



OECD GUIDELINES FOR
MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES ON
RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT

SLOVAK REPUBLIC
NATIONAL CONTACT POINT

Ministerial meeting 2023

Over the last decade, the demands for compliance with international standards on Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) have increased enormously in the business world. By adhering to RBC standards, business entities are expected to contribute to sustainable development and thus prevent adverse impacts on humanity, the environment and society as a whole. The OECD RBC instruments, which include the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, capture these requirements.

Governments have a key role to play in supporting the effective implementation of RBC standards. They create a favourable policy environment and incentives for business entities and set an example for the whole of society by their actions and compliance with RBC standards.

To address this need, the **OECD Council** adopted the **OECD Recommendation on the Role of Government in Promoting RBC** („the Recommendation“) on 12 December 2022. The Recommendation lays out a set of **21 principles and policy recommendations** to assist governments, other public authorities and relevant stakeholders in their efforts to design and implement policies that enable and promote responsible business conduct. A total of 51 countries have adhered to the Recommendation which has been publicly launched at the [OECD Ministerial Meeting on Responsible Business Conduct](#) on 14-15 February 2023, which resulted in the adoption of the [Declaration](#).

On behalf of the Slovak Republic, the Ministerial Meeting on the RBC was attended by Peter Švec, State Secretary of the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic.



Bôrik conference 2017

With the participation of the State Secretary Mr Vojtech Ferencz, an expert seminar was held on Monday 23 October 2017 at the Bôrik Hotel with the aim of promoting the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Guidelines („Guidelines“) for Multinational Enterprises more widely.

The Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic (MH SR), acting as the Secretariat of the National Contact Point for the Guidelines, used this opportunity to present the experience of foreign partners on how to most effectively build a system of mutual relations and address specific instances related to non-compliance with the Directives.

The Guidelines, developed by OECD members, contain a set of recommendations on Responsible Business Conduct (RBC). This multilateral code helps to foster mutual trust between multinational companies and the countries in which they operate. When a company subscribes to the Guidelines, it does so of its own free will. However, despite the absence of an enforcement mechanism, the loss of trust by surrounding actors is a strong argument.

Ana Novik, Head of the OECD Investment Division, opened the session by giving a video presentation.

Within the seminar programme, representatives of multinational companies established in Slovakia, employers' organisations, trade unions and the third sector had the opportunity to listen to presentations by representatives of the OECD and NCPs from Germany, the Netherlands and Hungary. Presenting the experience of foreign partners gives the opportunity to learn how to create an environment for cooperation between companies and entities that are affected by their activities.

Aware of the need to spread awareness of the Guidelines as a standard of RBC, the MH SR actively participates in the activities of the NCP. It is this platform and close cooperation between the state, multinational companies, employers' organisations, trade unions and the third sector that can contribute to the widest possible awareness of the guidelines and thus contribute to a more comprehensive development of Slovakia's business environment.

