



Human Rights Solutions Forum Tackles Business Dilemmas

For more information: jason.mcgeown@maplecroft.com

(Istanbul, 9 June 2009) – A web-based Solutions Forum to address and discuss human rights dilemmas for multi-national corporations was launched during the Global Compact Annual Local Network Forum in Istanbul. The Human Rights Solutions Forum is produced jointly by the UN Global Compact, Maplecroft and is funded by the GE Foundation, the philanthropic organization of General Electric Company.

The project was initiated in December 2008 at the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Forum investigates human rights issues affecting business operations and supply chains in emerging markets, weak governance zones or in geographies where there are substantial human rights challenges. It aims to enhance business understanding of human rights issues within their sphere of influence and to promote best practices.

The online forum launches with a set of 30 human rights themes, including child labour, non-discrimination, privacy and access to water. Stakeholders are asked to comment on the significance of each theme as well as suggest additional dilemmas for business.

A more detailed set of dilemmas explores the actions of business through “real world” case studies, discusses the different rights that are impacted and invites the viewpoints and solutions of different stakeholders.

Additional dilemmas and solutions will be included over time, building on the work of other human rights initiatives, best practice, tools and case studies.

“We are pleased to be piloting the Forum and presenting the first more detailed dilemma as part of the Global Compact Annual Local Networks Forum meetings in Istanbul.”

Dr Kevin Franklin, Director of Research at Maplecroft

“The Solutions Forum provides business with a unique opportunity to improve its understanding of human rights and participate in a real-time dialogue on solutions with other stakeholders. The Global Compact is delighted to be part of this initiative.”

Ursula Wynhoven, Head, Policy and Legal at the UN Global Compact

The forum can be accessed at <http://human-rights.unglobalcompact.org> or via <http://www.maplecroft.com>.

Further information

For more information contact: Jason McGeown
Communications Manager

Tel: +44 (0)1225 420000

Email: jason.mcgeown@maplecroft.com

Web: www.maplecroft.com

About the United Nations Global Compact

The United Nations Global Compact is both a policy platform and a practical framework for companies that are committed to sustainability and responsible business practices. As a multi-stakeholder leadership initiative, it seeks to align business operations and strategies with ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption and to catalyze actions in support of broader UN goals. With over 5,000 signatories in more than 130 countries, it is the world's largest voluntary corporate citizenship initiative.

About the GE Foundation

The GE Foundation, the philanthropic organization of the General Electric Company, works to solve some of the world's most difficult problems. In coordination with its partners, it supports U.S. and international education, the environment, public policy, human rights, and disaster-relief around the globe. In addition, the GE Foundation supports GE employee and retiree giving and involvement in GE communities around the world. In 2007, the GE family including businesses, employees, retirees and GE Foundation contributed more than \$210 million to community and educational programs, including \$93 million from the GE Foundation. For more information, visit www.gefoundation.com

About Maplecroft

Maplecroft specialises in the analysis and creative visualisation of global risks. Our comprehensive portfolio of indicators, reports and interactive GIS maps provide clients with innovative ways to manage and mitigate risk. These tools assess vulnerability to over 100 global risks and allow organisations with a global footprint to formulate strategy, control risk exposure, secure industry leadership and work towards a sustainable future.