BIAC contribution to the OECD Annual Report on the MNE Guidelines
(2016)

Business, as represented by Business at OECD (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, in order to support effective implementation of the MNE Guidelines promoting 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 in the course of 2016.

BIAC provided the business perspective on the OECD’s work on responsible business conduct and due diligence at a meeting organized by its German member BDA in February and spoke at a meeting on the MNE Guidelines in Vienna in October. BIAC also presented the business perspective on the MNE Guidelines at a major conference in Budapest in October and spoke at a Roundtable on the Forty Years of the OECD MNE Guidelines, which took place at the OECD in December 2016. The 2016 annual BIAC General Assembly included a special session to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the OECD Declaration on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises, of which the Guidelines are a key part.

BIAC also highlighted the importance of the MNE Guidelines in other international discussions, including in the context of the B20, where BIAC is engaged as a member and network partner. BIAC underlined the importance of effective implementation and outreach regarding key OECD instruments, including the MNE Guidelines.

BIAC maintained a strong presence at the annual OECD Global Forum on Responsible Business Conduct in June 2016. BIAC also remained an active partner in the projects on the proactive agenda of the MNE Guidelines, so as to ensure that the concrete experience of different sectors, including most recently finance and textiles, is duly reflected. BIAC members were active in the various advisory groups and related conferences, as well as the May 2016 Forum on Responsible Mineral Supply Chains. BIAC has been and will continue to be actively involved in the discussions on the general due diligence guidance to ensure that the final outcome will be of practical use to business, recognizing both business opportunities and challenges in this context.

BIAC continued to call for active outreach efforts to non-adhering countries and highlighted the role of the MNE Guidelines, not only to BIAC members but also observer organizations. For further information, please check the BIAC brochure on the MNE Guidelines, available on the BIAC website, which was issued to ensure that companies are aware of this key instrument and its concrete implications for business.