

# OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct

Promoting responsible business conduct across economies

The OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct (WPRBC) promotes Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) worldwide to enhance the contribution to sustainable development made by multinational enterprises.



Established in 2012, the WPRBC, a subsidiary body of the [OECD Investment Committee](#), is composed of representatives of all governments adhering to the [OECD Declaration on International Investment](#), which includes the [OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises \(MNE Guidelines\)](#). The MNE Guidelines are the only government-backed multilaterally agreed and comprehensive instrument on RBC and [are aligned with other international instruments](#) such as the ILO MNE Declaration and the UN Guiding Principles

on Business and Human Rights as key reference points for responsible business.

The WPRBC's [mandate](#) is to support the implementation of the MNE Guidelines globally. *This includes promoting and disseminating the Guidelines among Adherents and non-Adherents, supporting the [National Contact Points for RBC \(NCPs\)](#); promoting national and international policy coherence on RBC, as well as the implementation of due diligence for RBC.* The WPRBC also contributes to the activities of the [Global Forum on RBC](#).

## Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct: facts and figures

- At present, there are 49 Adherents to OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, representing all regions of the world: the [37 OECD member countries](#) and 12 non-members (Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Croatia, Egypt, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Peru, Romania, Tunisia, and Ukraine). Uruguay is expected to soon become the 50<sup>th</sup> member and the 8<sup>th</sup> Latin American Adherent country.
- Together, Adherents account for 71% of the global inward stock of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and 77% of total outward investment in 2018.

The WPRBC is currently chaired by Prof. [Christine Kaufmann \(Switzerland\)](#). The Working Party meets twice a year (March, November) at the OECD in Paris and holds regular consultations with stakeholders, including, [Business at OECD \(BIAC\)](#), the [Trade Union Advisory Committee \(TUAC\)](#) and [OECD Watch](#). Each year, the WPRBC produces a [report](#) for transmission to the OECD Council, reflecting the broad array of activities undertaken to promote the implementation of the MNE Guidelines. The OECD Centre for Responsible Business Conduct provides the Secretariat of the WPRBC.

## **RBC for people and planet: the work of the OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct**

RBC principles and standards set out the expectation that businesses – regardless of their legal status, size, ownership or sector – contribute to sustainable development, while avoiding and addressing adverse impacts of their operations including throughout their supply chains and business relationships.

The WPRBC has explored the application of the MNE Guidelines in a range of areas and topics. This includes recent work on [RBC and digitalisation](#), including a 2020 report on [Digitalisation and Responsible Business Conduct: Stocktaking of policies and initiatives](#); work on [RBC and gender](#); and ongoing work on tools to address environmental impacts, including on [RBC and climate change](#).

Work by the WPRBC on due diligence guidance for business includes projects in the [agriculture, garment & footwear, extractives](#), and [financial](#) sectors, in addition to work on [responsible minerals supply chains](#).

RBC standards also contribute to advancing the [implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals](#). In 2019, jointly with the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration and UNICEF, the OECD released a report on [Ending child labour, forced labour and human trafficking in global supply chains](#) under the aegis of Alliance 8.7. with the involvement of the WPRBC.

The WPRBC also engages in dialogue with a wide range of countries. Engagement with both Adherents and non-Adherents to the Guidelines has taken place as part of [OECD Investment Policy Reviews \(IPRs\)](#). A range of IPRs carried out in 2020 in Georgia, Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand as well as a regional IPR covering six Eastern European and Southern Caucasus countries, included a dedicated chapter addressing RBC. More recently, the WPRBC has started work on RBC policy reviews, including in [Peru](#), as part of the [Responsible Business Conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean project](#) and the [Responsible Supply Chains in Asia programme](#).

### **Find out more**

- [Mandate of the WPRBC](#)
- [OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises](#)
- [National Contact Points for RBC](#)
- [OECD Due Diligence for Responsible Business Conduct](#)
- [Annual reports on the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises](#)

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