



DLA CLIFFE DEKKER
HOFMEYR

HUMAN RIGHTS AND BUSINESS ALERT

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THE STATE OF PLAY REPORT

The Global Business Initiative on Human Rights (GBI) and the Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB) released a joint report at the United Nations (UN) in Geneva in December 2012, entitled *State of Play: The Corporate Responsibility to Respect Human Rights in Business Relationships*.

The report focusses on the approaches corporate entities adopt in order to address human rights concerns associated with their general business activities. A number of multinational enterprises contributed to the development of the report. The report also highlights the implications of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights on companies' 'responsible business practices' and their adherence to accepted human rights standards in the corporate field. The director of Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr's Pro Bono and Human Rights practice, Christine Jesseman, was fortunate to be involved with this report as a member of the advisory board for the project.

There has been a significant increase in the corporate threshold regarding respect for human rights within business structures. As a result, the report highlights the fact that many companies have begun to 'embed' the concept of human rights in their internal management structures. The report also touches on the potential benefits that arise from high levels of corporate respect for human rights.

Essentially, the dynamic nature of human rights globally, coupled with its increased importance in the corporate sector, has culminated in an irreversible nexus between a company's assessment of risk and

their respect for human rights. The report outlines further trajectories regarding the importance of human rights in the corporate field and can be downloaded via the following hyperlink.

<http://www.global-business-initiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/State-of-Play-Business-CRR-Human-Rights-in-Relationships.pdf>.

Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr is a participant of the United Nations Global Compact, and our client alerts are aimed at keeping you informed about the latest developments in human rights law within the business sphere.

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