

## Non Governmental Organizations unveil standards for (corporate) social responsibility

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**35 Dutch organizations working together as the 'MVO Platform' (Coalition on CSR) advocate that companies conduct their business in compliance with internationally agreed-upon standards, in the areas of human rights, work, health, and the environment. They expect governments to take an active role in this process as well.**

The Coalition on CSR is a unique collaboration of the FNV and CNV unions, the Consumentenbond [Consumers Union], Friends of the Earth Netherlands, Amnesty International Netherlands, the India Committee of the Netherlands, SOMO, and 28 other organizations involved in the areas of human rights, the environment, development and health.

In principle, the Coalition on CSR supports internationally binding legislation for corporate responsibility applicable anywhere a company conducts business.

But even without international legislation, business and governments can already accomplish a great deal to ensure that companies operate in accordance with international agreements. At the end of 2002 the Coalition on CSR published the CSR Frame of Reference. This CSR Frame of Reference names five conditions for responsible business practices: (1) Fair pricing and delivery times; (2) taking responsibility for the entire chain of production (from subcontractors to homeworkers); (3) dialogue between all of the interested parties (employees, local populations, social organizations, etc.); (4) transparency and reporting concerning business practices; and (5) the effects all of the above have on people, the environment, and on the independent verification of the reporting.

The CSR Frame of Reference gives an outline of international treaties and other agreements which should be implemented in order to improve corporate responsibility. Some examples include the Universal Declarations of Human Rights, the International Labor Organization Conventions, and a number of environmental agreements. In addition, guidelines have also been developed in the areas of consumer protection, health, fair competition, and anti-corruption measures that should have an impact on corporate conduct.

The aims of the CSR coalition, utilizing the CSR Frame of Reference to define corporate responsibility more accurately based on efforts to develop a strategy per organization as well as to enter into discussions together with the business community.

The [CSR Frame of Reference](http://www.mvo-platform.nl/publicaties.html#taal) can be found at: <http://www.mvo-platform.nl/publicaties.html#taal>

For further information

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