

to encourage consumers to boycott products and services emanating from repressive regimes; campaigns to force universities, pension funds, and large investors to divest themselves of stocks in companies operating in areas such as South Africa and Sudan; targeting corporate offices and engaging them in discussions about human rights; lobbying governments to influence the behaviour of MNCs; and the use of proxy resolutions, as a legal means by which institutional and individual investors may submit proposals to corporations on issues that speak to the immediate interests of the corporation.²⁷ The efforts of non-governmental organizations have limited success in pressuring multinationals to disengage in activities that protract an existing conflict and human rights situation. Realistically international business enterprises will not lead the way in humanitarian action. Yet as one of the most powerful actors in the global economy, non-governmental organizations cannot successfully pursue their humanitarian objectives without the cooperation of multinationals.

For reasons discussed earlier: the changing nature of conflicts, the increasing power of multinational corporations, internationalization of human rights issues, and the emergence of a global civil society, have made it increasingly important for multinational corporations to consider humanitarian action within the interests of their business. While the burden of solving conflicts and ending human rights atrocities should not rest on the shoulders of MNCs, multinationals should be mindful of their actions. One area of enhancing multinational's humanitarian action is through the monitoring of human rights abuses in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and governments.²⁸ MNCs need to look beyond the confines of their compound and acknowledge that human rights violations have occurred in the regime where they are operating, and their actions may have the potential of exacerbating existing tensions. As the eyes and ears into conflict, multinationals can provide valuable information regarding compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law. This information can be used by non-governmental organizations in pursuing their broader humanitarian mandates, as well as assisting inter-state relations in resolving the conflict. Though there are limits to the extent of multinationals conducting investigative missions, human rights monitoring groups can be established consisting of representatives from international organizations, NGOs, corporations, and governments.

There should be some accountability by corporations involved in security arrangements to protect the perimeters of business operations. Written agreements could include specifications that security forces conform to human rights obligations, make public the provisions with state entities and organizations, screen security force members, and report and investigate abuses occurring in the area of operations. Corporations have a responsibility to monitor security force activity especially when companies themselves have called for security force intervention.

Another area where NGOs, governments, and corporate partnerships can be strengthened is in community development. In many less developed countries where multinationals are pursuing business interests, populations lack proper infrastructure and have no access to education, health and social services. By pooling collective resources, the global community can

²⁷ Gladwin and Walter. Multinationals Under Fire. Pg. 155.

²⁸ Some of these ideas derive from the recommendations of the human security report in Sudan.