

Mr. Georg Kell
Executive Director of the Global Compact
Office of the Secretary General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

January 7, 2009

Dear Mr. Kell,

On May 12, 2008, a broad base of civil society organizations collectively urged the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) to use its leverage and the privilege and prestige of membership in the UNGC to engage with PetroChina Co Ltd. (PetroChina), a UNGC participant, on behalf of the people of Sudan. At that time, you forwarded the letter of concern to PetroChina.

Since that time, Investors Against Genocide (IAG) and Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO), have privately engaged with representatives of the UNGC in an effort to address the concern. On December 15, 2008, after more than seven months and with still no response from PetroChina, IAG and SOMO submitted a formal complaint against PetroChina to the UNGC of "systematic or egregious abuse" of the Global Compact's overall aims and principles.

We strongly believe in the founding principles of the Global Compact, which calls for businesses to support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights and for businesses to ensure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses. The grave human rights abuses in Darfur, Sudan, demand the urgent and determined application of these principles.

In spite of these principles, PetroChina, the listed arm of China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), Sudan's largest oil industry partner, is indisputably linked to the regime perpetuating the violent conflict in Darfur.

Therefore, we ask the UN Global Compact to formally and urgently address this serious complaint against PetroChina under the UNGC's Integrity Measure for "Allegations of Systematic or Egregious Abuses."

In doing so, the UNGC will be taking a strong stand against abuse of its founding principles. By acting on the complaint, the UNGC will be supporting the significance and primacy of those principles, emphasizing that due diligence is both expected and required of signatories to avoid complicity in human rights abuses, and that mere lip-service is not acceptable. This complaint will encourage PetroChina to take strong action, encourage others in the region that want to avoid becoming future targets, and establish a precedent for future crises. We believe that the UNGC, having created the Integrity Measures, must now apply them, given the grave human rights abuses and the seriousness of this complaint. Acting otherwise would substantially weaken the moral influence of the UNGC.

In the April 2008 issue of the Compact Quarterly newsletter, you wrote, "Civil society must remain vigilant. Over and above being a partner in implementation, their continued vigilance will be required to ensure that businesses resist the temptation to take easy escape routes. It is not enough for business to focus on specialized engagement opportunities while neglecting core issues that are also impacted by their operations. Indeed, it would be wrong to allow for 'offsets' that serve to ignore other responsibilities. I hope civil society will not abandon its traditional watchdog role."

In writing this letter, the undersigned seek to fulfill the responsibility to act as corporate watchdog in order to meet with the expectations you have set forth. We believe that action by the UN Global Compact will both support and advance the real acceptance of its founding principles. We urgently hope that the application of these principles will help end the egregious violations of human rights occurring in Darfur.

Please direct any response to this letter to info@investorsagainstgenocide.org.

Sincerely,

Signatories to Letter to the UN Global Compact on the Complaint Against PetroChina

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