# **Principle 1:** Commit to Respect and Support Child Rights

The responsibility to respect and commitment to support children's rights can be integrated within company statements of business principles, codes of conduct and other values-related corporate commitments and policies. This commitment can also take the form of a stand-alone public statement.

In most scenarios, companies can integrate children's considerations into their broader human rights impact assessment processes, but in some cases, companies might consider conducting a stand-alone child rights impact assessment. Consultations with and about children can be invaluable to informing these efforts and understanding their concerns. If a business generally undertakes stakeholder and community consultations, it should recognize children as a distinct group. Engaging with relevant child rights experts and stakeholders can help a business more accurately understand its impacts on children. Monitoring and tracking the effectiveness of a company's response is also vital to verifying whether measures are effectively addressing impacts on children, and whether policies and procedures are adequate. Monitoring should incorporate qualitative and quantitative indicators relevant to children's rights. If a company determines that it might have caused or contributed to adverse impacts on children, it should provide for or cooperate in remediation through legitimate processes, including operational-level grievance mechanisms. An 'adequate' mechanism should have legitimacy, accessibility, predictability, equitability, transparency and compatibility with children and their representatives.

# TSX60 Companies that Consider Children in Relation to Policies and Commitments



## Good Practice Examples

- **Pan American Silver** is a Canadian silver mining company with operations in Canada, Argentina, Bolivia, Mexico, and Peru. In its *Corporate Social Responsibility policy*, it commits to respecting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Sherritt International is a Canadian energy company with nickel and cobalt operations in Canada and Cuba, and oil and gas operations in Cuba. In its *Human Rights Policy*, it commits to comply with the Children's Rights and Business Principles and the Child Rights and Security Checklist.
- Lundin Gold is a Canadian gold mining company with operations in Ecuador. In its human rights and social impact assessments, it identifies children as specific rights holders who require special attention and for whom there might be salient human rights impacts.
- **Suncor** is a Canadian energy company with oil and gas operations across Canada. In line with its Aboriginal Youth Engagement Strategy, it established an *Indigenous Youth Advisory Council* (*IYAC*), consisting of 10 young leaders between the ages of 18 and 30 from communities near Suncor's operations. The IYAC is an opportunity for Suncor and Indigenous youth to share, listen, reflect and act on issues of mutual interest that are impacting communities and the lives of Indigenous youth.

### **Relevant Frameworks**



#### **Global Compact** Network Canada

- Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
- **Principle 2:** make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.



• **12.6** Adopt sustainable practices and integrate sustainability information into reporting cycles

The Canadian Index of Child and Youth Well-being

Knowing my human rights