



PRESS RELEASE

130 BUSINESS LEADERS FROM EAST AFRICA GATHER TO EXPLORE CORPORATE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUED AT 0900 ON 12 NOVEMBER 2011, NAIROBI, KENYA

On 8 November 2012, a Business Roundtable entitled **East African Roundtable for Business Leaders: Implementing Corporate Respect for Human Rights** provided space for a unique **exchange among business leaders** in relation to this rapidly developing area of **corporate responsibility**. The session brought together experiences of 130 individuals – together with representatives from NGOs, civil society, National Human Rights Institutions, and academia. Companies present included **Safaricom, Kenya Power, Tata Chemicals Magadi, General Electric Company, East African Breweries, Unilever and Unilever Tea Kenya, HP, Chevron Corporation, BASF, The Coca-Cola Company, Total S.A**, and many more headquartered in the region and worldwide.

The Roundtable focused on:

- **Demystifying the business and human rights agenda:** including the differing roles and responsibilities of business and government regarding human rights, and the distinction between CSR and business and human rights
- **Good Practices:** Business leaders sharing experiences and practices regarding how to ensure corporate respect for human rights
- **Shared Challenges:** Shared challenges relating to workplace rights, community-company relations, security and conflict-sensitive areas, sustainable agriculture, and small- and medium-sized enterprises
- **Regional Developments:** Recent developments, actions and drivers on the Business and Human Rights Agenda in the Region: including the 2010 Kenyan Constitution and associated responsibilities for business
- **Implementation and interpretation of the United Nations Guiding Principles and Framework:** The Guiding Principles for implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework, on implementing human rights due diligence in practice: including the need for corporate leadership on social impacts

The Roundtable was convened by the Global Business Initiative on Human Rights (GBI) in partnership with the Kenya Private Sector Alliance, the UN Global Compact Network Kenya, the Kenya Association of Manufacturers, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, and individual experts to conduct business-to-business learning sessions.

More Information:

The Global Business Initiative on Human Rights:

<http://www.global-business-initiative.org>

For information on the Roundtable go to:

<http://www.global-business-initiative.org/work/east-africa/>

The Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights are available at:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/TransnationalCorporations/Pages/Reports.aspx>

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