

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT OFFICE  
AND THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION (ISO)

Whereas the United Nations Global Compact, which enjoys the support of all 191 Heads of States and Governments of the United Nations and the UN General Assembly, is the United Nations voluntary corporate citizenship initiative in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption,

Whereas the UN Global Compact Office is the entity within the UN Secretariat charged with the coordination and support of the initiative, including its Inter-Agency Team comprised of four UN agencies (OHCHR, ILO, UNEP, UNODC) that are the guardians of the principles and two operational UN agencies (UNDP and UNIDO),

Whereas the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies, that develops voluntary, consensus International Standards based on input through national standardization bodies and organizations in liaison,

Whereas ISO has undertaken the development of an International Standard to provide guidance on social responsibility,

the United Nations Global Compact Office and ISO (hereafter "the parties") **agree** as follows:

Article 1  
Purpose and scope

- 1.1 The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish between the parties cooperation with a view to ensuring that the ISO International Standard on Social Responsibility and ISO activities relating thereto are consistent with and complement the Global Compact ten principles<sup>1</sup>.
- 1.2 The parties agree to be mutually supportive of each other. The areas of cooperation between the parties will include the development of the International Standard on Social Responsibility; activities and publications for the promotion, support, evaluation and approval of the ISO International Standard on Social Responsibility, and any periodic review of the ISO International Standard on Social Responsibility for confirmation, revision or withdrawal. The cooperation encompasses any issues involving the four topic areas of the Global Compact principles and their implementation.

## Article 2 Understandings

The parties agree:

- 2.1 That the future ISO International Standard on social responsibility needs to be consistent with the United Nations Global Compact and its ten universal principles (Annex 1)
- 2.2 That ISO will address any concerns raised by the United Nations Global Compact - in particular, by the UN Global Compact Office and the core UN agencies which form part of the Inter-Agency-Team, other than the ILO, which has its own MOU with ISO - in the development and promotion of the International Standard on social responsibility.
- 2.3 That the United Nations Global Compact will have the right to comment at all stages in the development of the International Standard on Social Responsibility and ISO commits to circulate its comments on the draft International Standard to all statutory ISO members, to the D-liaison organizations in the ISO Working Group on Social Responsibility and to the Technical Management Board at the same time that the draft is circulated to a wider group.
- 2.4 That, consistent with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1, ISO will seek the full and formal backing of the United Nations Global Compact Office and, through it, of the core UN agencies (with the exception of the ILO which has an MOU with ISO) for the final draft of the International Standard on social responsibility.
- 2.5 In the event that the UN Global Compact Office does not provide such backing, ISO will communicate its comments to all statutory ISO members participating in the SR WG, to the D-liaison organizations in the ISO Working Group on Social Responsibility and to the Technical Management Board.

## Article 3 Mutual consultation

The Global Compact Office and ISO will maintain regular consultations as necessary on activities of common interest for the purpose of furthering the mutual achievement of the terms of this MOU.

Article 4  
Participation

- 4.1 The parties agree on the full participation of the United Nations Global Compact Office in the relevant Working Group activities relating to the development of the International Standard on social responsibility, including the CAG.
- 4.2 The parties also agree on the participation of relevant ISO representatives in the appropriate United Nations Global Compact bodies relating to the further development of the Global Compact principles and procedures.
- 4.3 Nothing in this MOU shall be construed to permit either party to use the logo of the other party without obtaining the other's prior written consent.

Article 5  
Exchange of Information

Before the UN Global Compact Office or ISO publish any press release relating to the terms of this MOU, each entity will share the draft press release with the other for approval.

Article 6  
Working arrangement

The Executive Head of the Global Compact Office and the Secretary-General of the International Organization for Standardization or their duly mandated representatives may make appropriate working arrangements for the implementation of the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Article 7  
Other provisions

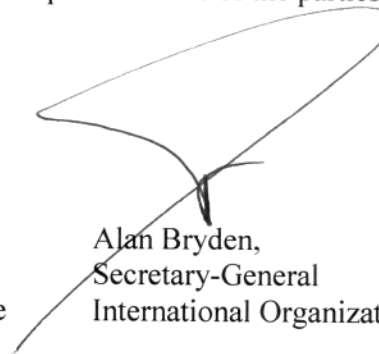
- 7.1 This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into by both parties for the duration of the development and promotion of the International Standard on social responsibility and any periodic review of the International Standard for confirmation, revision or withdrawal.
- 7.2 The parties shall make every effort to resolve amicably by direct informal consultations any disagreement which may arise concerning the commitment made under this Memorandum of Understanding

7.3 Termination of this Memorandum of Understanding may occur at any time subject to 90 days advance written notification.

7.4 This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force upon the date of signature by the duly authorized representatives of the parties.



Georg Kell  
Executive Head  
United Nations Global Compact Office



Alan Bryden,  
Secretary-General  
International Organization for Standardization

Date: 9 NOV 06

Date: 2006.11.06

**The Ten Global Compact Principles:**

**Human Rights**

Principle 1 Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

Principle 2 make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

**Labour**

Principle 3 Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

Principle 4 the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

Principle 5 the effective abolition of child labour; and

Principle 6 the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

**Environment**

Principle 7 Businesses are asked to 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 Business should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.