

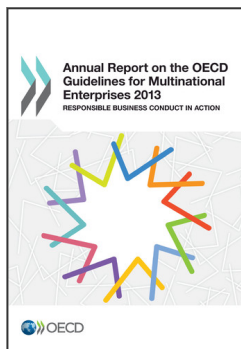
Foreword

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 must establish a National Contact Point to promote their observance and to making them influential among companies operating in or from their territories.

This Annual Report, the thirteenth in a series, describes the activities undertaken to promote the observance of the Guidelines during the implementation cycle of June 2012-June 2013. This includes the launch of the Global Forum on Responsible Business Conduct, the establishment of a dedicated Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct, and the elaboration of a robust multi-stakeholder proactive agenda to promote the effective observance of the principles and standards contained in the Guidelines.

The Annual Report has been approved by the NCPs and the Investment Committee. The material for this publication was prepared by Marie-France Houde, Head of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, Alberta Fumo, Policy Analyst, Tihana Bule, Policy Analyst, Mari-Lou Dupont, Legal Assistant, Tara Dhawan, Trainee, Tyler Gillard, Legal Expert, and Shivani Kannabhiran, Policy Analyst, in the Investment Division headed by Wesley Scholz of the Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs.



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