

## UN Forum on Business & Human Rights

This year's UN Forum focused on two main messages: delivery and collaboration on human rights. The Forum Chairperson, Mo Ibrahim, stressed the importance of:

- States delivering on their national action plans (to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights);
- Companies delivering their corporate plans to embed human rights within their operations and to make human rights business as usual;
- Civil society to supporting and collaborating with states and companies in delivering their plans.

### CSR Europe seminar for business at UN Forum

At the Forum, CSR Europe was privileged to host a unique session focused on the company experience in implementing human rights within company functions and the supply chain. Experiences were shared with examples from Orange, Vattenfall, Enel, Kuoni Travel Holding, and CSR Europe National Partner econsense.

At the seminar with over 100 participants, valuable interaction took place on embedding the respect for human rights while promoting a multi-stakeholder dialogue and cooperation.

From the debate, it became evident that companies are still find reporting to be a challenge, but this has become a priority especially in Europe where 6000 corporations by 2018 will have to report on Non-Financial Information and Diversity, in compliance with the new EU Directive which encompasses a strong focus on human rights, anti-corruption and bribery.

Additionally, it was found that companies are working hard - in collaboration with NGOs - on the third pillar of the UNGPs 'Grievance mechanisms'. However, a number of challenges are still apparent:

- Overcoming cultural differences, when implementing corporate policies at a local level;
- Investing sufficient time and effort in the design of the mechanism;
- Adopting a continuous improvement approach;
- Implementing KPIs to measure performance of grievance mechanisms.

### Business and human rights tools

To address the need to enhance the internal process of dealing with complaints, CSR Europe elaborated on its work with companies to develop the Management of Complaints Assessment (MOC-A) tool and report on the initial findings entitled 'Assessing the effectiveness of company grievance mechanisms'. These are available for use in all companies striving to improve their management of complaints.

CSR Europe National Partner econsense further demonstrated the important role played by civil society with the announcement of their report developed by a working group of companies on Tools&Guidance material for Business in the area of business and human rights.

In sum, it was clear from CSR Europe's session for business and indeed from the Forum in general, that the distinction of roles for government and businesses (in the UNGPs states should "protect" human rights and business should "respect" them) is blurring, towards a genuine and constructive collaboration.

CSR Europe looks forward to the continuous collaboration and work on business and human rights in 2015.

πηγή: CSReurope

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