

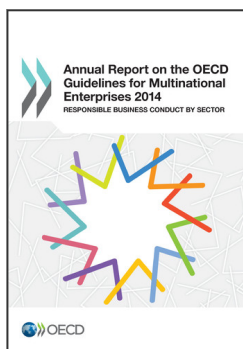
Foreword

To many people, international investment by multinational enterprises is what globalisation is all about. Promoting appropriate business conduct by these companies is a real challenge, however, since their operations often straddle dozens of countries and hundreds of cultural, legal and regulatory environments.

The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises aim to help businesses, labour unions and NGOs meet this challenge by providing a global framework for responsible business conduct covering all areas of business ethics, including tax, competition, disclosure, anti-corruption, labour and human rights, and environment. While observance of the Guidelines by enterprises is voluntary and not legally enforceable, adhering governments are committed to promoting their observance and to making them influential among companies operating in or from their territories.

This Annual Report, the fourteenth in a series, describes the activities undertaken to promote the observance of the Guidelines during the implementation cycle June 2013-June 2014. This includes the second Global Forum on Responsible Business Conduct, an intensive year of peer learning and promotional activities, a record of successful mediated outcomes under the specific instance facility, and the development of further multi-stakeholder guidance for the exercise of due diligence in a number of sectors.

The Annual Report has been approved by the National Contact Points for the Guidelines and the Investment Committee. The material for this publication was prepared by Marie-France Houde, former Head of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises Unit, Tihana Bule, Economist and Policy Analyst, Mari-lou Dupont, Legal Consultant, Lark Walters, Consultant, Tyler Gillard, Manager of Sector Projects, Coralie David, Policy Analyst, Hannah Koep-Andrieu, Consultant, Barbara Bijelic, Junior Legal Expert and Shivani Kannabhiran, Policy Analyst, in the Investment Division headed by John Davies of the Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs.



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