



*Invitation to Dutch companies to participate in the*

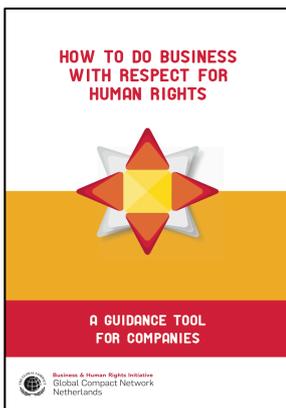
## Global Perspectives Project: Putting the Corporate Responsibility to Respect into Practice

Global Compact Network Netherlands (GCNL) with Oxfam Novib, Oxfam USA and Shift invite Dutch companies to participate in a unique project on business and human rights. The *Global Perspectives Project (GPP)* builds on the successful 2008–2010 *Business and Human Rights Initiative* in which ten Dutch multinationals collaborated to learn about, and contribute to the development of, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

This new project, supported by the Human Rights Fund of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will facilitate outreach, interaction and learning on key human rights topics and management approaches with companies, local stakeholders and GC networks in the emerging economies of **Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey**. The project will culminate in an updated publication, an online portal to house learning from the project, and in a launch event at the Global Compact Leaders Summit in New York in September 2016.

### The UN Guiding Principles

Since their adoption in 2011 by the United Nations Human Rights Council, the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) have become the authoritative global reference point on how governments and companies can prevent and address business-related negative human rights impacts. The “corporate responsibility to respect human rights” is now incorporated in other key CSR standards, including the UN Global Compact, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the EU’s CSR policy, the G4 Reporting Guidelines of GRI and the ISO 26000 Standard on Social Responsibility.



### Objectives of the project

In 2010, GCNL published *How to Business with Respect for Human Rights*. Since then numerous local Global Compact networks around the world have contacted GCNL. They wanted to share lessons learned and exchange good practices on the implementation by businesses of policies and processes to manage their human rights impacts and to develop learning on emerging human rights

themes. Therefore, in support of its mission to advance the UNGC’s human rights principles, GCNL, together with the project partners, initiated this follow up project with four local GC networks on four continents to:

- Contribute to **greater awareness among companies** in the Global South and in emerging economies of their responsibility to respect under the UNGPs;
- **Build the capacity of companies and civil society actors** in those countries to support improved business respect for human rights on the ground; and
- **Share the learning** gained among a wider audience of interested stakeholders through a new, independent online portal.

The project will also contribute to key policy objectives of the Dutch government, as set out in the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights.

### Oxfam and Shift: a collaboration offering unique expertise

GCNL is partnering with two well-respected organizations in the business and human rights field. **Shift** is an independent, non-profit center for business and human rights practice that helps governments, businesses and their stakeholders put the UNGPs into practice. Shift’s team was centrally involved in shaping and writing the UN



## Global Compact Network Netherlands

Guiding Principles, and Professor John Ruggie, the author of the UNGPs, is Chair of Shift's Board. **Oxfam Novib** and **Oxfam USA** have extensive experience working with companies at both the strategic and operational level and complement Shift's technical expertise on the UNGPs with critical "on the ground experience" working with local communities. The involvement of Oxfam's country offices and local civil society networks will help enable meaningful dialogue between companies and civil society stakeholders in each country.

### Main project activities

The project will run for two years (Sep. 2014–Sep 2016), and will center around a series of in-country workshops followed by the development of an update of the first GCNL publication and a new, independent online portal. Each of the four country workshops will likely focus on a combination of a substantive human rights issue

(e.g., the right to water and sanitation, land rights, or the rights of indigenous peoples) and a human rights management approach (e.g., engaging with governments on human rights issues, innovative approaches to supply chain management, and remediation processes including effective grievance mechanisms). Meaningful stakeholder engagement will be a cross-cutting theme.

The project will develop practical guidance notes on a range of topics, informed by the perspectives of companies and their stakeholders in each country context and illustrated with case studies from willing companies. This material will then be used to update the publication and to develop the online portal. All participating local networks will be invited to participate in a review workshop in the Netherlands in 2016 to provide input and comment on drafts of the publication and the online portal, which will be launched at an event at the Leaders Summit of the UN Global Compact in New York in September 2016.

### Benefits of participation

The project allows participating companies to take advantage of the project in flexible ways; they can participate in all activities or choose to focus on specific areas of interest. Benefits include:

- ❖ Access to the expertise of two of the most well-respected organizations in the area of business and human rights and sustainable development
- ❖ Opportunity to interact with companies and other stakeholders in emerging economies on important human rights issues through facilitated workshops
- ❖ First access to the latest learning on key human rights topics through drafts of the thematic guidance notes, the final publication and the online portal
- ❖ Contribution to the mission of the UN Global Compact's human rights principles, in particular by engaging with companies in the Global South and emerging economies
- ❖ Recognition of company contributions in the updated publication and the online portal.
- ❖ Supporting the Dutch government's priorities in the business and human rights space

### How Dutch companies can participate:

- Encouraging their subsidiaries, suppliers, customers and other business partners to attend and participate in the workshops (and possibly the case studies) in the four countries.
- Commenting on draft versions of the project's key outputs (thematic guidance notes, updated publication and online portal)
- Participate in the review workshop in the Netherlands during the first half of 2016.

### Your contribution:

Companies are asked to make a one-time contribution of 2500 euro to the project's costs. These will be used for the development of the final publication in which companies will be recognized for their contribution (SMEs can contact GCNL to discuss reduced contribution fees).

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