

Preface

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I am deeply honoured to write the preface to this most important and timely comparative law book *Global Business and Human Rights* aimed at providing expert guidance to corporations interested in adopting and implementing human rights principles in the conduct of their daily business.

The publication of this book marks a further milestone in helping to deepen the emerging constructive dialogue around the importance of regulating the inter-relationship between business and human rights which was put centre stage recently by the seminal report issued by John Ruggie, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

His critical report, which has rightly become known as the 'Ruggie report', presents itself as 'a principles-based conceptual and policy framework to anchor the business and human rights debate and to help guide all relevant actors'. Based on three core principles: the state duty to protect against human rights abuses by third parties (including business); the corporate responsibility to respect human rights; and the need for more effective access to remedies, the Ruggie framework provides a valuable roadmap to establishing a much needed regulatory framework to better align the competing demands of corporate governance and the urgent need to fully respect human rights in order to achieve mutually sustainable progress and development.

Having completed the normative setting phase, the challenge today is for the international community to commit itself to ensuring adoption and full implementation of the 'Ruggie' framework of 'protect, respect and remedy' across global corporate workplaces. For this to be achieved in a timely and realistic manner all stakeholders, including civil society, need to collectively resolve to view adoption and implementation of the framework not as a burden, but as a unique opportunity to help promote and contribute to the realisation of a broad spectrum of economic and social rights. As observed in the Ruggie report, business is a major source of investment and job creation and constitutes a powerful force capable of generating economic growth, reducing poverty and increasing the demand for the rule of law, but history teaches us that markets pose the greatest risks to society and business itself when their scope and power far exceed the reach of the institutional underpinnings that allow them to function smoothly and ensure their political sustainability.

Ruggie concludes that the root cause of the business and human rights

Global Business And Human Rights

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Summary : Free global business and human rights pdf download - this publication is an essential guide for general counsel and law firms to the changing world of human rights and its importance for global business the book highlights the growing relationship between human rights and global business and the developing international focus on the issue particularly as a result of recent united nations initiatives providing detailed commentary from leading international law firms this first edition focuses on the legal accountability and due diligence responsibilities of corporates based in many of the world s most developed jurisdictions for human rights compliance by their overseas operations

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