



Business for the Rule of Law

EXAMPLES OF BUSINESS ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF RULE OF LAW

***Disclaimer:** The following collection of examples, organized by industry sector, is an illustration of how business can contribute to the advancement of the rule of law around the world. These examples hail from companies representing a broad range of sectors and regions, reflecting the fundamental significance of the rule of law to business and society. They have been sourced from information available in the public domain, so may not necessarily have been reviewed by the companies concerned, nor been through a vetting process, and may be subject to further editing. They are intended to raise awareness of the many ways in which business is already supporting the rule of law through engagement with, other businesses, the legal profession and civil society. We hope this collection inspires other businesses to take action in supporting the rule of law and that it continues to grow. To suggest other examples for the compilation, please contact: rol@unglobalcompact.org*



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Examples of Business Action in Support of the Rule of Law

The following are a sample of actions business can take to support the rule of law:

1) Ensuring Accountability

- Actions in support of reducing corruption and bribery in all their forms
- Actions in support of more effective, accountable, transparent, and inclusive institutions
- Actions that combat illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets, and combat all forms of organized crime

2) Providing Certainty

- Actions to strengthen the recognition, protection, and enforcement of intellectual property and other property rights
- Actions to improve the quality and accessibility of rules applicable to commercial relations
- Actions that strengthen labour and environmental standards

3) Promoting Equality

- Actions that improve access to basic services, including by achieving legal identity for all
- Actions to support the promotion and enforcement of non-discriminatory laws and policies
- Actions that support achieving gender equality
- Actions to legally empower the poor and to raise the awareness of vulnerable individuals and groups of their legal rights

4) Protecting Human Rights

- Actions that help prevent violence and other crime, including against women and children
- Actions to enhance access to information and protect other fundamental freedoms
- Actions in support of more responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels, and to boost public participation in law making
- Actions to support the consistency of local laws and international standards

5) Supporting Access to Justice

- Actions to improve access to justice mechanisms and public access to information
- Actions to improve the quality of legal education and capacity of and access to the legal profession
- Actions that support the independence of the judiciary
- Actions that support speedy and cost-effective resolution of legal processes



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Conglomerate

- 1) **Mobilizing a Localized Approach to Governance and Stability:** A U.S. based conglomerate partnered with a Washington D.C. based nongovernmental organisation (NGO) to support rule-of-law efforts in developing countries around the world, in regions ranging from Eastern Europe to the Middle East. The initiative focuses on the establishment of self-sustaining “conflict resolution centers,” which seek to manage and mediate the conflicts and changes that arise as countries transition to more democratic systems. (GE Foundation)
- 2) **Creation of a Rule of Law Index:** A U.S. based conglomerate has been the leading sponsor of the American Bar Association Rule of Law Project, which is a global effort to strengthen rule of law. This includes the creation of a ‘Rule of Law Index’ – a quantitative methodology for evaluating a country’s rule of law based on its respect for human rights, access to justice, regulatory framework for investors, transparency and curbing of abuses of government power. (GE Foundation)
- 3) **Strengthening the Rule of Law in a Southeast Asia:** Through a grant made to a trade council educational forum, a U.S. based conglomerate has supported efforts by state-government agencies of a Southeast Asian country, NGOs, business associations, academic institutions and others to increase regulatory transparency and public participation in law making processes. (GE Foundation)
- 4) **Contributing to Government Reform in a Southeast Asia:** Senior representatives of a U.S. based conglomerate held a series of meetings with NGOs, business leaders, and government officials with respect to reforms in a Southeast Asian country, with a view to addressing issues regarding fair and open procurement, leadership training, the legal environment for responsible investment, and the rule of law. In addition, the company’s related foundation has sponsored the provision of legal services by the Senior International Lawyers Program to legal institutions in this country and the participation of government officials in international training on infrastructure development and competitiveness at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (GE Foundation)
- 5) **Identifying Necessary Legal Reforms to Strengthen the Rule of Law in Africa:** A U.S. based conglomerate and global media outlet hosted a high-level workshop in a major African city to identify legal reforms needed to strengthen the rule of law and to combat corruption. Among the actions identified were: the enforcement and monitoring of the Code of Ethics; stricter asset disclosure for judges (both during and after they leave office); computer skills training for court staff, lawyers and judges; and expanded programs on mediation and arbitration to ease the work load of courts. (GE and Thomson Reuters Foundation)
- 6) **Grant to Support the Rule of Law in an Asia:** A three-year grant was provided by a global conglomerate to the business forum of an Asian country. The grant is aimed at strengthening rule of law in that country, and will be used to focus on commercial law, intellectual property rights protection, legal and judicial capacity building and legal and citizens’ rights. NGOs from the US and that country will determine funding priorities and progress. (GE Foundation)
- 7) **Donation to Help Support Anti-Corruption Projects:** A conglomerate has supported the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime to develop three key projects which were initially launched in Central America and Asia. Projects included training for individuals involved in Public Private Partnership procurement, fostering law enforcement cooperation between the private sector and



public authorities via corruption reporting mechanisms, and developing corporate governance rules. (Siemens)

- 8) **Partnering to Legally Empower Communities and Increase Awareness of New Act in Asia:** A corporate initiative focused on rural development in an Asian country teamed up with a regional information commission to begin empowering the communities at the grass root level through awareness of the Right to Information Act (RTI). The RTI awareness initiative increases opportunities for individuals to claim their legal rights. (Tata Steel Rural Development Society)

Clothing and Footwear

- 9) **Call for Probe into Crackdown on Factory Workers:** A global sportswear manufacturer, along with a local trade union and non-profit organisation, asked the host government to open an independent inquiry to determine the cause of an incident involving police, which resulted in the injury of a number of workers in the garment industry. (Nike)
- 10) **Call for Repeal of Law Condoning Violation of Labour Rights:** Forty-seven international clothing brands have called on the president of a Latin American country to repeal a law governing "non-traditional exports", on the basis that it encourages and condones violations of labour rights. (Various)
- 11) **Call for Investigation into Death of a Union Leader:** Several international clothing manufacturers in an Asian host country have called for an international committee to be established to investigate the deaths of several union leaders in that country. The companies have also written to the president of that country emphasizing the need for swift, just and transparent rule of law in order to provide a stable business environment and in turn, for those companies to retain their investments in that country. (GAP, H&M Hennes and Mauritz and various others)
- 12) **Sustained calls for Government to Increase Minimum Wage:** An international clothing brand has advocated for an Asian host government to increase local minimum wage. This has included collective action from a group of brands writing to the government to initiate a global multi-stakeholder dialogue to intensify calls for improved working conditions in the country. The company's CEO met with the host country president to call for an increase in the minimum wage. (H&M Hennes and Mauritz)

Consumer Products

- 13) **Investing in the Elimination of Gender Based Violence and Human Trafficking:** A global cosmetics company contributed funds to establish a "Global Center for Women and Justice" at Cornell University Law School. The Center works with judges, legal professionals, government, and NGOs from around the world to improve access to justice to eliminate violence against women and girls. Efforts include hosting an annual "Women and Justice Conference", conducting clinical research, and facilitating judicial and trial advocacy training with respect to human trafficking in regions around the world. (Avon)
- 14) **Petitioning Government to Protect Community from Violence:** A cosmetics company committed to responsibly sourcing ingredients has petitioned the government of a Latin American country to protect a local community where it grows and harvests Fairtrade cocoa beans. The company has collected over 9000 signatures through an online petition, which it has presented to that country, calling on its



government to protect the community from violence and recognize the farmland as a humanitarian zone. (Lush)

Extractive and Energy

- 15) **Providing support for training the judiciary and public defenders:** An energy company worked with UN Development Programme, the host government, and Amnesty International, to provide training to judges and public defenders on human rights and international law. (Statoil)
- 16) **Enhancing the Rule of Law in Asia:** A large oil and gas company financed a UN training program for diplomats and government officials of an Asian country. The objective of the training program was to enhance the skills and expertise of the officials in international law, multilateral negotiations and conflict resolution. (Total)
- 17) **Providing Support to the Legislature, Judiciary and Legal Profession:** A global energy and petrochemical company provided significant financial support to create laws and train judges and lawyers in eastern European countries as they transitioned to democratic systems. The company has also been involved in similar work in other countries such as training members of the Supreme Court of an Asian country and over 140 judges from a Middle Eastern country on human rights and judicial integrity. (Shell)
- 18) **Sponsoring Future Lawyers From Developing Countries:** A multinational energy and petrochemical company sponsors the annual Oxford University moot competition on freedom of expression and media law which is run as part of the university's program on comparative media law and policy. The event attracts teams of young law students from Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia to argue cases built around support for freedom of expression and the rule of law. (Shell)
- 19) **Establishing a Resource Centre for Responsible Business:** A major shipping company partnered with other businesses and NGOs to mobilize efforts to establish a resource center in that country to highlight ways to mitigate risks and support other business and the local community in promoting global trade through improved infrastructure. (Maersk Group)
- 20) **Developing Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights:** A group of companies in the extractive and energy sectors, along with governments of a North American country and Western European country and certain NGOs engaged in dialogue to develop companies' ability to maintain the safety and security of their operations within an operating framework that ensures respect for the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Voluntary Principles on Human Rights, which are a set of voluntary principles to guide companies, highlight the important role companies and civil society can play in supporting security sector reform, developing institutional capacities and strengthening the rule of law. (Various)
- 21) **Supporting Peace Building, Conflict Resolution and Human Rights :** A gold mining company has worked with the government of an Asian Pacific country, local businesses, and civil society to establish the Restoring Justice Initiative Association (RJIA). The RJIA is an integrated multi stakeholder/partnership approach to peace and security within communities in the region, with an emphasis on building the capacity and capability of formal justice sector agencies (police, local judiciary and community justice). As part of the effort, local leaders have been empowered to work to



promote law and order and support formal agency efforts in delivering improved law and justice services. (Barrick Gold)

- 22) **Program to Address Community Gender Based Violence:** A gold mining company is working with an international NGO and a local NGO in a Caribbean country to build the capacity of a local non-government organisation to develop and deliver training to local communities and employees regarding gender-based violence. (Barrick Gold)
- 23) **Brokering Dialogue with Various Stakeholders:** The largest oil and gas exploration company in a Latin American country, proactively engaged stakeholders within a high-risk conflict area, where its largest asset is located. The company formed a Sustainability and Corporate Affairs team to facilitate dialogue between the government, local community, company employees and sub-contractors aimed at organizing and strengthening different civil institutions and therefore helping to create peaceful dialogue and consensus building within the community and with third parties. Fifteen local community leaders were then identified and trained by the company on how to advocate for their social, political and economic rights with the State. (Pacific Rubiales Energy)
- 24) **Improving Effectiveness of Government including the Public Service:** A multinational mining company worked with the World Bank Group to support various projects to improve governance and help reform the legal sector in an African country. This included bringing judges from the company's home country to assist with the legal training of judges in the host country, modernizing the national juridical training center, and piloting programs aimed at improving the administration of, and access to, courts and legal services. The company sought to ensure that there was a sound legal framework in place which, among other things, would allow for the enforcement of contractual obligations, labour laws, and health and safety laws prior to making an investment in the country. (Vale)

Financial Services and Insurance

- 25) **Funding Rule of Law Projects in Developing Countries:** A global insurance company established a 'Rule of Law Fund' which provides grants to organisations and initiatives that support rule of law worldwide. The fund targets specific rule of law initiatives such as sponsoring conferences that focus on building frameworks for legal institutions in conflict zones and building pro bono efforts in developing countries. (Ace Group)
- 26) **Establishing a Dialogue with Government on Implementation of Comprehensive Peace Agreement:** The lead investor in the engagement group of an African country has led high level meetings with the Minister of Finance and the Secretary General of the Ministry of Mining of that country to address the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, fair revenue sharing and other human rights related issues. (MN Services)
- 27) **Calling for Binding Multilateral Agreement on Government Procurement Transparency:** An international financial organisation has called on all WTO members to commence the negotiation of a binding, multilateral agreement to increase transparency and due process in government procurement, to be concluded as part of the current Doha Round of trade negotiations. The organization has advocated that a coordinated approach to capacity building at the WTO level would be most effective. (International Chamber of Commerce)



- 28) **Adopting Ethical Investment Recommendations for State Fund:** A company's internal Council on Ethics has published 10 recommendations to guide the government of a Scandinavian country on excluding unethical investors from Fund's portfolio (majority government owned). All of these recommendations were adopted by the government. Recommendations relate to the production of weapons in that country, working conditions and environmental damage. (Norwegian Government Pension Fund)
- 29) **Testing the Impact of Microfinance Law in West Africa:** A global corporate foundation partnered with a regional microfinance network to test the impact of a microfinance law, introduced by the Central Bank of West African States, on small and medium-sized micro finance institutions (MFIs). Recognizing that the law provides an opportunity to strengthen the governance, operations, management capacity, and financial reporting of MFIs in the region, the project tested and demonstrated how it can help rural MFIs in a West African country scale up their outreach. (MasterCard Foundation)

Food, Beverage and Agriculture

- 30) **Collective Action to Support a Government's Anti-Corruption Agenda:** A global beverage company was one of the key drivers of the Business Coalition Against Corruption in an Africa country, in partnership with over 120 participants from the private and public sector and civil society, including Transparency International and the government. The company also played a leading role in the development of a code of ethics for business in an African country which was launched together with the UN Global Compact Local Network of that country. (Diageo)
- 31) **Addressing Gender Discrimination in Cocoa Supply Chains in Africa:** A chocolate company organized a high-level stakeholder event to discuss the root causes and impacts of gender discrimination faced by women farmers in the cocoa supply chain in an African country. The company further undertook an extensive assessment to evaluate the business case for supporting women's rights in that country. Specific inequalities like women's land rights, poor access to education and health, technological barriers and funding gaps were identified and followed by initiatives to empower women in cocoa communities. The assessment was made publically available in its entirety to promote mutuality in initiatives regarding women's rights. (Mars)

General

- 32) **Mass Weddings in Southeast Asia:** A UN Global Compact Local Network supported a mass wedding initiative, enabling over 4,500 underprivileged couples from various religions to obtain free marriage certificates, which would otherwise be prohibitively expensive. (Global Compact Network Indonesia)
- 33) **Collective Support for Responsible Lobbying in Climate Policy:** A group of entities comprising various UN agencies, multi-disciplinary organisations (including companies from various sectors/regions) and NGOs collaborated on developing a guide which outlines the practical actions a company can take, across multiple geographies, to become a responsible voice in climate policy debates. Methods highlighted include, providing constructive input and support from business, along with other stakeholders, to assist governments to create effective policies and opportunities for mutual action and collaboration. (UN Global Compact and various)



- 34) Call by Business for the Repeal of Freedom of Movement Restrictions for People Living with HIV:** In a move jointly sponsored by UNAIDS, more than 40 chief executive officers (CEOs) representing various industries around the world called for the repeal of laws and policies restricting freedom of movement of people living with HIV, calling the restrictions a violation of human rights and bad for business, particularly for those countries that are emerging hubs for international business which insist on maintaining these discriminatory measures. (Various)
- 35) Letter of Support for a Review Mechanism to Strengthen the UN Convention Against Corruption:** During the Conference of the Parties in Doha, November 2012 a group of global business leaders called on UN Member States to strengthen the UN Convention against Corruption. The business leaders stated that the world's only anti-corruption instrument was an effective start to combating corruption but it needed to go further by establishing a review mechanism. They also highlighted the Convention's criticality during periods of deep financial and economic turmoil when the severe strain of worldwide competition threatens the erosion of ethical standards in a way which is hard to reverse. (Various)
- 36) Advocating Change in Civil Rights Act to Protect LGBT Rights:** A group of chambers of commerce based in a North American state and various companies based in that country formed a coalition to advocate for amendments to the state's civil rights act which would allow protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Business cited the importance of having lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender friendly legislation to optimize the State's potential in attracting the best of the employee talent pool and address issues of discrimination. (Various)
- 37) Call for Partnerships to Improve Public Policy and Institutional Effectiveness:** A group of prominent business leaders signed a statement to promote collective action amongst their peers, particularly through public-private partnerships, to strengthen public governance frameworks and institutions at the national, regional and global levels, as a necessary enabler for global corporate citizenship. (Various)
- 38) Call to Strengthen Laws to Promote the Use of Clean Energy:** A group of leading business and industry groups in a large state in a North American country representing hundreds of companies and tens of thousands of workers from every sector in the State's economy issued a joint statement calling on law makers to strengthen laws promoting the use of clean energy. The group said the State has an opportunity to reinvent its energy system to one powered by technological innovations, greater efficiency, more competition and advanced renewable resources. (Various)
- 39) Call to Action from Business to Governments to Address Corruption and Foster Good Governance:** The UN Global Compact, in collaboration with participant companies (through its Anti-Corruption Working Group), intergovernmental organisations and NGOs, launched a call to action campaign encouraging business leaders to demonstrate their collective commitment by urging governments to incorporate anti-corruption and good governance considerations into the UN's Post-2015 Development Agenda, and to implement same within their respective legislative and regulatory frameworks. The drivers for business making such a commitment include: reduction in the cost of corruption in doing business and creating a level playing field for all; seeking a competitive advantage by attracting responsible investors, shareholders and consumers; and shaping the anti-corruption policy agenda and influencing future laws and regulations. (UN Global Compact and various)



- 40) **Call to Legislature to Pass Economic and Socially Responsible Immigration Reform:** A group of influential business leaders wrote an op-ed in the New York Times appealing to a North American legislature for bi-partisanship in passing immigration legislation that is humane and in that nation's economic and social interests. (Las Vegas Sands Corporation, Berkshire Hathaway and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation)
- 41) **Call to Action through Responsible Business Workshops:** Several United Nations agencies including the UN Global Compact, UN Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator and the Peacebuilding Support Office have partnered to facilitate discussions around "Promoting Responsible Business in Times of Transition – Towards Inclusive Job Creation & Sustainable Development" in an Asian country. The discussions emphasized the collaborative role of companies to support the rule of law in that country. (UN Global Compact)
- 42) **Call to Review Same Sex Marriage Cases before Federal Court:** Thirty major corporations have filed an amicus curiae ('friend of the court') brief with the Supreme Court of a North American country, urging the Court to grant a writ of certiorari ('judicial review') and hear appeals on same-sex marriage cases. The brief also urged the Supreme Court to hold that prohibitions on same-sex marriage and non-recognition of same-sex marriages as unconstitutional. The companies highlighted the business case for supporting marriage equality, stating that removing these discriminatory laws would reduce uncertainty and risk, remove significant administrative burdens, and improve employee morale and productivity. (Various)
- 43) **Public Private Partnership to Help Reduce Deforestation:** A coalition of international consumer goods companies, governments and civil society groups has committed to working together to help achieve zero net deforestation by 2020. The partnership initially included the government of a North American country but has expanded to include the governments of countries in West Africa and Western Europe. One consumer goods company in the partnership has taken the lead by contacting West African governments to participate in the development of a Palm Oil Action Plan. (Consumer Goods Forum)
- 44) **Public advocacy and support for same-sex marriage:** Several large companies in a country in the Asia Pacific region have expressed their support of same-sex marriage as part of a letter-writing campaign to increase pressure on the country's legislature to pass the reform. The corporate campaign argues that legalizing same-sex marriage is the only truly fair option as well as a sound economic option for business, as it will keep workforces happy and therefore productive as well as making companies competitive for talent worldwide. (Various)
- 45) **Collective Support to End Forced Labour:** Eleven global businesses joined together to create a "Global Business Coalition against Human Trafficking". The Coalition members use training, peer-to-peer mentorship, best practice sharing and thought leadership to amplify the impact business can have on eradicating all forms of forced labour and trafficking. (Various)
- 46) **Providing Scholarships for Law School Education:** A logistics company has introduced a scholarship for the children of its blue collar workers to enable them to study law. (Royal Mail)



Healthcare

- 47) **Providing Insight on Access to Justice:** A major pharmaceutical company joined the National Center for the Access to Justice (NCAJ) to launch the Justice Index, an online tool that compares levels of access to justice in state legal systems across a North American country. The project's interactive map shows disparities in such things as the number of attorneys who serve poor people, levels of access for people with disabilities, availability of help for those whose English is limited and amount of support for people who do not have lawyers. (Pfizer)

Information and Communication Technology

- 48) **Elevating Those Best Equipped to Advance Rule of Law:** An online technology company donated a substantial sum towards international journalism fellowships at a top North American university. The scholarships are intended for journalists from countries that traditionally restrict freedom of press and freedom of expression. The goal is to raise awareness of the pressures journalists face in countries where rule of law is not fully respected or observed. (Yahoo)
- 49) **Building Rule of Law Capabilities around the World:** A global technology company has a dedicated rule of law program which supports academic and thought leadership on the topic and pro bono advocacy efforts around the world. (Microsoft)
- 50) **Protecting Privacy through Data Security and Law Enforcement:** A global computer security software company conducts research on trends in cybersecurity and cybercrime, online safety and privacy. Research findings are presented in an annual report and shared with businesses, consumers and law enforcement agencies in order to promote awareness and reduce the impact of global risks. (Symantec)
- 51) **Establishing Company Based Pro Bono Programs that Address Community Issues:** The legal department of a global computer security software company has an established pro bono program. The company's attorneys, paralegals and public affairs officers partner with NGOs to help community members that lack access to courts and legal services to address issues including landlord-tenant disputes and providing protection to survivors of domestic violence. (Symantec)
- 52) **Supporting Transparency in the Supply Chain in Areas of Conflict:** A large technology company worked with investors, major businesses, and notable NGOs to make recommendations to a North American country's regulator during the rule making process regarding implementation of conflict minerals reporting requirements. (Intel)
- 53) **Providing Resources to Support Research in Environment, Health and Safety Law:** A global publishing and information company is providing access to over 3,000 journals and 12,000 books on Research 4 Life, a not-for-profit which provides developing countries with free or low cost access to academic and professional peer-reviewed content online. (RELX Group)
- 54) **Preventing the Transmission of Undesirable Bulk Political Messages:** A mobile network operator partnered with the government to develop administrative guidelines preventing transmission of bulk electronic content/messages that incite violence. It also sent messages of peace across its network to promote stability during elections. (Safaricom)



- 55) **Advocating for reform of Government surveillance practices:** A group of Internet companies have advocated for reforms to the government surveillance practices of a North American country to enhance privacy protections and provide greater transparency and accountability. (Various)
- 56) **Partnership to Create an Automated Birth Registration System:** A national telecommunications company partnered with United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the relevant government agency, to create an automated registration system that gathers birth information via mobile phone at the community level, and a web based application at hospitals. This has resulted in births being documented in a timely and accurate manner.(Legal identity is essential to ensuring access to basic services such as health care and education, and for the protection of individuals’ fundamental rights, including against exploitation and violence and also provides individuals with the ability to contribute to the economy through employment and consumption of goods and services. (Uganda Telecom)
- 57) **Project to register births via cell phones:** An international telecommunications company partnered with UNICEF to pilot a project using mobile technology to register and access birth registration in an Asian country. The project would play a pivotal role in improving citizens’ interactions through process optimization, better planning and management of data by the government, and improve health awareness through uptake of mobile-health (m-health) services. It would also assist in addressing issues of legal identity and providing children with access to basic education, health and other social services. (Telenor Group)
- 58) **Supporting Law Enforcement Agencies Tracking Alleged Child Exploitation Offenders:** A global technology company has collaborated with a law enforcement agency in a North American country to design a tracking system for investigators to share, search and collaborate on matters of child exploitation. (Microsoft)
- 59) **Call for Internationally Binding Treaty on Surveillance and Data Access:** A global technology company called on the government of a North American country to lead the way in developing an internationally binding treaty on surveillance and data access rules. The company proposed that such a treaty be founded on respect for human rights to promote public safety through better access to data while affording privacy protections for individuals. (Microsoft)
- 60) **Developing Technological Solutions to Eradicate Counterfeit Drugs in Africa and Asia:** A mobile technology company developed a Mobile Product Authentication™ solution that enables consumers to verify that the pharmaceutical product they are buying is genuine. Such technology solutions support law enforcement by mitigating the impact of counterfeit drugs which have led to a significant number of deaths globally. (Sproxil)
- 61) **Support for Easy Online Access to Constitutions:** A global technology company’s interest in how technology can continue to support and improve constitutional design resulted in it seeding a project developed by researchers at multiple universities that offers public online access to the world’s constitutions. The project, which is particularly aimed at individuals concerned with constitutional drafting, increases transparency of legal frameworks by enabling users to systematically compare constitutions across a broad set of topics and interact with the world’s constitutions in various ways. (Google)
- 62) **Public Advocacy for Marriage Equality:** A global technology company has publicly advocated for marriage equality in places in which it has facilities and employees. It has joined various major local



and global companies to publicly support the passage of legislation recognizing marriage for same-sex couples, including in its home country in North America and globally. Such efforts included publicizing the business case for supporting marriage equality on its blog, writing letters of support and submitting a ‘friends of the court’ brief to the Supreme Court of the country to strike down state bans on same-sex marriage. The company’s actions are based on the conviction that discrimination of any kind is a business issue affecting morale and productivity and the company’s access to talent. (Microsoft).

- 63) **Creating an E-learning Tool for Addressing Risks of Human Trafficking:** A global technology company technically developed and sponsored an e-learning tool in collaboration with End Human Trafficking Now and UN.GIFT. The online training program is created for business leaders, managers and employees to help them understand what human trafficking is, identify where it poses a risk to their business, and point to actions they can take to address this risk. As such, the collaboration proactively supports the rule of law by advancing international standards. (Microsoft).
- 64) **Donation to fund legal research regarding online safety:** A global technology company made a donation to a North American university’s Centre for Innovation Law and Policy for research into the legal and policy issues surrounding online safety for children, and to work with a provincial Attorney General’s office to develop new polices about using the Internet. (Microsoft)
- 65) **Call to Join a Global Open Innovation Initiative for Climate Resilience:** A telecommunications company has joined a coalition of partners (UN agencies and others) by committing to share data which can be used to develop innovative climate solutions. The coalition calls for private sector stakeholders to engage in sharing data for analysis which could advance international standards and prompt climate action. (Orange Telecom)
- 66) **Support for Email Privacy Rights:** Some 28 leading technology and media companies, 35 computer scientists, and 23 trade associations and advocacy groups have filed friend of the court briefs in support of a global technology company challenging the efforts of a North American’s country’s government to seize emails stored on a server in another country. (Microsoft)
- 67) **Developing Technology for Refugee Identification:** A global technology company and its corporate partners worked with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to design and deploy a registration system for refugees of an Eastern European conflict, many of whom had been stripped of all identification documents. The database created from the registration was used in the distribution of aid and assisted in searching for and reuniting separated families. The refugee registration kit has since been further developed by the company and UNHCR and deployed in several countries in Asia and Africa. (Microsoft)
- 68) **Advocating to End Violence against Women:** A global technology company partnered with UN Women and the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI) to increase visibility efforts surrounding the International Day of Ending Violence against Women. The company posted a white ribbon on its search engine which led to a web page at the UN that brought together the campaigns of partner UN agencies. (Google)



Legal

- 69) **Expanding Access to Local Laws:** At the request of the attorney general of an Asian island nation, an online legal resource company is consolidating, updating and indexing all laws in the country in order to create a final and updated version incorporating all legislation and amendments. The laws will also be translated into English and made available in the printed format and on a bi-lingual online platform. (LexisNexis)
- 70) **Creating Mobile Tool for Recording Human Rights Abuses:** An international legal organization partnered with an online legal resource company to create and launch an application for mobile phones that can be used to record and store evidence of human rights abuses in a way which makes the evidence usable in a court of law. (International Bar Association and LexisNexis)
- 71) **Pro bono Access to Legal Resources:** An online legal resource company with materials from around the world regularly offers complimentary access to disadvantaged countries. (LexisNexis)
- 72) **Creating a Human Trafficking Index:** An online legal resource company recently developed and published a human trafficking index. It is a tool to help campaigners against human trafficking assess where to direct their efforts to raise awareness. It uses a licensed collection of almost 6,000 news resources to highlight emerging trends and patterns of awareness around the world. (LexisNexis)
- 73) **Creating Opportunities for Others to Advance Rule of Law:** An online legal resource company financially supports NGOs working in issue areas that can be addressed through the rule of law, providing pro bono legal opportunities for individuals interested in helping those NGOs by offering complimentary access to primary sources of law. (LexisNexis)
- 74) **Legally Empowering Marginalized Groups:** A social enterprise has developed a business model to provide legal services and legal documentation at low cost to people living in poverty. In particular the organisation assists marginalized groups in Latin America, East Africa and Eastern Europe to obtain civil documentation and housing and land registration. It also provides advice on the creation of businesses and cooperatives to combat human trafficking as well as family and inheritance law policies. (Microjustice4All)
- 75) **Addressing Specific Needs of NGOs Advancing Rule of Law:** An online legal resource company was in a unique position to design and implement an online database specific to the needs of an NGO combating human trafficking. This system allows all employees of the NGO to access accurate information in real time to assist field callers on their national hotline service. Statistics showed the surrounding communities increased their use of the resources provided by the NGO. The donor company contributed 250 hours of labor, hardware and ongoing systems support. (LexisNexis)
- 76) **Highlighting Positive Correlations between Rule of Law and Economic Benefits:** An online legal resource company sponsored a conference on economic development and the rule of law in Latin America which was attended by high-ranking government officials, justices, lawyers, and high-level business executives. The goal of the conference was to discuss challenges of economic progress due to the absence of rule of law and how to address them. (LexisNexis)
- 77) **Investing in Training Legal Communities on Rule of Law:** An online legal resource company offered scholarships that allow judges, lawyers and others in the legal field to attend classes at the CEELI Institute. (LexisNexis)



- 78) **Advocating for Changes in Human Trafficking Law:** An online legal resource company advocated for efforts on the prevention of and remedies associated with human trafficking. A new uniform act was adopted, changing the lives of human trafficking victims in a North American country. (LexisNexis)
- 79) **Improving Accessibility to Law:** An online legal resource company has partnered with governments to create electronic databases of the national laws in several developed and developing countries. (LexisNexis)
- 80) **Legal Advances in Underrepresented Legal Communities:** A global law firm established the first law library in a small South Asian country and educated the legal community on how to use the library's services. The firm has also been working with the country on various rule of law challenges and has provided pro bono legal advice on establishing corporate law frameworks and attracting foreign direct investment. (White & Case)
- 81) **Using Expertise to Help Establish NGOs in Impoverished Countries:** A global law firm with operations in the Middle East uses its expertise in the region to help establish the legal status of NGOs seeking to improve accountability under the rule of law. (DLA Piper)
- 82) **Assisting in Post-Conflict Constitution Drafting in War-Torn Regions:** A global law firm endeavored to address some of the social and financial problems found in war-torn regions by providing pro bono legal advice through comparative analysis of state and international standards and drafting of legislation. This included drafting protections for newly orphaned children and providing support to strengthen central banking systems. (DLA Piper)
- 83) **Developing a Guide for General Counsel to Address Corporate Sustainability Issues:** A global law firm has partnered with the UN Global Compact to develop a guide for General Counsel that aims to raise awareness of the importance of their role in engaging with board members and C-suite executives in addressing human rights issues. This is particularly relevant for companies that operate in regions where the rule of law is weak. (Linklaters and UN Global Compact)
- 84) **Assisting Governments to Identify Gaps in the Rule of Law:** A global law firm established a non-profit organisation to provide pro bono legal services in a country which at the time was experiencing a transitioning government. Services included assessing the rule of law with respect to constitution drafting, human rights protections, international treaties and criminal law. Moreover, thousands of pro bono hours were donated by the firm to advance law reform efforts. (DLA Piper and New Perimeter)
- 85) **Protecting the Intellectual Property Rights of Indigenous People:** A North American based intellectual property law firm created the first ever pro bono practice dealing with biological technologies that assists indigenous groups in protecting their economic, social and/or cultural intellectual property rights. These efforts contribute to raising the standard, and promoting certainty with respect to the manner in which, intellectual property rights are accessed and managed. (Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox)
- 86) **Developing a Global Standard on the Rule of Law for the Private Sector:** An online legal resource company and a non-partisan think tank have partnered with the UN Global Compact to deliver a global framework on the rule of law for business. The aim of the initiative is to engage the private sector and other societal actors in issues including ensuring accountability, providing certainty,



promoting equality, protecting human rights and supporting access to justice. (UN Global Compact, LexisNexis and Atlantic Council)

- 87) **Collaborating with Other Businesses and Organisations to Advance Rule of Law:** A group of leading corporate law firms provided pro bono services to an international project which focused on how corporate securities law may encourage companies to respect human rights. The project required the participating law firms to facilitate surveys specific to their respective regions. The results contributed to the first in-depth, multi-jurisdictional study of the correlation between corporate law and human rights. (Various)
- 88) **Assisting in the Training of Legal Professionals:** A national rule of law initiative and an international law firm have partnered to help train legal professionals on the rights of citizens with disabilities in a country that has recently transitioned to a new legal system. (American Bar Association and Allen & Overy)
- 89) **Linking Global Businesses with Young Legal Professionals:** A legal services organisation has partnered with global businesses to help young legal professionals establish their own legal practices. (Microjustice4All)
- 90) **Empowering Junior Advocates through Funding and Technology:** An online legal resource company implemented an enterprise development initiative in an African country that aims to reduce the financial burden on junior advocates as they establish new legal practices across the country. The package includes a laptop, a 3G data package and platinum access to the My LexisNexis online legal research tool. In addition, the company introduced digital self-help kiosks and wireless technology for legal professionals in most courts across the country in order to support the legal fraternity and promote judicial efficiency. (LexisNexis)
- 91) **Providing Access to Legal Services through Free Smart Phone Application:** An online legal resource company launched a free legal application in a Western European country called My Legal Places. The easy-to-use resource promotes access to justice by enabling users to locate the nearest police stations, law courts, Citizen Advice Bureau and community legal offices. Moreover, the application is being used as a valuable research tool in legal projects. By viewing legal services in different areas, users can effectively compare and contrast the number of services available, providing a starting point to look at possible effects and trends. (LexisNexis)
- 92) **Private-Public Partnership to Promote Great Efficiencies in the Legal System:** An online legal resource company is partnering with the government of a Western European country on the research project 'Big Data for Law'. The project will provide new open data, new tools and new research methodologies required to chart and examine vast amounts of current legislation and ultimately promote accessibility, transparency and efficiency of the legal system, benefitting the entire legal community and society overall. (LexisNexis)
- 93) **Project Promoting Electoral Justice:** An international legal organisation has initiated a Rule of Law and Elections Project as part of its Africa Regional Programme. The project conducts election observation, training, assessments/studies and promotes dialogue on standards and principles relating to free and fair elections. It advocates for elections to conform to the principles of the rule of law and for the rights of all voters to be respected. The project also denounces the use of violence as a means



for resolving electoral disputes and encourages the establishment of credible judicial and non-judicial mechanisms to resolve electoral disputes in Africa. (International Commission of Jurists)

- 94) **Legal Help for Victims of Human Trafficking:** A law firm partnered with a street youth agency to provide legal representation to the victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. (Baker McKenzie)
- 95) **Access to Affordable Legal Advice:** An online on-demand service which connects consumers with experienced lawyers for a 15 minute phone call for a fixed fee. (Avvo)

Media and Entertainment

- 96) **Promoting Global Social Change through Pro Bono Practice:** A global media and information organisation created a networking program that connects NGOs and social enterprises in need of legal services with law firms looking to provide pro bono services. The organisation also maintains a library of publications, news and blogs related to law and social issues around the world. (Thomson Reuters Foundation)
- 97) **Lobbying for Intellectual Property Reform:** An organisation which acts on behalf of authors, composers, performers, publishers in a West African country has called on the federal government of the country to declare war on counterfeiting of that country's music and film citing the adverse impact of inadequate intellectual property laws on trade and employment in that country and across Africa. (Copyright Society of Nigeria)

Non-Government Organisations

- 98) **Providing Platform for Organisations Facing Novel Rule of Law Challenges:** An NGO whose members include global technology companies was established as a specific response to increased government attention to Internet governance and policy – a relatively new field of law involving privacy and civil rights concerns. The NGO provides a platform for dialogue with experts regarding policies companies should follow for government requests of private data or material censorship while still protecting rights to privacy and freedom of expression. (Global Network Initiative)
- 99) **Collective Support for Advancing the Rule of Law:** An independent, multi-disciplinary organisation collaborates with citizens, corporations, foundations and leaders from various disciplines, regions and sectors around the world to advance the rule of law through research and scholarship, development of a global rule of law index and strategic engagement. (The World Justice Project)
- 100) **Call to Action by Business to Ratify UN Convention:** A non-profit based in a North American country (with corporate members from various industries) that helps business drive performance by leveraging disability inclusion in the workplace, supply chain, and marketplace is mobilizing support by business to call on the country's legislature to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). (US Business Leadership Network)
- 101) **Call to Action by Business to Curb City Violence:** An association representing various businesses in a North American city has called on the mayor of that city to address the level of violence in the city citing its adverse impact on commerce and the community. (Downtown Seattle Association)



Real Estate

102) Call from Business Leaders to Government to Pass a Clean Air Act: The Chairman of a large real estate developer in an Asian country opened an online poll asking followers to vote on whether they wanted a clean air policy to deal with the smog after another day of choking smog hit the capital. This was after another spate of road closures and flights cancelled due to poor visibility. The poll attracted over 30, 000 responses with an overwhelming 99.8% voting in favor of the proposal. (SOHO China)

Retailer

103) Responsible Lobbying in Africa: A food and clothing retailer in an African country engages with the government through lobbying and research to improve agricultural, labour and education standards stating that such activities produce improved yields for its suppliers and enhanced loyalty from its customer base. (Woolworths Holdings)

Travel and Tourism

104) Partnering with Public Sector and NGOs Worldwide to Fight Child Trafficking: A global hospitality and travel company publicized the launch of an industry-driven initiative; “The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism.” The company has devoted significant resources to the fight against child sex trafficking by training their employees and teaming up with legal communities and NGOs to tailor holistic approaches to combat criminal activity. (Carlson Cos.)

105) Enhancing Public Access to Information on Forced Labour and Trafficking: Two companies in the travel industry have created online, universally available awareness programs on sex trafficking, sexual exploitation and forced labor. (Sabre and Starwood Hotels & Resorts)

106) Partnering to Educate Tourists regarding Illicit Travel-related Activities: Two companies partnered on the launch of a global campaign by World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Unesco which aimed to educate travelers about illicit travel-related activities, such as participation in human trafficking and dealing with counterfeit goods or endangered wildlife or plant species. (Sabre and Marriott International)

107) Displaying Sex-tourism Warnings on Travel Itineraries: A travel company included warnings on its itineraries for business travelers who are headed to destinations known for child sex tourism. As a specific action to promote greater respect for the law, the warnings state that having sex with a child violates U.S. law even when it takes place outside the country. (Carlson Wagonlit)