Allergan Commits to the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948 as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations. It sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected.

While not a treaty itself, the Declaration was explicitly adopted for the purpose of defining the meaning of the words "fundamental freedoms" and "human rights" appearing in the United Nations Charter, which is binding on all member states. Described as “the most translated document in the world,” the Declaration has been adopted in or has influenced many national constitutions since 1948. It has also served as the foundation for a growing number of national laws, international laws, and treaties, as well as regional, national, and sub-national institutions protecting and promoting human rights.

Allergan believes that there is value in having most of the world’s nations agree to a list of fundamental human rights, and further agree that these rights should be guaranteed beyond their own borders. Allergan – through our own global Code of Ethics – has consistently used a universal approach to human rights principles, implemented and enforced at all of its locations worldwide. By committing overtly to the provisions of the UN’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Allergan is reinforcing its dedication to these principles.
Allergan Commits to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)'s Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (MNEs) are robust recommendations to enterprises for responsible business conduct. These Guidelines were first adopted in 1976 by the governments of the OECD member countries. The 34 members of the OECD represent all regions of the world and account for more than 60 percent of economic output in the world. The basic concept behind this document is that internationally agreed-upon guidelines can help to prevent misunderstandings and build an atmosphere of confidence and predictability between business, labor and governments.

The Guidelines cover the range of MNE activities, including general policies, information disclosure, competition, financing, taxation, employment and industrial relations, environment, and science and technology.

Although the Guidelines specifically address the activities of MNEs in OECD countries, because these MNEs frequently operate worldwide, OECD member countries encourage their MNEs to adhere to these guidelines in all countries in which they do business, particularly in developing countries.

Allergan’s responsible business conduct is a core element of our established practices, which are articulated in our global Code of Ethics. These practices are consistently implemented and enforced at all our locations throughout the world. In formally committing to the OECD’s Guidelines, Allergan reiterates its belief in the importance of such measures for a global business enterprise.
Allergan Commits to the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles Concerning Multinational Enterprises & Society Policy

In the 1960s and 1970s, the activities of multinational enterprises (MNEs) prompted extensive discussions among international organizations. These discussions subsequently led to the development of international instruments for regulating the conduct of MNEs and defining the terms of their relations with host countries, mostly in the developing world. The International Labour Organization (ILO) – a specialized agency of the United Nations which focuses on labor issues and social policies – adopted in 1977 the “Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy” (also known as the “ILO MNE Declaration”).

The ILO MNE Declaration provides guidance about the responsibilities of businesses relating to employment, skills training, work and life conditions, and industrial relations. Although the majority of the guidance of the declaration directly concerns business enterprises, it also recommends that an effective application of labor principles includes shared efforts and responsibilities. The Declaration advises governments and social partners to adopt a coordinated approach, whenever possible, to maximize the contribution of business to economic and social development.

As part of our own global Code of Ethics, Allergan promotes the concepts of the ILO’s MNE Declaration. Allergan has always operated using universal labor principles that we have implemented and enforced at all our locations worldwide since our inception.

Allergan believes that business enterprises can have a major role and make a significant contribution to the social dimension of globalization. Businesses are a principal source of employment and income creation. And their values, practices and behavior will have an impact in the attainment of the goals of sustainable development, fair globalization and decent work conditions. These considerations are even more pertinent with business operations and investment in developing countries, where enterprises’ action has been frequently under scrutiny and where governments alone have not been able to solve some persistent social problems. By committing to the ILO MNE Declaration’s principles, Allergan affirms this approach.