

Examples of selected policy topics

Cobalt Mining in the DRC: Human rights violations including child labor.

Impacts major US automobile manufacturers who need increasing amounts of cobalt for electric vehicles

Proposed options: support firms in bolstering projects to audit cobalt mines, encourage the companies to join the OECD's Responsible Cobalt Initiative, and the Responsible Raw Material Initiative. US mission can provide capacity building and funding for improving Labor Inspectorate and number of inspectors, working to designate cobalt as "designated mineral" (politically unfeasible at moment).

US Electronics Industry doing business in Taiwan: excessive recruitment fees and debt bondage

To address the contributing factors to this situation, the U.S. government should coordinate with the Government of Taiwan and U.S. multinational corporations to increase oversight of recruitment practices by Taiwanese factories and support a broader shift towards direct hiring of foreign nationals. This option would require collaboration between the Governments of the U.S. and Taiwan to improve enforcement of existing recruitment fee legislation while also applying a more surgical approach to the electronics industry.

U.S. garment production in Ethiopia: unfair labor practices

to promote workers' rights in apparel factories in Ethiopia. This project is an important step in ensuring protection of rights, as well as access to remedy for workers, because it covers mechanisms for grievances, and legal assistance in resolving complaints. By helping to convene actors from unions, the ILO and the government, and expressing support for efforts to set a livable minimum wage. The US Embassy should be to advocate to Ethiopian counterparts about the importance of providing adequate protection for workers' rights, including by appropriately staffing the Ministry of Labor with inspectors, loosening restrictions around unions and collective bargaining, and providing mechanisms for workers who experience rights violations to pursue legal remedy

Policy topics, cont. specific companies

Albemarle in Chile: Human Rights Abuses Relating to Lithium Mining in the Atacama desert (includes Water, IPs, and tax evasion). The US embassy should consult with relevant stakeholders including the company, the Chilean government, and concerned indigenous groups to find a remedy to the immediate situation. This action ought to involve specific consultation with Albemarle to encourage transparency and responsible business practices moving forward, such as devising a public human rights policy as well as a robust human rights and environmental due diligence mechanism. Any consultation with Albemarle should encourage the company to comply with Chilean law and international norms including FPIC.

AIR B&B in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT): Human rights issues in conflict areas. US Mission should reach out to NGOs to facilitate training at Air B&B HQ regarding company's responsibilities under the UNGPs and to help them understand how their operations can be a source of political and social friction in situ. The U.S. Government should explore the possibility of introducing new legislation requiring Airb&b and other rental property companies to verify ownership of property that they are renting or to show proof of permission from the owner to rent the property in occupied or contested regions such as the OPT and Crimea

Wagner Group in the Central African Republic (CAR): Private Military and Security Companies (PMSCs) in conflict areas. The Russian government should sign the Montreux Document and take steps to mitigate human rights by Private Military Contractors (PMCs) by requiring all PMCs to be members of the International Code of Conduct for Private Security Providers (ICoCA). The Russian Federation should also further alleviate international pressure and scrutiny into Russian operations in the CAR by adopting a National Action Plan on business and human rights.

Linked-In in China: Privacy issues

Within the framework of the US NAP, promote GNI membership and leverage collective influence of tech leaders to pressure a change in Chinese internet laws. Incentivize companies to comply with GNI guidelines with tax breaks and preferential procurement status. Ideally, the US should prevent companies from operating in China until they conduct and publish a due diligence report outlining their human rights impact. The report must include an operational-level grievance mechanism for stakeholders adversely affected by the company's operations in China. Given this is a \$12 trillion market opportunity expect significant corporate backlash from this action.