Competing Responsibly: Are Businesses Appropriately Balancing the Motive of Profit with the Social Responsibility of Upholding Human Rights?

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### Who are the actors?
- Multinational Corporations (MNCs), States, Civil Society, Impacted individuals

### How did the issue arise?
- Main corporate aim is to maximize profit, not protect human rights.
- Globalization has provided power discrepancies and allowed MNCs a great degree of influence.
- The goal of profit and the increase in power means that MNCs have greater effects on human rights and have greater risk of violations.

### What is the international response?
- Global Compact and 10 Principles
- Special Representative on Human Rights and Transnational Corporations
- “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework
- ISO 26000
- UN Guiding Principles
- Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights

### What were the positive impacts?
- Created concrete definition of CSR
- More standardization
- Greater clarification
- More information sharing
- Increased communication and dialogue
- Better reporting
- More transparency and disclosure
- Wide consensus
- Greater stakeholder cooperation
- Overall greater commitment to CSR

### What are the areas of improvement?
- Some standards are too abstract and require clarification.
- CSR initiatives need greater cohesiveness and harmonization.
- Language needs to be simplified.
- More measurable goals are needed.
- Implementation, regulation, and enforcement are lacking.
- Risk assessment plans are needed.
- More awareness about the benefits of CSR programs is crucial.

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**Global Compact and 10 Principles**

1. **RESPECT**
   - Respect for the human rights in your area of influence.

2. **ENSURE**
   - That your company does not participate in any way in the violation of human rights.

3. **SUPPORT**
   - Business and human rights.

4. **ELIMINATE**
   - All forms of forced or compulsory labor.

5. **ERADICATE**
   - All forms of child labor in your productive chain.

6. **STIMULATE**
   - All practices that eliminate all forms of discrimination in the workplace.

7. **ASSURE**
   - That there is no discrimination or harassment.

8. **DEVELOP**
   - Activities and policies to promote ownership and responsibility in the organization.

9. **PROMOTE**
   - The development and dissemination of environmentally responsible technologies.

10. **FIGHT**
    - Corruption in all its forms, including extensive and minor.

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**Corporate Social Responsibility:**

The corporate obligation to respect human rights by doing no harm, conducting broad due diligence, and providing remedy, also through awareness, prevention, and acknowledgement of impacts.