



Communication on Engagement
October 2015

Communication of Engagement by AVSI Foundation

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www.avsi.org

To the Attention of
United Nations Global
Compact
New York, NY US

Milan, October 26th, 2015

Our ref.: GPS/ac/102

Fondazione AVSI is pleased to confirm its continuous and active engagement in support for the Ten Principle of the United Nations Global Compact. Our commitment to the Ten Principle is embedded in the 130 projects designed and delivered by AVSI in our 30 offices in the emerging countries as well as at the offices in Italy and in the US.

This is our first Communication On Engagement and we are committed to submit it every two years describing the specific initiatives AVSI takes in line with the Ten Principle.

AVSI Foundation is part of UN Global Compact since March 2012.

Sincerely Yours,

Giampaolo Silvestri

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1. AVSI Foundation short Presentation

Being an organization of the civil society at the service of the human person AVSI is striving in each intervention worldwide to value, affirm, respect, and comply the Ten Principle

AVSI Foundation is a global non-governmental organization headquartered in Italy. Its mission is to support human development in developing countries according to the social teaching of the Catholic Church: every person, as a unique being, and every community represent a resource regardless of their vulnerability and should not be reduced to a number within anonymous categories like “the poor”, “the sick”, or “the disabled”. AVSI works to help people become aware of their own value and dignity, and to become the protagonist of sustainable development.

AVSI is engaged at the present time in 136 projects in 30 developing countries worldwide in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Middle East and Asia. AVSI's holistic approach to sustainable development shapes its activities around several areas such as education and social development, urban development, healthcare, employment, agriculture, food security and water, energy and environment, humanitarian emergency and migration. AVSI reaches more than 4.000.000 direct beneficiaries each year.

AVSI's human capital includes 1.280 people of which the great majority are local staff, in addition more than 1.250 volunteers each year support AVSI in Italy and abroad conducting awareness and fund raising initiatives.

On average in the last recent years AVSI received from institutional and private donors (respectively around 43% and 57%) contributions for a total amount of over 45 million euro (AVSI worldwide). Among its major institutional donors and partners are the Italian Government, the European Union, USAID, FAO, UNICEF, the World Bank, and ILO. AVSI is ECOSOC and UN Global Compact accredited.

AVSI partners with over 700 firms and organizations, including NGOs, public and local institutions, CBOs, informal groups, and multinational and local enterprises. More than 60 organizations are incorporated into a wide “AVSI network”, which works systematically on the implementation of projects, sharing methods and experiences, discussing sustainable development issues, and facilitating capacity building. From the initial group of 27 founding members, it has become a “network bound by an operative friendship.”

2. AVSI Foundation commitment to Business and Human Rights

- As a relevant example of AVSI commitment to the Ten Principle of the UN Global Compact we are presenting the most recent action done in line with the first two principle related to Human Rights.

AVSI has develop an innovative tool to enable companies to begin reporting on their human rights performance, regardless of size or how far they have progressed in implementing their responsibility to respect human rights. This tool titled *BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS: PATHWAYS TO COMPLIANCE IN SMEs. FROM SELF-ASSESSMENT TO DUE DILIGENCE*, is AVSI's contribution to the work of the Steering Committee on Business and Human Rights of the Italian Inter-ministerial Committee on Human Rights.

 **MAY2015**
BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS: PATHWAYS TO COMPLIANCE IN SMEs. FROM SELF-ASSESSMENT TO DUE DILIGENCE.

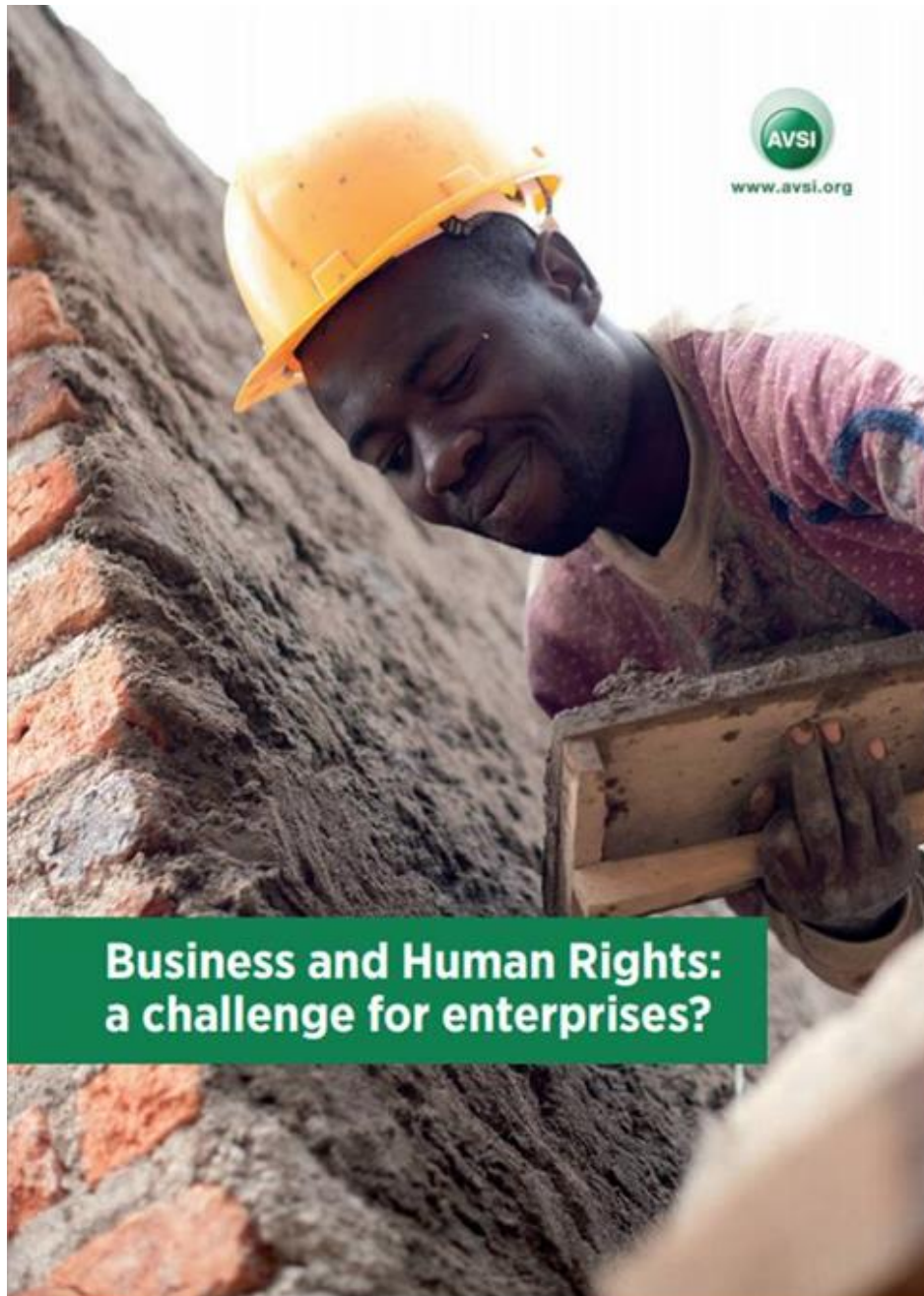


AVSI'S contribution to the work of the Steering Committee on Business and Human Rights of the Italian Inter-ministerial Committee on Human Rights.



The document is available at the link
http://www.avsi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/PMIHR2015_web.pdf

- This tool has been preceded by a research presented in a document titled ***Business and human rights: a challenge for enterprises?*** . This document is the result of an investigation done by AVSI Foundation in collaboration with a group of researchers and scholars of the University of Rome 'Tor Vergata'. Results of the research have been presented at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs during a workshop organized by the Italian Interministerial Committee for Human Rights.



The document is available at the link
<http://www.avsi.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/BUSINESS-INGL-BASSA.pdf>

- AVSI Foundation and Mazars, international professional services firm, organized a lab, on June 4th 2015, at European Development Days 2015 in Brussels, Europe's leading forum on development and international cooperation. The lab was the presentation of the first uniquely practical tools to help companies meet the regulatory imperative for more and better human rights reporting. AVSI and Mazars both have led initiatives to advance the respect of human rights within business in the profound belief that the profit and not-for-profit sectors can collaborate successfully for sustainable development. In today's ever more transparent world, companies are under increasing pressure to show that they respect human rights throughout their operations and value chains. This means demonstrating that they are not harming the fundamental dignity and welfare of people as they go about their legitimate work and generate the jobs, wealth and growth that benefit all societies.



AVSI presentation at European Development Days on June 4th 2015 of the work done on Business and Human Rights.

October 26th, 2015