

# GERMAN REVIEW ON THE UNITED NATIONS | Abstracts

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## UN and Business

Romy Klimke · Lina Lorenzoni Escobar ·  
Christian Tietje

pp. 243–247

### Five Years of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, launched in 2011, propose a broad governance framework to address human rights violations perpetrated by private companies. Said framework equally involves states and enterprises with different yet complementary roles. This approach has generated an unprecedented level of consensus, while not completely overcoming criticism. Premised on voluntarism, the implementation of the Principles has been carried out with uneven levels of commitment, by states and by companies alike. The present contribution overviews the conception, structure and current standing of the Principles in light of recent developments in the field of business and human rights.

### “My Mission in Syria Is Considered as ‘Mission almost Impossible’—But It Is Necessary.”

pp. 248–251

In an interview, **Staffan de Mistura**, the UN Special Envoy for Syria, discusses the situation in the country, the stance of Russia and the USA as well as the perspectives for a political solution of the conflict.

Oliver Wieck · Jens Martens

pp. 252–253

### Comment: More Economic Participation in the Implementation of the SDGs?

The authors comment on the involvement of business in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While Oliver Wieck underlines the important role of companies for a sustainable society, Jens Martens is sceptical about the wide influence of business interests.

Klaus Leisinger

pp. 254–257

### On the Philosophy of the UN Global Compact Corporate Responsibility and the Critique of Pure Reason

The UN Global Compact (UNGC) is the most important global corporate responsibility platform. Since its conception, however, the state of globalization has further developed, triggering a necessity for continued adaptation for the UNGC.

Among the areas for further development are sector-specific differentiations of the ten principles. A second area for change is the inclusion of compliance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Last but not least there is a need for resuming Global Compact Learning Fora. As the depth and breadth of the ten principles allows for a wide scope of interpretation, moral imagination of business leaders is in demand, not additional principles.

Wade Hoxtell

pp. 259–263

### Effective and accountable?

#### UN-Business Partnerships at a Crossroads

Now more than ever, governments are calling on the private sector to contribute to achieving economic, social and environmental goals. While the UN system and its agencies, funds and programs have long entered into partnerships with companies, the increase in the number and types of collaborations in recent years, and concerns about transparency and accountability, are raising red flags. The UN is thus at a crossroads. To move forward constructively, the UN must find a balance between the need for adequate oversight with the desire for flexibility among UN entities for trying, and learning from, new partnership models.

Anna Cavazzini

pp. 264–268

### The Presidency of the UN General Assembly in Flux

#### A Stronger Role in the Institutional Structure of the UN

The United Nations General Assembly (GA) is the main deliberative body of the UN and considered the most legitimate organ; every member state has one vote. Until some years ago, its President played only a rather ceremonial role—but this is changing. This article examines the role of the President of the UN General Assembly within the UN institutions. It gives an overview of the formal competences of the GA President and his office and describes the instruments at his disposal, using current examples. Finally, this article discusses how the President's power and influence have changed in the course of time.

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