



FOR INFORMATION

THIRD ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Updates on corporate social responsibility (CSR)-related activities

(b) Within other organizations

1. This paper summarizes the major corporate social responsibility (CSR)-related activities of key international organizations and updates the information previously supplied in November 2007.¹

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)

2. The UNRISD hosted a Conference in Geneva in November 2007 on Business, Social Policy and Corporate Political Influence in Developing Countries. Participants included scholars from 20 countries. The capacity for transnational corporations and business associations to play an active role in social development was reaffirmed as being crucial to achieving the Millennium Development Goals of the international community.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

3. The Third Symposium on Corporate Social Responsibility and Humanitarian Assistance took place on 26 November 2007 in Tokyo, Japan. Poverty, climate change, conflict and persecution were identified as the primary causes of increasing migration flows. The necessity for civil society and the private sector to consciously address these overarching issues was highlighted as crucial to pursuing the humanitarian goals of the UNHCR.

¹ GB.300/MNE/3/2.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

4. In November 2007, the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR) adopted guidance on how to use corporate responsibility indicators in annual reports.
5. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has published its 17th *World Investment Report 2007* (WIR07). The publication provides an analysis of the latest trends in foreign direct investment (FDI) and explores the implications for economic development of FDI for transnational corporations (TNCs), particularly in the area of extraction of oil, gas and metal minerals. The ILO provided comments on the draft of the report.

United Nations

6. In December 2007, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights hosted a consultation convened by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises. The aim of the consultation was to explore the conceptual and operational implications of the corporate responsibility to respect human rights with a view to inform the Special Representative as he prepares to submit recommendations to the Human Rights Council in 2008. Seventy-one participants from business, NGOs, academia, trade unions, and international organizations, including the ILO, took part in the consultation.
7. A Third UN Global Compact/World Petroleum Council Forum on “Responsible Business Practices in the Oil and Gas Sector: Implementing the Global Compact Principles” was held in Delhi on 6–7 December 2007, with the aim of sharing best business practices in this area between private companies and NGOs.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

8. In December 2007, the OECD published the “Annual Report on the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises 2007: Corporate Responsibility in the Financial Sector”. The report focused on actions taken by participating governments through June 2007 to improve the contribution of the Guidelines to the functioning of the global economy.
9. The OECD Global Forum on International Investment (GFI) is the annual meeting of a global network of policy-makers, academics, business leaders, labour representatives, and members of civil society dealing with the policy challenges of international investment. The theme of this year’s conference is “Best practices in promoting investment for development”. The meeting will take place on 27–28 March 2008.
10. The OECD and the World Bank have agreed to step up their cooperation in a number of key areas, including efforts to promote sustainable and inclusive growth in emerging economies, the economics of climate change, aid for trade, innovation and the design of comprehensive country frameworks for investment.
11. A Joint OECD–ILO meeting, “Employment and Industrial Relations: Promoting Responsible Business Conduct in a Globalizing Economy”, is scheduled to be held in June 2008. This event aims to enhance awareness of the ILO’s and OECD’s corporate

responsibility instruments,² and to consider the relationship between responsible business conduct and employment conditions.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

12. UNIDO's General Conference, 12th Session took place from 3–7 December 2007 in Vienna. The Conference's regional roundtable theme was "Reviewing Industrial Competitiveness and the Environment in the LAC Regions Competitiveness with Social Responsibility". It focused on issues concerning the role of industrial actors and the private sector in enhancing SME competitiveness and fostering social equity by taking into account environmental treaties and CSR principles and practices.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

13. The ISO held the fifth meeting of the ISO/TMB/WG (Working Group) Social Responsibility in Vienna, Austria, in November 2007. The meeting drew record participation of about 400 experts. Drafting of an ISO standard on social responsibility will continue to be done mainly by a newly constituted Integrated Drafting Task Force. The next meeting of the Working Group is scheduled for September 2008 in Santiago, Chile. The ILO continues to participate actively within the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding with the ISO on the subject.

European Commission

14. The European Commission (EC) has recently published "Opportunity and Responsibility: How to get more small businesses to integrate social and environmental issues into what they do".
15. The EC Conference on "CSR at the global level" was held in Brussels on 7 December 2007. The aim of the Conference included providing a forum in which the current debate on the use of existing international CSR principles and instruments could move forward, and in indicating how the EU could proceed so as to lead the way in this field. The Office gave a presentation on ILO CSR strategy and on the outcomes of the Forum organized to mark the 30th anniversary of the MNE Declaration in November 2007.

African Union Commission

16. The 10th Ordinary Session of the African Union Commission was held in Addis Ababa on 31 January to 2 February 2008 and discussed "Industrial development of Africa".

² OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy.

International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank Group

17. In December 2007, the IFC held a meeting regarding results measurement for advisory services, which included a discussion of the tools and techniques used by private sector companies to measure the impact of their corporate social responsibility and development programmes.

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Submitted for information.