

BIAC calls for Increased Global Dialogue on Corporate Responsibility

Paris, 27 June 2013 - The launch of the OECD Global Forum on Responsible Business Conduct, held in Paris on 26 and 27 June, set the stage for strengthening the global dialogue on corporate responsibility.

Bringing together OECD countries, non-member economies, business, trade unions and other stakeholders, the dialogue initiated with the Forum is key to fostering effective implementation of the OECD *Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises* (MNEs). The governments adhering to the *Guidelines* aim to encourage and maximise the positive impact MNEs can have on sustainable development.

“The MNE Guidelines are the most comprehensive and practical reference instrument for a global level playing field in business,” explained Bernhard Welschke, BIAC Secretary General, speaking at the Global Forum. “All countries, in particular major emerging economies, should give serious consideration to endorsing the Guidelines. With the rapid pace of economic globalisation, it is more important than ever that the standards set out in the *Guidelines* are also respected by non-OECD countries”. Governments, business and other stakeholders should work together to foster closer cooperation with non-adhering countries and promote awareness of and adherence to the Guidelines.

The Rana Plaza tragedy was addressed as a matter of priority at the Global Forum with the participation of a high-level delegation from Bangladesh led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Her Excellency Dr. Dipu Moni. BIAC sees a potential role for the OECD in helping to facilitate a multi-stakeholder dialogue to take stock of the various initiatives that are currently underway or being planned, with the objective to avoid duplication and ensure transparency and coherence.

Business is prepared to continue its active engagement with the OECD member and non-member governments and key stakeholders to foster increased global participation and promote responsible business conduct worldwide.

Founded in 1962 as an independent organisation, the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC) is the officially recognised representative of the OECD business community. BIAC's members are the major business organisations in the OECD member countries and a number of OECD observer countries.

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