The International Minimum Standard for Responsible Business Conduct

UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (UNGPs/OECD)

Primer to the International Minimum Standard

The International Minimum Standard for Responsible Business Conduct is an internationally agreed upon sustainability standard. The standard outlines the features of a management system for businesses. The standard is applicable for all businesses, regardless of industry, location, or size.

The International Minimum Standard is comprised of the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (OECD) from 2011[1]. The UNGPs/OECD present a management system for risk analysis and management that, when combined, covers the full scope of sustainability; Social, Environmental, and Economic, in a cohesive and pragmatic manner.

EU Investors may use the term **Minimum Safeguards**, which is synonymous with the Minimum Standard.

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[1] The OECD Guidelines were updated in 2023 without substantial changes.

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Applying the International Minimum Standard

The UNGPs/OECD support businesses in pragmatic and systematic risk identification across the full scope of sustainability. The risks are referred to as *potential* adverse impacts. Realised risks are referred to as *actual* adverse impacts[2]. The analysis of impacts is done by the means of an established management system that applies to all areas of sustainability. The management system is outlined below.

The International Minimum Standard's Management System

Own operations

The UNGPs/OECD consist of three main components that make up the requirements to meeting your responsibility in own operations:

- A Policy Commitment that outlines the business' commitment to the standard (remember to meet the requirements from UNGPs Principles 16 and 12).
- Sustainability Due Diligence (which in practice consists of regular, operational-level impact assessments against the key elements of social, economic, and environmental sustainability, confer Annex II below).
- Remediation (providing access to remedy through effective grievance mechanisms, when causing or contributing to actual impacts on social sustainability and contacting proper authorities by actual significant environmental or economic impacts). Note that for Economic and Environmental sustainability, this third component applies in the form of repairing the damage and possibly notifying the appropriate authorities, as engagement with *impacted stakeholders* is possible for Human Rights impacts only.

Upon the approval and integration of the Policy Commitment, the bulk of the work is composed of component two - due diligence. You can find all key areas of sustainability that are to be included in due diligence in Annex II to this document.

The impact assessments are to be conducted at least annually,[3] and are made up of the following three components:

- **Identify** potential (and actual) adverse impacts (risks) across the full scope of sustainability, i.e., the key areas mentioned in Annex II below. Annex I includes guidance to the risk identification.
- **Describe actions** to prevent or mitigate identified potential impacts and actions to remedy actual impacts.
- **Account** for management of impacts:
  - Track progress using indicators.
  - Communicate assessments, as a minimum, to impacted stakeholders and business relationships.
  - Management of severe/significant impacts shall be officially communicated, e.g., through annual reporting.

According to the UNGPs/OECD, an adequate impact assessment should disclose the following:

- The sustainability areas which may be impacted
- A description of the actual or potential impact. If there are no risks/impacts, make sure to state why.
- Impacted stakeholders/location/function.

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[2] Please note, that a business cannot, per definition, *violate* human rights, except for *gross impacts*, i.e., when contributing to impacts stipulated in the Rome Statute (e.g., Genocide, Crimes against humanity, War crimes, and Crimes of aggression).

[3] The UNGPs/OECD requires 'regular' assessments and the upcoming EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence annual assessments. It is GLOBAL CSR experience that alignment with the annual management processes makes implementation a lot easier.

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- What actions have been or will be undertaken to prevent, mitigate, or remediate the impacts. Please note, that for most identified risks of impacts, you will already have actions in place.
- How impacted stakeholders are informed and engaged about the management of the impacts.
- Indicators to measure the effectiveness of actions undertaken. Please do not confuse these indicators with KPIs that you use for your annual reporting efforts or your balance business scorecard, although there may be overlaps.
- The person responsible for the management of the impacts.
- The resources that are set aside to manage the impact.

Note, the standard requires you to be able to communicate the results of your regular operational-level impact assessments to business relationships. This is the key to accountability in business relationships, and for (future) documentation of your due diligence to supervising authorities. The requirement to share your assessments with potentially impacted stakeholders is the key to *informed stakeholder engagement* as well.

Business Relationships

Whereas the UNGPs' Foundational Principle 13 (a) requires the above for a company to respect human rights in own operations, Principle 13 (b) addresses the requirement to respect human rights in business relationships. We advise not to mix up these two distinct management streams. Companies are, per definition of the UNGPs, responsible for adverse impacts in the full value chain. To meet this responsibility, companies shall *seek* to prevent or mitigate adverse impacts in the entire value chain, i.e., impacts that you are not causing or contributing to, but impacts that you are merely linked to.[4]

In 2013, late Prof. John Ruggie graciously reviewed a report prepared by GLOBAL CSR for the Danish Ministry of Business Affairs and the Shipowners Industry Association. The report analyzed the minimum requirements to be met by companies to be in alignment with the UNGPs, when addressing responsibilities for adverse impacts in supply chains. The requirements apply equally to the OECD.

Three core requirements were identified:

1. **Express your expectations to business relationships in your overarching Policy Commitment.**
   It is an explicit requirement in UNGPs Principle 16 that you state your expectations to business relationships in your overarching Policy Commitment. You may find it valuable to spell out the, often brief, expectation in your Policy Commitment in a separate Code of Conduct for Business Relationships. Please note that a Suppliers Code of Conduct indicate that you are merely addressing the upstream value chain, and not the full value chain, as required by the UNGPs/OECD.

2. **Require your business relationships to implement the UNGPs/OECD.**
   Companies shall require from all their business relationships that they meet the internationally agreed minimum standard for responsible business conduct, i.e., the UNGPs. It is recommended to require business relationships to meet the standard in relation to environmental and economic sustainability as well, in other words, to require implementation of the UNGPs/OECD.

[4] Please note that depending on the concrete circumstances a connection that, at the outset would be seen as 'linked to', may change to a situation where you will be seen to contribute to the continuing impact.

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However, companies operating in non-OECD countries may push back on the inclusion of the OECD. Meeting the UNGPs/OECD would require that your business relationships require their business relationships to meet the standard as well. The snowball effect will fulfill the intention to 'scale up' responsible business conduct, ensuring that all business entities in the value chain manage their impacts and become transparent about the results, see section on 'own operations' above.

3. **Address known severe impacts in your full value chain.**
   If you are or become aware of severe impacts anywhere in your full value chain, you will have to act upon the impacts. It is your responsibility to use your leverage to make the entity that causes or contributes to the severe impact stop the impact and implement the UNGPs/OECD to prevent or mitigate re-occurrences or other severe impacts. If you have no leverage, you are expected to build leverage.

   The entity in your value chain may already address and 'officially' communicate about the severe impact. If this communication satisfies the requirements from the UNGPs/OECD, you may be satisfied by such information.

Business Value

The Business value of implementing and working with the International Minimum Standard as the core of sustainability efforts, includes:

- Regular, all-encompassing, and **structured risk identification** across the full scope of sustainability, allowing businesses to get ahead of, and manage their risks. In the case of investments, the sustainability due diligence entails a full risk analysis prior to investment, which creates a foundation for safer, **data-driven investments** beyond financial data.
- Although sustainability due diligence, per definition, is distinct from *legal compliance*, proper implementation assists the company in **avoiding legal risks**, notwithstanding the fact that due diligence becomes mandatory by law, confer Annex III below[5].
- Providing a firm foundation for *annual reporting* of sustainability risks and progress. Sustainability due diligence one-to-one provides clarity to the concept of **double materiality**.
- Enabling a single point of reference, when *meeting ESG/CSR requirements* from business relationships, thereby **saving time** by not having to buy into to the abundance of 'self-invented standards' that emerged before the UNGPs/OECD.
- Implementing the management system designed by the UNGPs/OECD may enable further, and sometimes considerable, **cost reductions**. You can save resources spent on outsourcing or entertaining elaborate supply chain audit systems, and for having a third party certify that you manage some of the risks, e.g., the targeted ISO 45001 (health and safety), ISO 14001 (environment), ISO 37001 (bribery), or the broader certifications from B Corp, LEED, Rainforest Alliance, Eco Vadis, Future-Fit, etc.
- **Preferred partnerships** with business relationships requiring sustainability commitments, due diligence, and access to remedy in alignment with the UNGPs/OECD. This is especially true when dealing with larger enterprises as they may well have started implementation of the UNGPs/OECD.
- Clear, **well-founded action plans** rooted in the organisational risks, enable businesses to **focus resources effectively and efficiently**.

[5] Confer the compliance overview in Annex III for further details.

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Why work with the International Minimum Standard before approaching other sustainability efforts

The International Minimum Standard approach and management system is different from other initiatives and frameworks given that it…

- … Is the foundation for several recent legal developments, meaning that implementation ensures not only compliance, but best practice. Confer the compliance overview in Annex III for further details.
- … Is pragmatic in implementation, management, and reporting, by design and intent.
- … Enables businesses to develop a clear understanding of the core elements of sustainability as defined by the UN and the OECD, adopted by nations and lawmakers internationally.
- … Supports strategic sustainability by rooting sustainability efforts in the actual risks and opportunities of the organisation on an operational level.

Legal compliance in the EU and internationally – based on the UNGPs/OECD

Many practitioners and scholars would describe the UNGPs as 'soft law'; i.e., international instruments that do not legally bind the states that support the statements. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights from 1948 is soft law, whereas the two Covenants[6] are binding, i.e., 'hard law', for acceding states.

'Whereas this new 'instrument' – the UNGPs – does not create "new law" it does provide for an *UN adopted and endorsed authoritative interpretation of existing hard law*, namely the international human rights conventions.

The UNGPs Principle 3, which describes the state's duties regarding business and human rights, requires states to "(e)nforce laws that are aimed at, or have the effect of, requiring business enterprises to respect human rights."

Hence, since the unanimous endorsement by the UN in June 2011, a legal obligation has rested on all UN member states to enforce laws that require businesses within their territory 'to respect human rights'. This is the 'smart mix' of the UNGPs themselves: Mandate states, while already informing businesses, what they could expect in terms of regulation[7]. Thus, companies, which are more forward-looking, are most likely well-prepared for the strengthening regulation we are witnessing in the EU these years.

Today, 12 years after this clarification of the state obligations under existing human rights law, the EU Commission and states around the world apply the UNGPs to a variety of regulations, confer below Annex III.

How about other initiatives, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN Global Compact?

- **The SDGs (2015 – 2030)**
  The SDGs are written for states, by states. The 17 goals, 169 targets, and approx. 244 indicators are the result of governments' agreement on how to measure improvements in relation to sustainability from 2015 – 2030. Prior to the SDGs, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), from 2000 – 2015, represented the first ever attempt

[6] The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), that – with the UDHR – make up the International Bill of Human Rights

[7] The responsibility 'to respect human rights' for businesses is well-defined in Pillar II of the UNGPs.

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by the UN to measure progress for sustainability. However, the 8 goals and 21 targets were merely targeting economic developing countries and were, by and large, incognito to western companies.

Like the MDGs, the SDGs are not written, nor particularly relevant, for businesses, despite their nice colors. Businesses cannot comply with, or be held accountable, to the SDGs, and the targets and indicators make little, if any, sense for corporate activities. Further, the SDGs merely represent a fraction of the key sustainability areas, that businesses need to consider when conducting sustainability due diligence in alignment with the UNGPs/ OECD. The SDGs may be used for strategic engagement, where companies wish to make a difference for sustainability. However, companies need not be restricted to the fewer sustainability areas reflected by SDGs.

- The UN Global Compact, launched in 2000, is the first official initiative from the UN, inviting businesses to focus their work on sustainability around the internationally agreed principles for sustainable development; social, environmental, and (from 2003, following the adoption by the UN of the Convention against Corruption) economic sustainability.

  The Global Compact principles are per definition voluntary, thus asking businesses to comply with UN Global Compact principles is meaningless. With the UNGPs/OECD introduction in 2011, a compliance standard for responsible business conduct was established, covering all the areas covered by the UN Global Compact principles.

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Annex I - Where to Start

The risk identification

It appears daunting to implement (yet) another management system. But it is both doable and pragmatic. It will prepare you well for the future.

The part of sustainability due diligence that consists of **'risk identification'** is a very good place to start.

A few ground-rules apply for this exercise:

1. Determine which part of the business you are identifying risks for. Context matters. Companies with subsidiaries are advised to start by identifying risks of impacts that are prevalent for their headquarter. This headquarter identification should encompass risks associated with the company's products and/or services.

2. Identify risks that your company – in that location – may *cause* or *contribute to*. You will include risks that your company are merely *linked to* if they can be determined as 'known severe impacts' with your business relationships only.

3. Note where you have risks and move on to the next area. For the risk identification you will not need to further assess the risk. It shall be noted that any company should identify risks of impacts on 14 of the 48 human rights, at a minimum. In addition, we would expect that all businesses would identify risks in relation to CO_2 emissions, considering the state emergency for all businesses derived from climate change.

4. The key areas, or elements, of social, environmental, and economic sustainability are listed on the following three pages.

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Annex II - Sustainability Areas

Social Sustainability Areas

– i.e., the Human Rights from the International Bill of Human Rights (UNGPs Foundational Principle 12).

UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR):

1. Self-determination (indigenous peoples rights) (ICESCR art. 1 & ICCPR art. 1)

2. *Non-discrimination* (ICESCR art. 2 & ICCPR art. 2)

ICESCR

3. *Work (training, contract, termination)* (ICESCR art. 6)

4. a. *Equal pay for equal work* (ICESCR art. 7)

4.b. A living wage (minimum wage) (ICESCR art. 7)

4.c. *Safe and healthy working conditions* (ICESCR art. 7)

4.d. *Equal opportunity for everyone to be promoted* (ICESCR art. 7)

4.e. *Rest, leisure, and paid holidays* (ICESCR art. 7)

5. Form and join trade unions and right to strike (ICESCR art. 8)

6. *Social security, including social insurance* (ICESCR art. 9)

7.a. *Protection of mothers before and after childbirth* (ICESCR art. 10)

7.b. Children's & young people's protection from exploitation (no child labour) (ICESCR art. 10)

8.a. Adequate food and its fair distribution (ICESCR art. 11)

8.b. Adequate clothing (ICESCR art. 11)

8.c. Adequate housing (ICESCR art. 11)

8.d. Water and sanitation (ICESCR art. 11)

9. *Health* (ICESCR art. 12)

10. Education (ICESCR art. 13 & art. 14)

11.a. Take part in cultural life (ICESCR art. 15)

11.b. Benefit from scientific progress (ICESCR art. 15)

11.c. Material gains from inventions (ICESCR art. 15)

11.d. *Moral rights of authors (protection of copyright)* (ICESCR art. 15)

ICCPR

12. Life (ICCPR art. 6)

13.a. *Not being subjected to torture, cruel, inhuman and/or degrading treatment or punishment* (ICCPR art. 7)

13.b. Free, prior, and informed consent to medical or scientific experimentation (ICCPR art. 7)

14. Not being subjected to slavery, servitude or forced labour (ICCPR art. 8)

15. Liberty and security of person (ICCPR art. 9)

16. Humane treatment for detained persons (ICCPR art.10)

17. Not being subjected to imprisonment for an inability to fulfil a contract (ICCPR art 11)

18. Freedom of movement (ICCPR art. 12)

19. Due process for aliens when facing expulsion (seeking asylum) (ICCPR art. 13)

20. Fair trial (ICCPR art. 14)

21. Freedom from retroactive criminal law (ICCPR art. 15)

22. Recognition as a person before the law (ICCPR art. 16)

23. *Privacy* (ICCPR 17)

24. Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion (ICCPR art. 18)

25.a. Freedom of opinion (ICCPR art. 19)

25.b. *Freedom of expression* (ICCPR art. 19)

25.c. *Freedom of information* (ICCPR art. 19)

26.a. Freedom from war propaganda (ICCPR art. 20)

26.b. Freedom from incitement of racial, religious, or national hatred (ICCPR art. 20)

27. Freedom of peaceful assembly (ICCPR art. 21)

28. Freedom of association (ICCPR art. 22)

29. Protection of the family and the right to marry (ICCPR art. 23)

30. Protection of the child and right to acquire a nationality (ICCPR art. 24)

31. Participation in public affairs (ICCPR art. 25)

32. Equality before the law, equal protection of the law, and rights of non-discrimination (ICCPR art. 26)

33. Minorities (culture, religious practice, and language) (ICCPR art. 27)

(The 14 human rights that all companies should identify as risks of adverse impacts are marked in cursive)

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Environmental Sustainability Areas

– i.e., 20 Environmental areas from the EU Taxonomy, the OECD Guidelines, and the UN Global Compact, principles 7-9.

EU Taxonomy

1. Climate change mitigation
2. Climate change adaptation
3. Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources
4. Transition to a circular economy
5. Pollution, prevention, and control
6. Protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems

OECD Guidelines (EMAS / ISO 14001)

7. Use of energy
8. Use of raw materials (in particular, scarce natural resources)
9. Use of chemicals
10. Use of ozone depleting substances or persistent organic pollutants
11. Handling, transportation, and waste management of hazardous substances
12. Surface water emissions
13. Soil and groundwater emissions
14. Noise emissions and light emissions
15. Odour emissions
16. Animal Welfare
17. Wastewater management
18. Solid waste management
19. Food waste management

UN Global Compact

20. Use and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

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Economic Sustainability Areas

– i.e., 16 Economic areas from the UN Convention against Corruption, the OECD Guidelines, and the UN Global Compact, principles 10.

1. Accurate books and records, including data on income from past five years
2. Bribes to or corruption of public officials (incl. both 'active' and 'passive' corruption - also called 'solicitation')
3. Bribes to or corruption of private counterparts (incl. both 'active' and 'passive' corruption - also called 'solicitation')
4. Trading in influence in relation in relation to business partners, government officials or employees
5. Bribes, corruption, or trading in influence through the use of intermediaries
6. Use of facilitation payments unless you are subject to threats or other coercion.
7. Political contributions, charitable donations, and sponsorships in expectation of undue advantages
8. Offering or accepting gifts beyond stated value (approvals)
9. Permitting or participating in money laundering
10. Hiring government employees whose jobs may conflict with prior obligations
11. Abstain from cronyism and nepotism (conflict of interest)
12. Clearly define job duties based on skills, qualifications, and experience
13. Extortion or blackmail
14. Fraud and embezzlement
15. Anti-trust and -competition
16. Tax avoidance

Notes to the Sustainability Areas

The abovementioned areas of sustainability should be included in your company's due diligence process and are directly or indirectly referenced by the UNGPs/OECD, i.e., the International Minimum Standard. It shall be noted that:

- The reference in the UNGPs Foundational Principle 12 to the International Bill of Human Rights (IBHR) and *"the principles concerning fundamental rights set out in the International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work"* are met by assessing against the IBHR, as the five core labour rights (non-discrimination, freedom of association, no exploitative child labour, no forced labour, and the right to safe and healthy working conditions) mentioned in the ILO Declaration are all explicitly mentioned in the IBHR as well.
- The first six areas covered under environmental impacts corresponds one to one with the six environmental areas included in the EU Taxonomy. Hence, the second requirement of the EU Taxonomy Regulation, that the project should not have significant adverse impacts in any of the five other areas (next to the one area with 'substantial contributions'), may be covered by fulfilling the third criteria – meeting the minimum safeguards, i.e., implementing the UNGPs/OECD.
- The fifth area covered by the EU Taxonomy, Pollution, may be dealt with in more detail under some of the subsequent environmental areas, that are derived from analyzing subject areas in relation to ISO 14001 and EMAS certifications, in addition to other impact areas experienced during our many years in practice.

If you are in doubt about how the key sustainability areas relate to businesses you can find explanations on each of the areas in the help section on the on-line due diligence platform, csrCloud.com, where you will also be assisted in assessing the risks that you identified and maintain the management of the risks in alignment with the UNGPs/OECD. Further, GLOBAL CSR published the book, "Human Rights Explained – for business" which is available both in printed and e-book format.[8]

[8] E-book format order here. For printed format write info@globalcsr.net.

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ANNEX III - Compliance and Framework

Compliance Regulation directed at companies (not exhaustive)

Framework/ Legislation	**Aligned with UNGPs/OECD**	**Explanation/Comment**	**Applicable**
EU Taxonomy Regulation, 2020	Yes	Requires that any company, that participates in a green investment, shall meet the 'minimum safeguards' that are defined as the UNGPs/OECD, confer Art. 18.	Investments in EU member states
The Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), expected 2023-2024	(Yes)	The first draft of the EU CSDDD refers explicitly to the UNGPs/OECD as the foundation for the directive. However, in efforts to introduce legal liability not only for establishing sustainability due diligence processes (fines) the draft directive may introduce civil liability for impacts occurring in the value chain.	EU member states (after transposing the directive to national law)
The Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), 2023	Yes	Article 19 a, sect. 2, outlining the reporting requirements of companies, is aligned with the management processes defined by the UNGPs/OECD. Implementation of the UNGPs/OECD eases reporting. We are awaiting the Delegated Act containing the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS), i.e., the concrete KPIs that the directive will make mandatory.	EU member states (after transposing the directive to national law)
The Digital Services Act (Regulation (EU) 2022/2065, DSA)	(Yes)	Digital services providers in the EU shall assess potential adverse impacts on fundamental rights, e.g., in the design of the algorithmic systems used by the very large online platforms or search engines, in relation to the misuse of their service design of online interfaces.	EU member states
Due Diligence in Supply Chains Act (Sorgfaltspflicht in Lieferketten Gesetz, 2023)	Yes	Despite the name of the law, the Act requires companies to implement due diligence in own operations. In addition, 'suppliers' are defined in the Act to include both upstream and downstream business relationships.	Germany
The Transparency Act (Åpenhetsloven, 2022)	Yes	The Act is primarily directed at companies reporting practices and includes due diligence in own operations and in relation to value chains.	Norway
The Duty of Vigilance Law, 2017	Yes	The Act obligates very large companies to carry out human rights- and environmental due diligence and publish a Due Diligence Plan annually.	France
The Modern Slavery Act, 2015 (UK) – 2019 (AUS)	No	Companies are required to annually prepare and submit a statement on what actions are being taken to prevent and address modern slavery in own operations and the supply chain. The Acts use the term 'due diligence', but disregards UNGPs Foundational principle 12. 'The prohibition of forced labour' is one human right of the full scope of 48 human rights covered by the UNGPs.	United Kingdom, Australia

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The US Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, 2022	No	The US Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act (UFLPA) requires companies that source material from the Xinjiang region in China to prove that their supply chains are not using forced labour if they want to import their goods into the US. The Act is quite problematic, insofar as it requires companies to 'map their value chain'- see also https://globalcsr.net/transparency-in-value-chains/	USA
Due Diligence on Child Labour Act, 2019	No	Like the Modern Slavery Act, this law pertains to due diligence on one human right only; exploitative child labour.	Netherlands
National regulations in preparation:			
Austrian Supply Chain Act Belgian Due Diligence Law proposal Dutch Responsible Business Conduct Act Canada's Forced Labor (Bill)			

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The International Framework

Framework/ Legislation	**Aligned with UNGPs/OECD**	**Explanation/Comment**	**Applicable**
United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, 2011 (UNGPs)	Yes	The UNGPs from 2011 is the first internationally agreed standard for Responsible Business Conduct. The UNGPs were endorsed unanimously by the UN Human Rights Council and the Framework by the UN General Assembly in 2008. The UNGPs were presented as principled pragmatism bringing an end to decades of discussions about corporate responsibilities concerning human rights. csrCloud is built on the principles and management system as established by the UNGPs. Hence, the platform enables proper and adequate implementation of the UNGPs, when used according to instructions.	Global (UN member states)
OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, 2011 (OECD)	Yes	The OECD secretariat, in early 2011, asked the author of the UNGPs, Prof. John Ruggie, how OECD could be updated to reflect the UNGPs. Since Prof. Ruggie spent 6 years preparing the UNGPs carefully considering every term and phrase, he advised that the OECD incorporated the UNGPs word by word, which happened. However, the OECD expanded the coverage of due diligence to cover the environmental and economic sustainability elements as well. csrCloud is built on the principles and management system as established by the UNGPs and applied by the OECD Guidelines. Hence, when used as per instructions, the tool ensures proper and adequate implementation of the OECD as well.	International (OECD member states and a few non-member states)
UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*, 2015 - 2030	(No)	Although the preamble to the SDGs did reference that companies should respect human rights as defined by the UNGPs, the goals themselves are unrelated to the international standard for responsible business conduct. The SDGs are written for states, by states, hence businesses by default cannot comply. The full scope of the UNGPs/OECD (i.e., the scope of csrCloud) covers all 17 SDGs in addition to a range of areas, or key elements of sustainability, that businesses need to consider under their due diligence efforts. Companies cannot comply with the SDGs that contain no accountability measures for business. When used to frame strategic work, i.e., when making a positive contribution to sustainability, you should be aware, that the SDGs cease in 2030.	Global (UN member states)
UN Global Compact (UNGC), 2000	(Yes)	The UNGC principles preceded the UNGPs by 11 years. The UNGC is a voluntary initiative that merely had the purpose of making businesses aware of the 'principled-based' approach to RBD/CSR/ESG/Sustainability, as opposed to the, at that time, dominant approach – the 'stakeholder-based' approach. Businesses cannot comply with the UNGC principles, as they are voluntary. Hence, you should make sure never to use the UNGC principles to hold other companies accountable. However, the scope of the UNGC principles is like that of the UNGPs/OECD, the management standard that you can hold companies accountable to.	Global (UN member states)

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