

# OECD Watch:

A global civil society network promoting  
**corporate accountability  
and access to remedy**  
for victims of corporate misconduct



 **OECD Watch**

# Who we are

**OECD Watch** is a global network of civil society organisations with more than 100 members in 55 countries. We are made up of a diverse range of organisations – from human rights to environmental and development organisations, from grassroots groups to large, international NGOs. We are bound together by our commitment to ensure that business activity contributes to sustainable development and poverty eradication; that corporations are held accountable for their actions around the globe; that governments fulfil their duty to protect human rights; and that the victims of business-related abuse receive remedy.

**One of our key aims** is to inform and advise the wider NGO community on how to make use of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (“the Guidelines”) and its associated grievance mechanism to achieve corporate accountability and access to remedy. We are also committed to improving the implementation and effectiveness of the Guidelines through increased global NGO coordination, advocacy with governments and international institutions, and case support to civil society organisations.



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## OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

The Guidelines are a set of state-backed international standards for responsible business conduct by multinational corporations operating in or from OECD member states and other adhering countries. The Guidelines cover a range of topics including human rights, employment and industrial relations, the environment, combating bribery, consumer interests, information disclosure and taxation. There are 35 OECD countries and 13 adhering countries, which have subscribed to the Guidelines. These countries are all legally bound to establish national contact points (NCPs), tasked with handling complaints related to corporate breaches of the Guidelines that are filed by civil society organisations, trade unions or victims of corporate misconduct. This means that NCPs have the potential to provide effective access to remedy for victims of corporate abuse.

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# What we do

OECD Watch undertakes a range of activities, all centered around empowering communities, individuals and workers to use the Guidelines and NCP system to effectively gain access to remedy for corporate misconduct. We are also committed to making sure that the bar on international accountability standards is raised.

## Policy & advocacy

OECD Watch has a formal relationship with the OECD in respect to the OECD Guidelines. We bring the perspectives and interests of NGOs and communities affected by corporate abuse into policy discussions at the OECD. We monitor and advocate for improved NCP performance and implementation of the Guidelines. We also develop policy advice on a wide range of social, environmental and economic topics related to international investment and business activity, including on the formulation and implementation of the OECD's sectorial due diligence guidance.

**Example:** OECD Watch provided the civil society input into the 2011 revision of the OECD Guidelines. This led to the inclusion of a new chapter on human rights and strengthened provisions on supply chain responsibility and greenhouse gas emissions.

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## Capacity building & case support

We provide capacity building workshops, as well as advice and support to civil society organisations and victims of corporate abuse. We also help to file complaints with NCPs. We advise civil society and victims throughout the entire complaint process on how to interpret and use the Guidelines to seek remedy and hold corporations to account.

**Example:** OECD Watch assisted former Heineken factory workers in the Democratic Republic of Congo to file a Guidelines complaint against the Dutch beer brewer for unjustly dismissing them. The complaint resulted in Heineken paying the former workers US\$ 2 million in compensation in 2017.

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## Research & analysis

We research and analyse various aspects of the implementation, effectiveness and impact of the Guidelines. We maintain an online database of all NCP complaints filed by NGOs with information and analysis related to case outcomes. This means that we are well placed to advise and assist victims of corporate abuse.

**Example:** OECD Watch regularly produces research reports such as *Remedy Remains Rare*, which analysed the effectiveness of the NCP system in providing victims of corporate misconduct with effective access to remedy.

# Join OECD Watch

Do you represent an NGO? Would you like to get involved in our efforts to improve corporate accountability? If so, we warmly invite you to join the OECD Watch network! Send an email to [info@oecdwatch.org](mailto:info@oecdwatch.org) for more information about how to become a member.

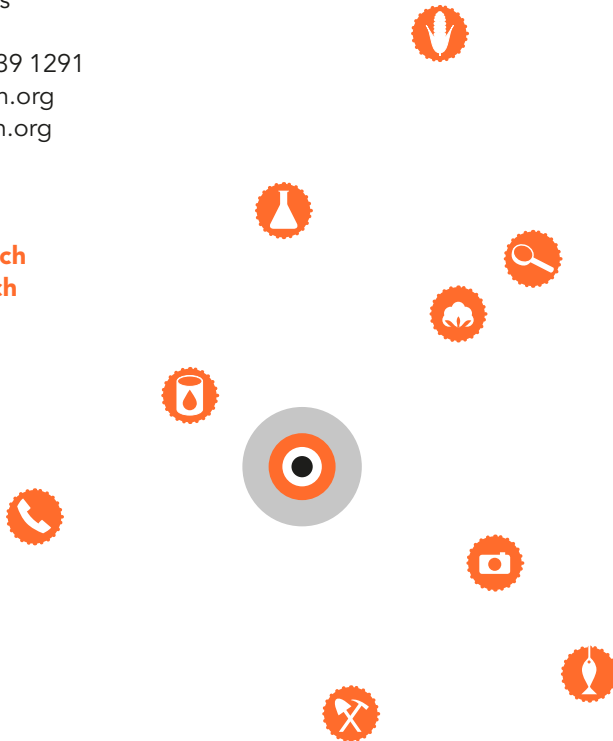
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