

## OECD GUIDELINES FOR MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES

### REPORT OF THE NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL CONTACT POINT TO THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT AND MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES

MAY 2004

#### A. Institutional Arrangements

*No update is required for Annex 1. For Annex 2, the e-mail address of the NCP has been changed to: oecd-ncp@med.govt.nz.*

*What is the composition of the NCP?*

- The New Zealand National Contact Point comprises officials in the Ministry of Economic Development.

The NCP is assisted by a Liaison Group comprising representatives from the NCP, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Department of Labour, Ministry for the Environment, Treasury, the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions, Business New Zealand and the New Zealand Business Council for Sustainable Development. Its members represent the views of their stakeholders to the NCP, promote and supply information about the Guidelines to their stakeholders and work towards a co-operative approach to the Guidelines. The Liaison Group meets two or three times a year.

*How does the NCP relate to other government agencies?*

- The NCP draws on the expertise and resources of other relevant government agencies as needed.

The NCP recognises that meeting the responsibilities for the Guidelines requires a whole of government approach. It has sought the active involvement of other government departments in the following ways:

- By supplying information about the Guidelines to all departments and asking each department to ensure its officials are aware of the Guidelines and incorporate them appropriately in the department's policies, processes and business.
- By asking each department to conduct a comparison of the Guidelines with the areas of national law for which that department is responsible.
- By asking departments to help promote the Guidelines to their stakeholders and others in the wider community and to encourage the uptake of the recommendations in the Guidelines.
- Where a specific instance is raised under the Guidelines, the NCP will work closely with the department which has the policy responsibility in respect of the particular issue raised.

*How does the NCP relate to social partners (business community and employee organisations) involved in the functioning of the NCP?*

- The NCP consults with business, labour groups and other social partners as required.
- In addition, the Liaison Group provides a link, through Business New Zealand and the NZ Council of Trade Unions, to the business community and employee organisations.

*How does the NCP relate to other interested parties, including NGOs, involved in the functioning of the NCP?*

- The NCP welcomes the input of NGOs and wider civil society. It consults with interested parties including NGOs as required. The Liaison Group provides an additional link to NGOs through the participation of the New Zealand Business Council for Sustainable Development as a member of the group.

## **B. Information and Promotion**

*How have the Guidelines been made available in your country?*

- The Guidelines are available in written and electronic form from the NCP. The NCP's website includes a link to the Guidelines. Hard copies of the Guidelines are available on request and have been sent to anyone who asks for them. The Guidelines have also been distributed as part of information packs to seminar attendees and other people inquiring about the Guidelines.

*How is co-operation with the business community, trade unions, NGOs and the interested public carried out, with respect to information on, and promotion of, the Guidelines?*

- The Liaison Group acts as one major channel for co-operation. Its members promote the Guidelines to their stakeholders and work towards a co-operative approach to the Guidelines. The NZ Council of Trade Unions channels discussion with its members. The business community, NGOs and the public are a wider and more diffused group, making it harder to ensure coverage of all. The NCP will continue to make direct approaches to and have discussions with particular members of the business community, NGOs and the interested public as appropriate. The message about the Guidelines will continue to need reinforcement over time.

*Have other information and promotion activities been held or planned?*

- The NCP has distributed information about the Guidelines to all government departments and advised them about their obligations under the Guidelines.
- The NCP has discussed the Guidelines with relevant government organisations (Overseas Investment Commission, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, NZAid), which have included links to the Guidelines on their websites.
- The NCP has delivered presentations on the Guidelines to interested parties, such as NZAid and the New Zealand Bankers' Association.
- The NCP has distributed information packs about the Guidelines to seminar attendees and other interested parties.
- A comparison of the Guidelines has been carried out against national laws, to identify any possible areas of conflict (none) or areas where the Guidelines impose greater requirements than national laws.
- The NCP continues to update and extend its website and promotional material. A one-page glossy pamphlet on the Guidelines has been prepared and distributed at conferences and as occasion arises.

*No update to Annex 3 is required.*

*Have enquiries been received from:*

*(a) other NCPs;*

- No enquiries have been received from other NCPs.

*(b) the business community, employee organisations, other non-governmental organisations, or the public;*

- Enquiries have been received from the business community and the public. These enquiries have been of an informational nature.

*(c) governments of non-adhering countries;*

- No enquiries have been received from governments of non-adhering countries.

### **C. Implementation in specific instances**

*Have specific instance been brought to the attention of your National Contact Point?*

- No specific instances have been brought to the attention of the NCP.

## D. Other

*How have the core criteria for the operation of NCPs been applied in your country to further the effectiveness of guidelines implementation?*

- Visibility: The Guidelines are readily available, through the Ministry website and in other ways. As described above, steps have been taken to increase the visibility of the Guidelines and the NCP.
- Accessibility: The NCP has responded to all enquiries and requests for information received. The NCP can be contacted by telephone, e-mail, fax or post.
- Transparency: All activities of the NCP have been open and transparent. There have been no specific instances raised to date, and no issues of confidentiality/transparency have arisen.
- Accountability: The NCP is accountable to the government through the Minister of Commerce.

*Other information on the nature and results of NCP activities;*

- The NCP's main focus to date has involved promoting the Guidelines, distributing information about them and raising awareness of them in New Zealand. While there has been some progress, the NCP is conscious that more needs to be done, and will continue its promotional activities.
- If the Guidelines are to be used constructively to improve corporate practices, there needs to be a co-ordinated co-operative approach from stakeholders. The NCP will continue to further such an approach, particularly through the Liaison Group.