

Carrefour makes a commitment in favour of UN standards on the responsibility of companies for human rights

Having taken position for an international standard on the responsibility of companies for human rights in 2003, the Carrefour Group goes even further today. The group makes a commitment in favour of UN standards on the responsibility of companies for Human Rights and supports the implementation of an independent mechanism, for control, dialogue and consultation concerning the implementation of the Standards.

For the standards of UN on the responsibility of companies in human rights

The Carrefour Group congratulates the appointment of Mr. John Ruggie, as Special Representative for the General Secretary of United Nations in charge of the question " human rights and transnational and other companies " following the resolution adopted during the last session of the Commission of the human rights of United Nations (E/CN.4/LMBO/2005/69). The Special Representative's mandate notably includes identifying and clarifying standards of corporate responsibility and accountability with regards to human rights, and to further the reflection on the role of nations in the rule and the control of the role of companies.

Carrefour rich from its experience with the FIDH and the work carried out together since 1997 to ensure supplier conformity to fundamental human rights with the help of the Infans organization, first publicly voiced its support for an international standard on company responsibility to human rights in April 2003. Carrefour today wishes, that the work of the Special Representative contributes to the fast adoption of such an instrument, notably to the profit the rapid application of the ILO rules.

For this purpose, the Special Representative should take into account the United Nations "Norms on the responsibilities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises with regard to human rights" adopted on August 13th, 2003 by the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. These "Norms" constitute today the most thorough transcription of the implication for business activities of the international laws on human rights. The Carrefour Group is delighted that the Special Representative's mission is to study and clarify the present notions in this text such as "complicity" and "sphere of influence".

For the creation of a mechanism of control and dialogue

The Carrefour Group expresses its commitment in favour of the standards of United Nations and its support for the study, also promoted by the FIDH, a necessary mechanism for independent control, for dialogue and for dialogue concerning the implementation of the Norms.

Carrefour supports the initiatives taken by the FIDH on the Norms and on the methodologies for setting up an independent mechanism which should facilitate, for the companies which choose to adhere to it, the identification of best practices which enable the companies to best satisfy their responsibilities.

The creation of such a mechanism is an important condition for the credibility and the effectiveness of such a Norm and for the positive international law which it sets out.

Carrefour Group and the FIDH will cooperate towards these goals with the Special Representative.

The second retailer in the world and the European number one, the Carrefour Group asserts itself for more than forty years as the partner of the everyday life of millions of customers in Europe, Asia and Latin America. It operates 11 000 stores in 30 countries and counts 430 000 staff. Its consolidated turnover (excl. tax) amounts in 2004 to 72,668 billion euro. Committed to a dynamic of growth and profitability, the Carrefour Group inscribes its action within a framework of a responsible business, respectful of differences and attentive to bring the economic and social progress everywhere where it becomes established. The Sustainability Report 2004 is available on the www.carrefour.com site.