

Appendix A

Sample Codes of Conduct

This appendix sets out the provisions of three codes of conduct for international businesses. The first was produced in consultation with major Canadian corporations in response to government calls for such an international code of ethics. The second is the 'global compact', a set of nine principles set out by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan at the 1999 Davos summit. Although generally worded in the abstract, these principles are tightly linked to existing international legal instruments. This is also the strength of the third standard included below, SA 8000. SA 8000 has been included to illustrate features that characterize a code of conduct designed with external verification in mind.

Example 1: The International Code of Ethics for Canadian Business

Vision

Canadian business has a global presence that is recognized by all stakeholders as economically rewarding to all parties, acknowledged as being ethically, socially, and environmentally responsible, welcomed by the communities in which we operate, and that facilitates economic, human resource and community development within a stable operating environment.

Beliefs

We believe that:

- We can make a difference within our sphere of influence (our stakeholders)
- Business should take a leadership role through establishment of ethical business principles
- National governments have the prerogative to conduct their own government and legal affairs in accordance with their sovereign rights. All governments should comply with international treaties and other agreements they have committed to, including the areas of human rights and social justice
- While reflecting cultural diversity and differences we should do business throughout the world consistent with the way we do business in Canada
- The business sector should show ethical leadership
- We can facilitate the achievement of wealth generation and a fair sharing of economic benefits
- Our principles will assist in improving relations between the Canadian and host governments
- Open, honest and transparent relationships are critical to our success
- Local communities need to be involved in decision-making for issues that affect them
- Multistakeholder processes need to be initiated to seek effective solutions
- Confrontation should be tempered by diplomacy