



A report issued by Estidama for Research and Feasibility Studies

the private sector and responding to human rights obligations

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Estidama for Research and Feasibility Studies issued a report entitled "The Private Sector's Response to Human Rights Obligations... Opportunities and Challenges in Light of the United Nations Rules for Business, Human Rights, and the United Nations Global Compact"

The report present the basic principles and backgrounds for integrating companies and business in the implementation of human rights obligations, which are based on the United Nations Framework for Business and Human Rights "Protection, Respect and Remedy" (2008) and the accompanying guidelines adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council (2011), as well as The United Nations Global Compact, which was launched in 1999 to encourage the companies to align their strategies and operations with ten global principles related to human rights, workers' rights , the environment and anti-corruption, and to take actions that promote societal goals and implement the **SDGs**

802 Arab business entities joined the United Nations Global Compact, Lebanon, UAE and Egypt are at the forefront

The report revealed that there are 802 Arab commercial and non-commercial companies and business establishments joining the United Nations Global Compact (about 3.7% of the total number of affiliated companies around the world).

Egypt ranks third among the Arab countries in terms of the number of institutions joining the global compact , after Lebanon (193 institutions), the United Arab Emirates (183 institutions), then Egypt (92 institutions), and precedes Tunisia (60 institutions), Saudi Arabia (47 institutions) ,Jordan (43 institutions), Morocco (27 institutions), Kuwait (27 institutions), Qatar (19 institutions), Sudan (17 institutions), Syria (15 institutions), Iraq (14 institutions), South Sudan (10 institutions), Yemen (8 institutions), Sultanate Oman (7 institutions), Bahrain (7 institutions), Palestine (7 institutions), Libya (3 institutions) and Somalia (3 institutions), while there is no organization affiliated from Algeria and Mauritania.

Egypt also comes in ranked as third in Africa after Kenya (287 institutions), Nigeria (131 institutions) and equally with South Africa (92 institutions).

The nature of the Egyptian institutions joining the Global Compact are distributed among 77 profit companies, 8 non-governmental and non-profit organizations, three non-commercial regulatory governmental bodies, two chambers of commerce and federations, 7 academic and educational institutions, 5 banks\.

The report explained the existence of favorable opportunities to enhance the role of the private sector in implementing human rights obligations, especially in light of a number of strategies and regulatory rules established by the state in recent years, the most important of which is the launch of the National Human Rights Strategy, which includes a set of expected



results that converge with the contents of the United Nations framework. Business and human rights, and strengthen the role of the private sector in respecting the right to decent work, health and environmental rights, and the rights of women, children and people with disabilities.

The report also reviewed other opportunities that magnify the role of the private sector in the field of respect for human rights, especially the initiative of the Financial Supervisory Authority to oblige companies to disclose the application of environmental, social and governance standards related to sustainability and the criteria for the financial effects of climate change through the Authority's decision No. 108 of 2021, and the initiative of a number of Egyptian banks to joining the Equator Principles, which focus on addressing environmental and social risks in financing projects, in addition to the legal obligations of Egyptian companies to labor, environment and investment laws, which include good texts regarding the promotion and protection of human rights.

The need to adopt a national measurement mechanism and build the capacities of government agencies and private sector institutions to enhance the integration of human rights obligations into business

The report recommended taking advantage of the need of private sector institutions to improve their practices related to environmental, social and governance performance and emphasizing their close connection with the United Nations framework for business and human rights.

The National Strategy for Human Rights and the decisions of the Financial Supervision Authority enhance the role of companies in implementing human rights obligations

The report emphasized the importance of developing national mechanism for measuring, monitoring and following up companies' commitment to respecting human rights and building the human, institutional and organizational capacities of the government and the private sector to enable them to adopt and implement the United Nations framework for business and human rights, as well as strengthening accountability mechanisms and independent oversight of measures of protection, respect and redress related to business and human rights, and strengthening the role of independent civil society organizations and national institutions (the National Council for Women, the National Council for Human Rights, the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood The National Council for Persons with Disabilities) in following up and evaluating practices in this regard.

Full report :- <http://estedama-eg.com/>