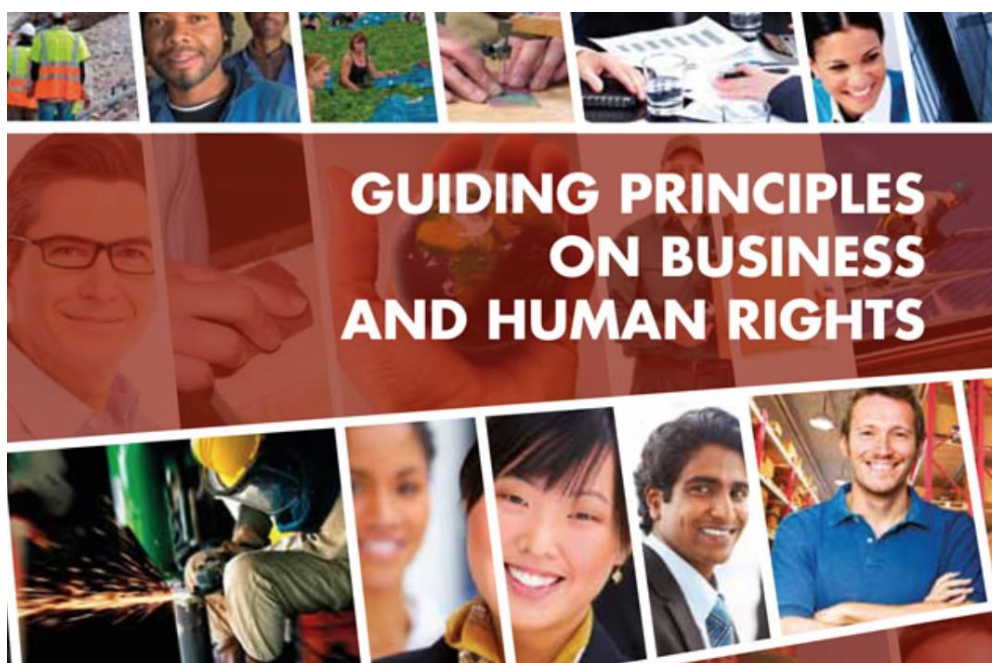
Flanders
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FLANDERS
INVESTMENT &
TRADE

CIFAL Flanders

Debriefing Belgian National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights



The 'UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights': A Framework Beyond CSR

Thursday 10 December 2015, Brussels

PROGRAMME

08h30: WELCOME

09h00-13h00: SYMPOSIUM

Welcome

Claire Tillekaerts, CEO Flanders Investment & Trade

Foundation CIFAL Flanders, UN Training Centre for Implementing the SDGs
Peter Wollaert, Managing Director CIFAL Flanders and Fellow UNITAR

The 'United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights':
Koen De Feyter, Professor International Law University of Antwerp
Lieselot Verdonck, Ph.D Researcher Human Rights Centre Ghent University

The Belgian National Action Plan

Helene De Bock, Human Rights Desk Federal Public Service
Belgian Foreign Affairs

Dieter Vander Beke, Director Belgian Federal Institute for Sustainable Development

Flemish approach and examples of contributions to the Belgian National Action Plan
Nathalie De Nul, Legal Adviser Flemish Department of Foreign Affairs
Gert Van Eeckhout, Policy Officer Corporate Social Responsibility and Social Economy
Flemish Department of Work and Social Economy
Jan Van Den Einde, Staff Member CEO Flanders Investment & Trade

Civil society assessment of the existing National Action Plans across Europe
Jérôme Chaplier, Coordinator European Coalition for Corporate Justice

Human Rights and CSR: Strengthening the business case of JBC
Griet Cattaert, CSR Manager JBC

Q&A Session

13h00: LUNCH RECEPTION OFFERED BY
FLANDERS INVESTMENT & TRADE

PARTICIPANTS

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Els	Haelterman	Kabinet Ontwikkelingssamenwerking
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Gert	Van Eeckhout	Vlaams Departement Werk en Sociale Economie
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Helene	De Bock	Federale Overheidsdienst Buitenlandse Zaken
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Steven	De Cauwer	Nexus Integrity Consulting bvba
Wim	Knaepen	Sociaal-Economische Raad Vlaanderen

1. UN, UNITAR & CIFAL FLANDERS

1.1 STRONG UN. BETTER WORLD.

“The 70th anniversary of the United Nations is an opportunity to reflect – to look back on the UN’s history and take stock of its enduring achievements. It is also an opportunity to spotlight where the UN – and the international community as a whole – needs to redouble its efforts to meet current and future challenges across the three pillars of its work: peace and security, development, and human rights.”

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's message for UN70



www.un.org/un70



1.2 UNITAR

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is a principal training arm of the United Nations, working in every region of the world. UNITAR empowers individuals, governments and organizations through knowledge and learning to effectively overcome contemporary global challenges.

The training targets two key groups of beneficiaries: the delegates to the United Nations and others who develop intergovernmental agreements establishing global norms, policies, and programmes, and the key national change agents who turn the global agreements into action at the national level.

Nikhil Seth, Executive Director UNITAR

“UNITAR’s global network of training centres offer innovative training in key areas of development and foster collaboration amongst government authorities, the private sector and civil society leaders. It is a pleasure to welcome CIFAL Flanders as 14th training centre in the Global Network.

CIFAL Flanders has been recognised by its professionalism, agility and innovation. Let me thank the CIFAL Flanders leadership and partners for all that they have done to advance our mission, and wish you all continued success in the important work ahead.”

www.unitar.org



1.3 CIFAL GLOBAL NETWORK

The CIFAL Global Network is composed of 15 international training centres for Authorities and Leaders. The CIFAL centres are located across Asia, Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Caribbean. Since its inception in 2003, the Network has reached more than 30,000 beneficiaries through over 400 learning events.



www.unitar.org/affiliated-training-centres

Our Thematic Areas



1. Urban Governance & Planning

- > Urban Services
 - Transport
 - Road safety
 - Waste management
 - Safety and security
 - Technology
- > Integrated Urban Planning
- > Disaster Risk Reduction
- > Transparency and Anti-corruption

2. Economic Development

- > Competitiveness
- > Creative Economy
- > Employment Promotion
- > Tourism for Development
- > Airports Management

3. Social Inclusion

- > STEM Education
- > Migration
- > Human Trafficking
- > Youth Engagement

4. Environmental Sustainability

- > Energy
- > Green Growth and Green Purchasing
- > Transition Towns and Villages
- > Climate Change
- > Food Security

www.unitar.org/thematic-areas/capacity-agenda-2030

1.4 CIFAL FLANDERS

Our Vision

“Building capacities for Sustainable Development”

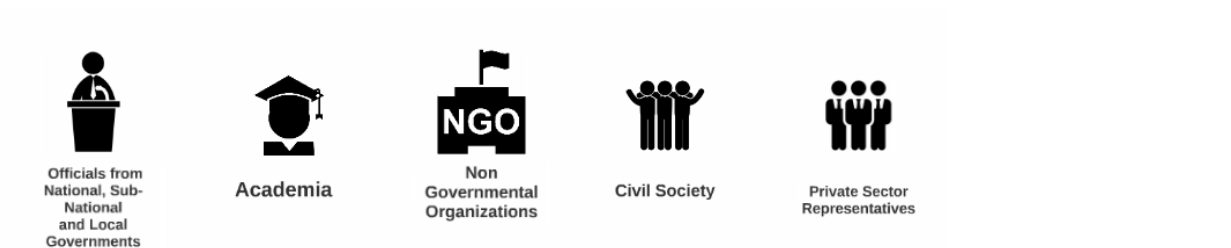
CIFAL Flanders is an international training centre for capacity building of government authorities, private sector representatives and civil society leaders on sustainable development, as well as on global mandates and goals of the United Nations.

Our Approach: Action Learning

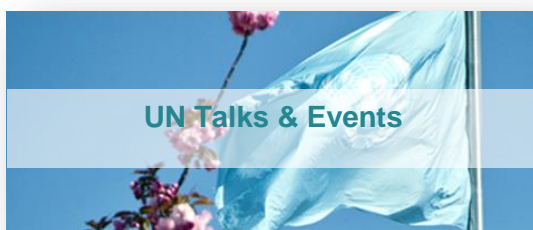
The central purpose of CIFAL Flanders is to develop and strengthen human capacities to better respond to development challenges. CIFAL Flanders relies on an Action Learning approach that aims to:

- Facilitate the transfer of knowledge, experiences and best practices amongst government officials, private sector and civil society leaders
- Enhance capabilities to effectively perform relevant tasks
- Encourage cooperation and the development of multi-stakeholder partnerships

Our Target Audience



Activities



2. THE UN AND HUMAN RIGHTS

2.1 THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (1948)

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was the first legal document protecting universal human rights, and arose directly from the experience of the Second World War. Together with the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, and the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* forms the *International Bill of Human Rights*.

The Declaration has no direct legal effect, but it has been very influential as a declaration, since it has been adopted in or has at least influenced most national constitutions since 1948. Besides this, the Declaration has been explicitly adopted for the purpose of defining the meaning of the words “fundamental freedoms” and “human rights” in the United Nations Charter, which is binding on all member states of the United Nations.

Because of its great symbolical power and influence in the UN System, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights can be regarded as a fundamental constitutive document for the United Nations. The adoption of the Declaration is celebrated every year on the 10th of December, known as International Human Rights Day.



<http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html>

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cescr.aspx>

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx>

2.2 HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Human Rights Council of the United Nations is the successor of the UN Commission on Human Rights that established in 1946, and is the inter-governmental body whose 47 member states are responsible for promoting and protecting human rights in the world. Conflicts with Human Rights violations are addressed in the Human Rights Council, in close collaboration with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Human Rights Council has installed several “special procedures”. These are mechanisms where an expert is appointed by the Human Rights Council to report and advise on the certain themes related to human rights or human rights situations in certain countries.

The 47 members of the Council are elected by the UN General Assembly.

<http://www.ohchr.org/hrc>

<http://diplomatie.belgium.be>



2.2.1 BELGIUM ELECTED FOR MANDATE IN THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

On 28 October 2015, Belgium was elected by the UN General Assembly to reside in the Human Rights Council for the period 2016-2018. It is the second time Belgium is elected for the Human Rights Council. The backing by 172 votes in the General Assembly reflects the trust the international community has in the expertise and experience of the Belgian diplomacy.



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
Federal Public Service
**Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Trade and
Development Cooperation**
Διεύθυνση Ευρωπαϊκών Σχέσεων
Ευρωπαϊκή Υπηρεσία Συνεργασίας
Ανάπτυξης

After the presidency of the Council of Europe in 2014-2015, the membership of the Human Rights Council is a new challenge for Belgian diplomacy. A number of cases dealt with in the Human Rights Council – such as violence against women in conflict and protection of children in conflict – are also issues that will be discussed in the UN Security Council, to which Belgium is candidate for the period 2019-2020.

During its three-year mandate, Belgium will continue to work in Geneva on priority issues such as the fight against impunity, the abolition of the death penalty, women’s and children’s rights and the right to free speech. The mandate also offers an opportunity to advocate for stronger institutions that defend human rights, such as the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the UN and regional organizations such as the Council of Europe or the African Union.

2.3 THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has the lead responsibility in the UN System for the protection of human rights as stipulated in international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The High Commissioner for Human Rights takes action and educates on human rights issues, ultimately to empower individuals and States in upholding human rights.

OHCHR’s thematic priorities are strengthening international human rights mechanisms, enhancing equality and countering discrimination, combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law, integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere, widening the democratic space, and early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity.

The current High Commissioner for Human Rights is Prince Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, Prince of Jordan.

www.ohchr.org



2.4 UN HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December. It commemorates the day on which, in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In 1950, the Assembly passed resolution 423 (V), inviting all States and interested organizations to observe 10 December of each year as Human Rights Day.

This year's Human Rights Day is devoted to the launch of a year-long campaign for the **50th anniversary of the two International Covenants on Human Rights:** the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 1966.

The two Covenants, together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, form the International Bill of Human Rights, setting out the civil, political, cultural, economic, and social rights that are the birth right of all human beings.

"Our Rights. Our Freedoms. Always." aims to promote and raise awareness of the two Covenants on their 50th anniversary. The year-long campaign revolves around the theme of rights and freedoms - freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear - which underpin the International Bill of Human Rights are as relevant today as they were when the Covenants were adopted 50 years ago.

<http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/>



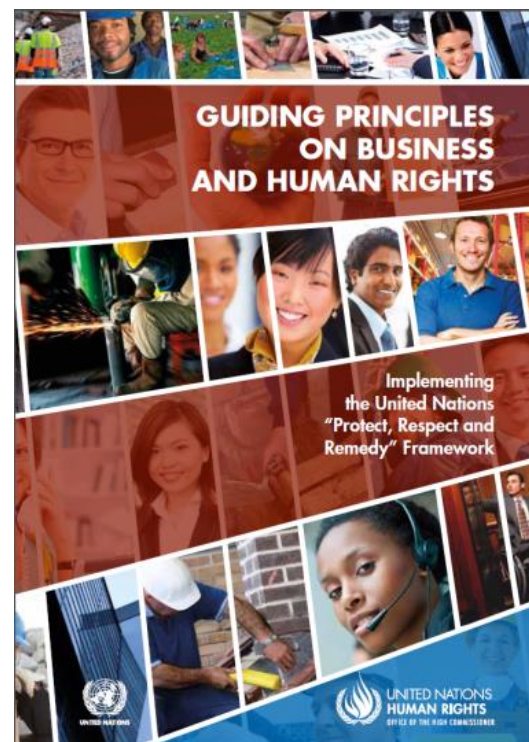
2.5 THE UNITED NATIONS GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS: IMPLEMENTING THE UNITED NATIONS 'PROTECT, RESPECT AND REMEDY' FRAMEWORK

In 2005, Professor John Ruggie was appointed as Special Representative on Business and Human Rights by the Secretary-General in response to the failure of the draft Norms on Business and Human Rights, which were put to the UN Commission on Human Rights. This draft did not gather intergovernmental support. The task of professor Ruggie was to advance the debate on business and human rights.

The result of these enhanced consultations was "Protect, Respect and Remedy" framework, also known as "The Ruggie Framework", a policy framework based on three pillars: (1) the **state duty to protect** against human rights abuses of third parties; (2) the **corporate responsibility to respect** human rights; and the need for greater access by victims to **effective remedy**, judicial and non-judicial.

The State duty to protect against human rights encompasses the duty of the state prevent third parties from violating human rights, through regulation, investigation and enforcement. States are not directly responsible for human rights abuses by private actors, but they can be in breach with their international human rights obligation to investigate and punish human rights violations by third parties. The UNGPs also encourage states to set clear expectations for the businesses who fall under their jurisdiction, to respect human rights in their extraterritorial activities.

The corporate responsibility to protect human rights establishes the responsibility to respect human rights as the minimum global standard of expected conduct for all business enterprises wherever they operate. This means they have to actively assess the human rights impact of their activities, and must address the human rights infringements with which they are involved. Not only must they make an assessment of the current en potential human rights infringements



of their business activity, they must also make a clear commitment to respect human rights and integrate the respect for human rights across all levels and processes in their business.

The access to effective remedy refers to the responsibility of the state to provide access to effective remedy through judicial, administrative, and legislative means. Having these effective grievance mechanisms is crucial to uphold the commitments of states and businesses under pillar I and II.

The new framework of professor Ruggie received wide support from states, civil society and the private sector. The Human Rights Council also welcomed the framework and extended the mandate of Ruggie with three years to provide concrete recommendations how the state cans can prevent human rights abuses by private actors, to clarify the scope of corporate social responsibility regarding human rights, and to elaborate on the options for effective remedy mechanisms available for those whose human rights are affected by the activities of businesses. This extended mandate resulted in the **UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework (UNGPs)**, which were unanimously adopted in 2011 by the Human Rights Council.

The Human Rights Council also established a Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, as a follow-up to the adoption of the UNGPs and to promote the effective and comprehensive dissemination and implementation of the UNGPs. This Working Group strongly encouraged the member states to develop, enact and update a **national action plan** on business and human rights as part of the State responsibility to disseminate and implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. A similar call has been made by the European Union and the Council of Europe.

A number of countries have already produced a national action plan, or are in the process of developing one. Belgium is in an advanced stage of developing a national action plan. Below you can find a list of countries that have either launched a national action plan, or are in the process of developing one.

Countries that have launched a national action plan

- United Kingdom – launched September 2013
- The Netherlands – launched December 2013
- Italy – launched March 2014
- Denmark – launched April 2014
- Spain – launched in the summer of 2014
- Finland – launched October 2014
- Lithuania – launched February 2015
- Sweden – launched August 2015
- Norway – launched October 2015

Countries that are in the process of developing a national action plan

- Argentina
- Azerbaijan
- Belgium
- Chile
- Colombia
- Germany
- Guatemala
- Greece
- Ireland
- Jordan
- Malaysia
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Portugal
- Slovenia
- Switzerland
- USA

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf

<http://business-humanrights.org/en/un-guiding-principles>

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Pages/NationalActionPlans.aspx>

3. RELATED FRAMEWORKS

3.1 UN Global Compact (UNGC, 2000)

UN Global Compact is a global policy initiative for businesses, including ten principles for corporate work with social responsibility. Global Compact asks businesses to adopt a set of values and principles are built upon internationally acknowledged Conventions from four categories:



- Human Rights directly derived from the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**.
- Labour Standards directly derived from the **Declaration of the International Labour Organisation**.
- Environment directly derived from the **Rio Declaration on Environment and Development**.
- Anti-Corruption directly derived from the **UN Anti-Corruption Convention**.

An enterprise or organization may use the ten principles of Global Compact as inspiration, and can in addition choose to join the UN Global Compact formally. By joining, an enterprise commits to making the ten principles a part of its business activities and to report annually about the progress to the UN Global Compact.

Evidently, there are a lot of links to be drawn between Global Compact and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, most notably under pillar II of the Guiding Principles: the responsibility of businesses to respect human rights. For example, Principle 1 of Global Compact explicitly calls upon its participating companies to respect and support the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights, and principle 2 calls upon them to ensure they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

In addition to the respect for human rights, participants in the Global Compact also commit to support the promotion of human rights, that is, to make a positive contribution to the realization of human rights especially in ways that they are relevant for their business activities. This can for example be done through core business activities, social investment, philanthropy, public policy engagement and advocacy.

10 Principles of the UN Global Compact

	Human Rights	Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect internationally proclaimed human rights; and Principle 2: ensure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.
	Labour	Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and recognize effectively the right to collective bargaining; Principle 4: eliminate all forms of forced and compulsory labour; Principle 5: effectively abolish child labour; and Principle 6: eliminate discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.
	Environment	Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges; Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.
	Anti-Corruption	Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

3.2. THE OECD GUIDELINES FOR MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES

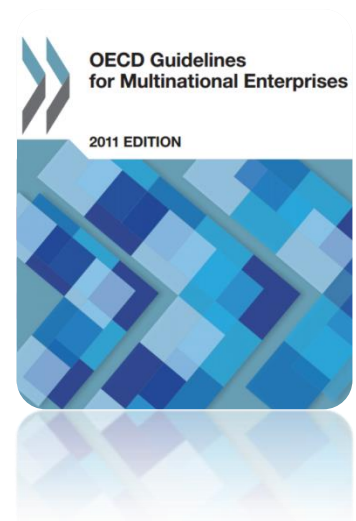
The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises is a framework with recommendations and principles for responsible business conduct for multinational corporations that operate from or in countries that are adhered to the OECD Declaration on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises.

The Guidelines are the only multilaterally agreed and comprehensive code of responsible business conduct that governments have committed to promoting. The Guidelines' recommendations express the shared values of the governments of countries from which a large share of international direct investment originates and which are home to many of the largest multinational enterprises. The Guidelines aim to promote positive contributions by enterprises to economic, environmental and social progress worldwide. The Guidelines cover themes such as disclosure, human rights, employment and industrial relations, environment, combating bribery, bribe solicitation and extortion, consumer interests, science and technology, competition and taxation.

The 2011 edition of the Guidelines is updated with a new human rights chapter, that is consistent with the *UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework*.

<http://www.oecd.org/corporate/mne/>

<http://www.oecd.org/corporate/mne/48004323.pdf>



3.2.1 NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS

The OECD Guidelines For Multinational Enterprises are supported by a unique implementation mechanism. Governments adhering to the OECD Guidelines are obliged to set up National Contact Points (NCPs). Their main role is to further the effectiveness of the Guidelines by undertaking promotional activities, handling enquiries, and contributing to the resolution of issues that arise from the alleged non-observance of the Guidelines in specific instances. NCPs report to the OECD Investment Committee and regularly meet to share their experiences. The European Commission has also committed itself to promoting the Guidelines.

For the entire list of countries that have set up a national contact point, please visit:

www.oecd-guidelines.fgov.be
mneguidelines.oecd.org/ncps/

In addition to setting up NCPs, governments across the EU have developed CSR activities to promote, encourage and support multinationals operating in their country to adopt these OECD Guidelines. For some countries, this has involved making clear the link between their overall strategies for CSR and the OECD Guidelines. Some have started this process by making an assessment of the current state of play regarding progress towards the objectives of the guidelines.



3.3 ISO 26000

ISO 26000 is an initiative of the International Standardisation Organisation (ISO), and is the standard for social responsibility for all organisations. It includes definitions, background, principles and seven core subjects on social responsibility, and a practical guide how businesses and organisations can operate in a socially responsible way.



ISO 26000 provides guidance rather than requirements, so it cannot be certified to unlike some other well-known ISO standards. Instead, it helps clarify what social responsibility is, helps businesses and organizations translate principles into effective actions and shares best practices relating to social responsibility, globally. It is aimed at all types of organizations regardless of their activity, size or location.

The respect for human rights is specifically mentioned as one of the seven core subjects in ISO 26 000. These subjects are:

- Organizational governance
- Human rights
- Labour practices
- Environment
- Fair operating principles
- Consumer issues
- Community involvement and development

To ensure consistency, ISO has entered into special agreements with the ILO, the Global Compact, the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the OECD.

Some countries (e.g. Germany, Italy) have developed national guidance tools for companies wishing to be ISO 26000 compliant. In some of the Nordic countries, there are also efforts to make state-owned businesses ISO 26000-compliant and to work in partnership in the Nordic region to promote these principles.

www.iso.org/iso/home/standards/iso26000.htm

3.4 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

With the Millennium Development Goals concluding at the end of 2015, world leaders have agreed on an ambitious, long-term agenda to improve people's lives and protect the planet for future generations: the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Unlike with the MDGs, the SDGs were not drafted by a small group of experts and member states, but were the result of years of negotiations between member states, businesses, NGO's en civil society organisations.

On the UN Summit in September in New York, 193 countries agreed on the 17 goals that need to be attained before 2030:



Although the fight against poverty is still regarded as the overarching goal, this time, the world leaders have agreed that poverty is a very multidimensional problem. Therefore they have opted for a much broader approach that tackles all dimensions of poverty and keeps in mind the interlinkages between different goals. In order to reach a sustainable world, there will need to be a balance of social, environmental and economic sustainability.



3.4.1 HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Human rights principles and standards are also strongly reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals. Note that upholding and protecting human rights is not one of the 17 goals, despite the fact human rights has been such a key principle since the foundation of the UN. Rather than creating a separate, stand-alone goal focused on human rights, the drafters have chosen integrate human rights principles and processes across the SDG framework. This integrated approach also sends the unambiguous signal that human rights are a core part of the way governments, businesses and civil society should carry out their operations to meet the goals.

Even though human rights are often brought under the 'social' dimension of sustainability, many human rights issues that have economic or environmental dimensions or linkages. A safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is for example integral to the full enjoyment of a wide range of human rights, including the rights to life, health, food, water and sanitation. Without a healthy environment, we are unable to fulfil our aspirations or even live at a level commensurate with minimum standards of human dignity. The same goes for the economic dimension sustainable development, where economic dimension and human rights are for example linked through issues such as fair labour standards, inequality or child labour. The Sustainable Development Goals can thus be viewed from a rights-based approach, as every single one of the 17 goals can be linked with a certain human rights issue.

3.4.2 THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

The SDGs are not legally binding. They do not have direct legal effect. However, this does not mean the SDGs have no meaning. On the contrary, the SDGs are a strong political agreement between all member states of the United Nations. This political agreement is a starting point and a framework for new national, regional and international legal commitments for the upcoming 15 years, within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. Just like with human rights, the three dimensions of Sustainable Development can be translated into three categories of international law.



It is however crucial that not only the existing legal frameworks are respected, but also that they are complemented by ambitious new legal frameworks. When the SDGs would not be supported by an ambitious legal pillar, taking action to achieve the SDGs would become completely voluntary for governments. Taking this perspective, almost every SDG can be associated with international legislative frameworks. On the next page you can find some examples of how you can relate every SDG to an international organisation or convention.

EXAMPLES OF LINKS BETWEEN SDGs, INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenants

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

- Right to Food, Right to Water, FAO Treaty, Seed Treaty

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- Right to Health, International Covenant, Rights of the Child Convention

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all

- Right to Education, International Covenant, CEDAW, UNDRIP

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- Right to Water, International Covenant

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

- Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- ILO Conventions, WTO Treaties such as the GATT, GATS; World Bank Statute

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

- Road and Rail Conventions, UNCLOS, IMO Conventions, WIPO Conventions, TRIPS

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

- Non-discrimination in Human Rights law and special and differential treatment in WTO.

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

- UNHabitat, UNFCCC

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

- WTO Agreements, climate provisions, COP21

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

- UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, climate provisions in RTAs

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

- UNCLOS, Regional Sea Conventions, Straddling Fish Stock Convention, Bonn Convention

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

- UN CBD, CITES, Ramsar Convention, Bonn Conventions

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- Human Rights Covenants, Aarhus Convention, Regional Human Rights Courts, Convention against Corruption

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

- Technical transfer provisions in Rio Conventions, Financing through Global Climate Fund, ...

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>

www.globalgoals.org

<http://unstats.un.org/sdgs>

http://uneplive.unep.org/portal#.VxkIrl_-FOUI

3.5 THE DECLARATION ON FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES AND RIGHTS AT WORK – INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

The Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at work was adopted in 1998, and commits Member States of the ILO to promote and respect a series of principles and rights laid out in several ILO Conventions, regardless of whether or the Member States in question have ratified the specific Convention or not.



The rights to be respected can be categorized under four fundamental principles, each of them having their own core Conventions:

- I. **The freedom of association and effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining**
 - a. *Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention (1948)*
 - b. *Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention (1951)*
- II. **The elimination of forced or compulsory labour**
 - a. *Forced Labour Convention (1930)*
 - b. *The Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (1957)*
- III. **The abolition of child labour**
 - a. *Minimum Age Convention (1973)*
 - b. *Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (1999)*
- IV. **The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation**
 - a. *Equal Remuneration Convention (1951)*
 - b. *Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (1958)*

The Declaration makes it clear that these rights are universal, and that they apply to all people in all States - regardless of the level of economic development. It particularly mentions groups with special needs, including the unemployed and migrant workers. It recognizes that economic growth alone is not enough to ensure equity, social progress and to eradicate poverty.

This commitment is supported by a follow-up procedure. Member States that have not ratified one or more of the core Conventions are asked each year to report on the status of the relevant rights and principles within their borders, noting impediments to ratification, and areas where assistance may be required. These reports are reviewed by the Committee of Independent Expert Advisers. In turn, their observations are considered by the ILO's Governing Body.

www.ilo.org/declaration/lang--en/index.htm

www.ilo.org

FRAMEWORK FOR COMMUNICATION

4.1 SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

Reporting on non-financial aspects of business performance is becoming an increasingly common measure of assessment of business' CSR achievements. Different rules apply in relation to what has to be reported, by whom, and as part of which official reporting procedure. The latter impacts on the extent to which such information is audited as part of a wider process of auditing company accounts. The full independent verification of such information can thus remain an issue.

Legislative requirements on non-financial reporting are not widespread through Member States but this is more common in countries with an established tradition of CSR or state-owned enterprises. Other countries are starting the process by conducting pilot activities or using the international guidelines.

4.2 EUROPEAN DIRECTIVE ON SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

In December 2014 the *Directive 2014/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the disclosure of non-financial and diversity information by certain large undertakings and groups* came into force.

The Member States have two years to transpose the directive into national legislation. Therefore, companies concerned will have significant time to adapt to the new requirements, and will start reporting as of their financial year 2017.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The Directive provides for further work by the Commission to develop non-binding guidelines in order to facilitate the disclosure of non-financial information by companies, taking into account current best practices, international developments and related EU initiatives.

Companies in the scope of the Directive will disclose relevant, useful information necessary for an understanding of their development, performance, position and impact of their activity, rather than detailed reports. Furthermore, the Directive provides companies with significant flexibility to disclose relevant information in the way that they consider most useful, or in a separate report. Companies may use international, European or national guidelines which they consider appropriate.

The new Directive will only apply to large companies with more than 500 employees. In particular, large public-interest entities with more than 500 employees will be required to disclose certain non-financial information in their management reports. The scope includes approx. 6 000 large companies and groups across the EU. The approach taken ensures that administrative burden is kept to a minimum. Smaller companies will have no new requirements.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014L0095&from=EN>

4.3 UN GUIDING PRINCIPLES REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The UN Guiding principles reporting framework is a document that helps companies to report on their human rights impact. It was launched in February 2015, after two years of development through a multi-stakeholder process of governments, businesses, investors and civil society organisations.

The guide is deliberately kept low-threshold, by using 31 'smart' questions that enable companies to report meaningfully on their human rights performance, regardless of size or how far they have progressed in implementing their responsibility to respect human rights.

The framework has been welcomed by both civil society organisations and businesses, and has already been implemented by companies active in different sectors, including by Unilever – the first adopter – Ericsson, Nestlé, and Newmont.

<http://www.ungreporting.org/reporting-framework/>



4.4 GLOBAL REPORTING INITIATIVE (GRI)

Global Reporting Initiative is an international organisation that encourages and assists organisations to launch a sustainability report. These reports assess the economic, social and environmental impact of an organisation's activities. GRI also published guidelines and standards for sustainability reporting, with the eventual goal that all organisations, regardless of size, sector or location, publish uniform sustainability reports, similar to financial reporting.



Sustainability reporting is increasingly recognized as an important means of increasing the transparency and accountability of organizations. Of the world's largest 250 corporations, 93% report on their sustainability performance and 82% of these use GRI Sustainability Reporting Guidelines to do so.¹ As of 1 November 2015, there were over 21,000 GRI Reports in the GRI Sustainability Disclosures Database.



The current standard for Sustainability Reporting of GRI is the [G4 Sustainability Reporting Guidelines](#).

www.globalreporting.org

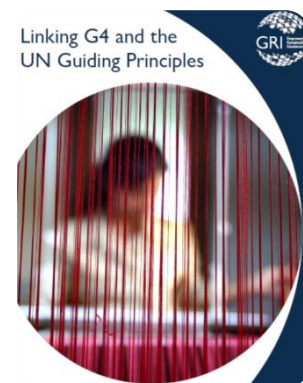
www.globalreporting.org/standards/g4/Pages/default.aspx

4.4.1 LINKING G4 AND THE UN GUIDING PRINCIPLES

GRI's reporting standard G4 is well suited to report the human rights impacts and performance of organisations as described in the UN Guiding Principles. It can be especially effective to report on the due diligence aspect of the Guiding Principles: the obligation for businesses to proactively investigate and address the human rights impacts of their activity.

G4 uses two main methods to disclose information: (1) *Indicators*, which mostly prompt quantitative performance data, and (2) *Disclosures on Management Approach* (DMA), which are narrative explanations about how a company identifies and manages its impacts and performance. This makes for G4 to disclose quantitative as well as qualitative data on the human rights impact of an organisation. The complementarity of the data can help the organisation to formulate a clear policy to address possible negative human rights impact.

https://www.globalreporting.org/resourcelibrary/GRI-UNGP_LinkageDoc.pdf



4.4.2. SUSTAINABILITY DISCLOSURE DATABASE

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) has made a database of sustainability reports. the database consists of more than 30 000 reports, of more than 8000 companies. This way, companies who are planning to launch a sustainability report, can have a look at the reports of similar organisations

<http://database.globalreporting.org>



UNITED NATIONS IN FLANDERS



United Nations Association Flanders Belgium (VFN)

www.vfn.be



VFN Youth

<http://www.vfn.be/vfn-youth/>



Vlaamse UNESCO Commissie

<http://www.unesco.be/vuc>



UNESCO Platform Vlaanderen

<http://www.unesco-vlaanderen.be/>



United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS)

<http://www.unbrussels.org/agencies/unu-cris.html>



Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) / IODE Project Office Oostende

<http://www.ioc-unesco.org/>



UNESCO Chair in Building Sustainable Peace

<http://soc.kuleuven.be/web/staticpage/12/80/eng/646>



Global Compact Network Belgium

www.globalcompact.be



UNICEF Belgium

www.unicef.be

CIFAL FLANDERS FOUNDATION



United Nations Institute for Training and Research

www.unitar.org/



CIFAL Global Network

www.cifal-flanders.org



Flemish Government

www.flanders.be



City of Antwerp

www.antwerpen.be



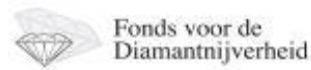
World Jewellery Confederation

www.cibjo.org



Antwerp World Diamond Centre *

www.awdc.be



Fonds voor de Diamantnijverheid

www.fondsdiamant.be



Belgian Chambers

www.belgischekamers.be



University of Antwerp

www.uantwerpen.be



Argenta

www.argenta.be



Flanders Investment & Trade

www.flandersinvestmentandtrade.com



Port of Antwerp

www.portofantwerp.com



ACLVB/CGSLB – The Liberal Trade Union of Belgium

www.aclvb.be



KMDA Koninklijke Maatschappij voor Dierkunde Antwerpen

www.zooantwerpen.be/nl/kmda



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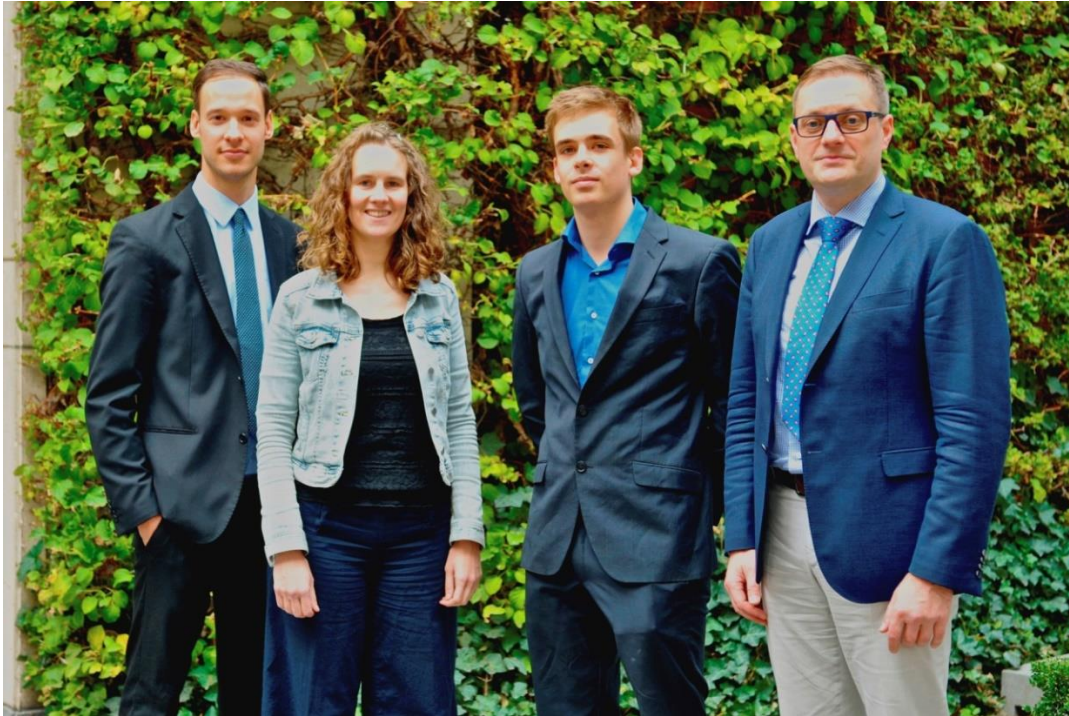
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