

Andreas Michaelis
Embassy of Germany
4645 Reservoir Road, NW
Washington D.C., 20007, USA

Monday, February 26, 2024

Ambassador Michaelis:

The undersigned organizations are writing to urge your government to vote in favor of a strong Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) before the upcoming European Union elections. Within Europe, the CSDDD enjoys significant support from the public, businesses, church groups, academics and international institutions like the OECD, the ILO, and OHCHR. The undersigned organizations work primarily outside of Europe, but nonetheless have a vested interest in the passage of a strong Due Diligence Directive.

The CSDDD would have significant positive impacts on businesses that operate in the jurisdictions where we work. As it is currently structured, the CSDDD would apply to a large number of companies that are either headquartered outside of Europe (but nonetheless conduct a sufficient amount of business in Europe to be covered by the Directive), or that are headquartered in Europe but do a significant amount of business outside of Europe. This is an excellent feature of the Directive and would mean that companies across a variety of jurisdictions would need to undertake critical human rights and environmental due diligence. The Directive provides a real opportunity to transform the way European supply chains and the supply chains of goods headed to Europe operate, making them more humane and environmentally sustainable.

This is especially important given that enacting the CSDDD would put Europe way out front in the effort to eliminate human rights abuses, labor rights abuses, and environmental destruction that result from corporate misconduct. The model that Europe has developed domestically—starting with the French Duty of Vigilance law and proliferating from there—has gained traction around the world. Civil society organizations like ours have developed or are exploring domestic legislation in our own jurisdictions that take their cue from this model. If Europe were to abandon this effort now, or take steps to dramatically weaken the Directive, this would send a signal to other jurisdictions that, even in Europe, legislation that enhances supply chains is too difficult to pass. While we would strongly disagree, the damage to the momentum created around the world in the wake of the effort to enact the CSDDD could be enormous.

The CSDDD will have far reaching impacts on corporate activity that will be felt around the world. We strongly urge your government to vote in favor of the CSDDD in the upcoming vote. If you are interested in discussing this in further detail or have any questions, please contact David McKean at david@icar.ngo.

Signed by:

United States

1. The International Corporate Accountability Roundtable
2. Heartland Initiative
3. Verite
4. The Human Trafficking Legal Center
5. Freedom United
6. Accountability Counsel
7. Corporate Accountability Lab
8. Global Fund to End Modern Slavery (GFEMS)
9. The Clear Chain
10. Inclusive Development International
11. Oxfam
12. Eko
13. Investor Alliance for Human Rights
14. Transparentem
15. Bennett Freeman, Former U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor
16. Joe W. Pitts
17. Advocacy for Principled Action in Government
18. Organization for Identity & Cultural Development
19. Global Labor Justice-International Labor Rights Forum (GLJ-ILRF)
20. Action on Smoking and Health
21. Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility

Canada

22. Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability
23. Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project
24. Maquila Solidarity Network
25. IMPACT
26. Above Ground (a project of MakeWay)

Mexico

27. Project on Organizing, Development, Education, and Research (PODER)
28. Proyecto de Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales (ProDESC)

Ecuador

29. Alianza de Organizaciones por los Derechos Humanos del Ecuador

Peru

30. Programa Laboral De Desarrollo (PLADES)

Chile

31. Somos la Plataforma Chilena de Sociedad Civil sobre Derechos Humanos y empresas
32. Fundacion Acue
33. Defensoria Ambiental ONG
34. Centro de Derechos Humanos Universidad Diego Portales
35. Central Unitaria de Trabajadores de Chile
36. Fundacion Liberia

United Kingdom

37. Corporate Justice Coalition
38. Labour Behind the Label
39. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre
40. UNISON
41. Fauna & Flora International
42. The Freedom Fund
43. ABColombia

Australia

44. National Council of Jewish Women of Australia
45. Australian Lawyers for Human Rights
46. Josephite Counter Trafficking Project
47. Australian Human Rights Institute, UNSW Sydney
48. Human Rights Law Centre
49. Project Respect Incorporated
50. Walk Free
51. Project Didi Australia
52. Be Slavery Free

South Korea

53. GongGam Human Rights Law Foundation
54. Supporters for Health and Rights of People in Semiconductor Industry (SHARPS)
55. Korean House for International Solidarity
56. KTNC Watch

Japan

57. Human Rights Now

India

58. Anukatham
59. Service to People (SAVE)

Pakistan

60. Foundation for Rural Development

Kyrgyzstan

61. The Human Rights Movement Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan

Turkiye

62. Minerva Business and Human Rights Association

Nigeria

63. African Law Foundation
64. Foundation For Environmental Rights, Advocacy & Development

Uganda

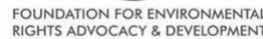
65. Uganda Consortium on Corporate Accountability
66. Disability Peoples Forum Uganda
67. Uganda Consortium on Corporate Accountability (UCCA)

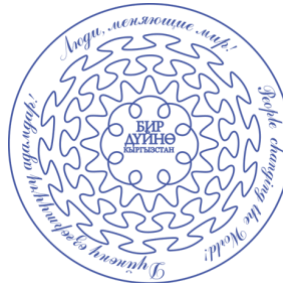
Kenya

68. Jamaa Resource Initiatives

Global

69. OECD Watch Network
70. Publish What You Pay





TRANSPARENTEM

