BIAC contribution to the OECD Annual Report on the MNE Guidelines
(June 2014 – December 2015)

Business, as represented by the Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC), has long recognized the importance of responsible business conduct in a globalized world. BIAC considers responsible business conduct as promoted by the MNE Guidelines to be an essential part of an open investment climate and in the best interest of business.

To that end, BIAC is committed to work in partnership with the OECD, national governments and multinational enterprises to support effective implementation of the updated Guidelines and promote them in adhering countries and beyond. To raise awareness of the MNE Guidelines among companies, BIAC and its member associations organized and participated in multiple events. The 2015 annual BIAC General Assembly included a special session on the MNE Guidelines and implications of OECD work on responsible business conduct for companies.

In 2015, BIAC also issued and widely distributed its new brochure on the MNE Guidelines, available on the BIAC website, to ensure that companies are aware of this key instrument and their concrete implications for business.

In 2015 and for the third time, BIAC carried out a survey among its members to gather information about the visibility of the MNE Guidelines, the practical experience of companies in the NCP process and the performance of NCPs in light of their core criteria. The final paper, which is available on the BIAC website, summarizes the key results of the survey and contains specific recommendations to help ensure that the NCP process is understood as a mediation platform where all involved parties work together on the basis of trust towards a future-oriented solution that is in the interest of all parties.

Recognizing the importance of a well-functioning NCP system, BIAC, TUAC and OECD Watch issued a joint statement, supporting efforts to further strengthen the performance of NCPs, in particular those that have to catch up, including through the exchange of best practices and the organization of peer reviews. The joint statement was presented to the OECD in October 2015 and is available on the BIAC website.

BIAC maintained a strong presence at the annual Global Forum on Responsible Business Conduct in June 2014 and 2015, and remained an active partner in the projects on the proactive agenda of the MNE Guidelines to ensure that the concrete experience of different sectors, including food and agriculture, finance, textiles and extractive sectors, is duly reflected. BIAC members were active in the various advisory groups and related conferences and as well as the May 2015 Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains.
BIAC continued to call for active outreach efforts to non-adhering countries and participated in the May 2015 meeting in China, which focused on national approaches to responsible business conduct and the role of the MNE Guidelines.