



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organization



ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DES EMPLOYEURS
ORGANIZACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE EMPLEADORES
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF EMPLOYERS



The Voice of OECD Business

Joint views of the
International Organisation of Employers,
the International Chamber of Commerce and
the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD
to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General
on business and human rights

1. The International Organisation of Employers (IOE), the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC) to the OECD re-confirm their commitment to and support of the work of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary- General (SRSG) on business and human rights. We remain convinced that the mandate extended by the UN Human Rights Council in June 2008 to the SRSG to operationalise his policy framework of protect, respect and remedy provides the best and most effective way to address an extremely complex set of issues.
2. Beyond our commitment to remain actively engaged in the SRSG's broader consultation process, the IOE, ICC and BIAC would like to propose three specific business contributions that we believe will advance the mandate and the work of the SRSG.
3. First, on the state duty to protect human rights, which is the cornerstone of the framework, we will develop an informed business statement on issues related to state duty, including bilateral investment treaties.
4. Second, on the corporate responsibility to respect human rights, we offer our assistance in identifying companies that could form a small informal contact group to serve as a resource to the SRSG on issues related to due diligence.
5. Third, on improving access to remedies, we propose collaborating with the SRSG on a project that is designed to pilot his proposed Grievance Mechanism Principles. We would seek to help identify a small number of companies from relevant sectors that would test pilot these Principles at plant or project level and disseminate the results as part of the learning experience.

6. We believe that these additional business contributions would provide valuable and relevant input to the mandate and we look forward to discussing them in more detail with the SRSG.
7. Finally, there can be little doubt that the SRSG has advanced the debate on business and human rights. He has shown how a transparent multi-stakeholder consultation process can deliver real results and we have seen an increasing number of companies and business associations respond positively to the climate that the SRSG has helped to create. The challenge for the rest of this mandate is to remain focused on providing a clear, practical, balanced and objective way forward. We will do all we can to help achieve that goal.

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