

econsense Statement to the UN Working Group on Human Rights and Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises

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Dear Sir or Madam

econsense - Forum for Sustainable Development of German Business is an association of leading globally-active German companies and business organisations who have integrated the principles of sustainable development in their corporate strategies. The pan-sectoral business network currently has 32 members (cf. below), and was established in 2000 on the initiative of the Federation of German Industries (BDI).

econsense sees itself as the think tank of German business, and as a platform promoting open dialogue between business, policy makers, science, administration, civil society and all stakeholders. The company-based forum therefore provides a framework to strengthen the exchange of experience and ideas on issues of sustainable development, and to expand and enhance competence and expertise. Next to topics like "Climate Protection" or "Demographic Change", one of our major topics is "Business and Human Rights". In this context, econsense highly welcomes the "Protect, Respect and Remedy" framework as well as the Guiding Principles as a new basis for discussion and first widely accepted answer to the hitherto unresolved question of companies' responsibility and liability for human rights in relation to the nation-state obligations. As an alliance of global companies econsense explicitly recognizes the responsibilities of multinational enterprises to respect human rights.

However political activities - both national and international - should note the practical realities faced by companies. Therefore, we look forward to contribute feedback and ideas for emerging UN working groups and efforts to foster the interplay of politics and business. We look forward to working with the experts involved in the course of 2012 as we take our work forward.

Sincerely,

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Besuchen Sie unsere neue Website unter: www.econsense.de

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Vorsitzender des Vorstandes: Dr. Wolfgang Große Entrup

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