GLOBALISATION

Globalisation

– views of the Nordic business community

DANSK INDUSTRI
Confederation of Finnish Industry and Employers
SAMTÖK ATVINNULÍFSINS
SI Samtök iðnaðarins Federation of Icelandic Industries
NHO
SVENSKT NÄRINGSLIV Confederation of Swedish Enterprise

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SVENSKT NÄRINGSLIV CONFEDERATION OF SWEDISH ENTERPRISE

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Preface

The Nordic countries have a long tradition of openness towards the outside world. This tradition is the most important explanation of our strong economic development. We are convinced that future economic prosperity will depend heavily on our willingness to participate in the increasingly open and global economy. The Nordic business community thus shares a clear commitment to free trade, a market economy, the rule of law and democracy.

Recently we have seen growing concerns about globalisation, trade and the lack of development. We welcome a debate about globalisation and the transformation of our societies. The debate on trade and development spans widely opposing views of anti-globalists and liberal free traders. The manifestations of the anti-globalists have attracted massive media attention. Some sceptics see trade merely as a vehicle used by rich countries and transnational corporations to exploit poor nations. However, an overwhelming majority of both scientists and politicians have come to see trade and investment as the most important instrument for income generation and the spreading technology that enhances development. Indeed, the increase in trade has led to a substantial global increase in living standards as clearly demonstrated by research. Most academics, therefore, underline the positive links between free trade and development.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan shares this view and has pointed out that “the main losers in today's very unequal world are not those who are too much exposed to globalisation. They are those who have been left out.”

The world is a much better place today than it was yesterday. But there are vast problems left to be dealt with. We believe we should strengthen global institutions and rules. We are concerned about poverty and underdevelopment, pollution and climate change, corruption and social injustice, unemployment and the lack of fundamental human rights. We believe that the market is the most important wealth creating mechanism available. The main challenge before us is how the benefits of globalisation should also become available to those left out.

The Nordic confederations of industry and employers believe that international society has to address and find solutions to four major, contemporary global challenges:

- How to build a free and more equitable global market
- How to reduce poverty
- How to create a more sustainable development
- How the companies best can meet these challenges in the global market

We would like to present the Nordic Confederations' views on the global challenges we are currently facing.

November 2002

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- Protectionism and trade barriers should be substantially reduced as barriers to trade prevent economic dynamism and growth and increase poverty.

- The industrialised countries should eliminate all industrial tariffs by 2010 within the framework of the WTO negotiations.

- The developing countries should move towards a more open and liberal trade regime.

- Within the WTO negotiations, the western world should reduce domestic agricultural support, reduce all types of export subsides with a view to phasing them out, and reduce tariffs on agricultural products substantially.

- The way to solve problems posed by financial crises is not to impede access to foreign capital. Instead, the financial markets should be made even more international than they are today. All countries should successively open their markets to capital flows to and from abroad. At the same time financial institutions should be strengthened and sound regulations be implemented. This will empower them to manage the risks to which they are exposed.

Poverty reduction

- Open markets are the best means of creating economic development. Countries with more open trade and investment have experienced higher economic growth than countries with less open trade.

- The developing countries must take the lead themselves in solving the poverty problem by pursuing market oriented national policies.

- Efficient development aid, can make a positive contribution to development. Private sector involvement should be strengthened.

- The developed countries should give better market access for products and services from the developing countries in the ongoing WTO negotiations, particularly in agriculture, textile and clothing.

- A decision to negotiate a multilateral agreement on investment at the next WTO Ministerial conference in September 2003 is needed. This can stimulate more investment to developing countries.

Sustainable development

- The international co-operation for sustainable development must be strengthened.

- For development to be sustainable, economic factors must be taken into account as well as environmental and social ones. Business and industry must be profitable in the long term to permit investments to be made, new technology introduced and sustainable growth achieved.

- Democracy and the market economy are conditions that must be fulfilled in order for development to be made sustainable.

- Free trade helps to ensure that the world's joint resources are used optimally, and is thus a key contribution to sustainable development.

- Governments bear responsibility for global environmental protection. Legislation and standard regulations must be implemented on a global scale.

- The Kyoto-protocol should be ratified and implemented rapidly and efficiently.

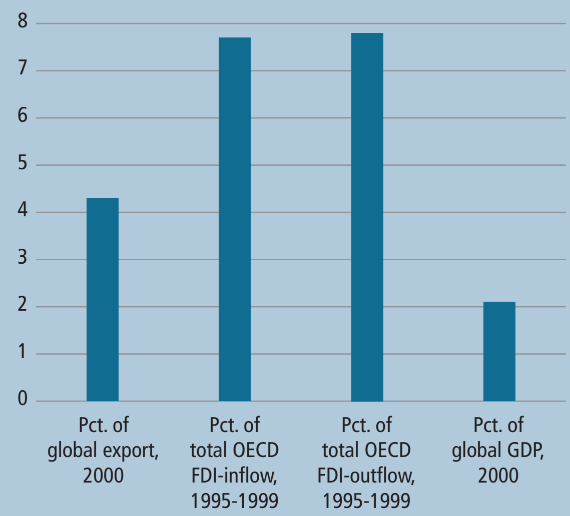
The global market and Corporate Social Responsibility

- Support is given to the value-based platform that finds expression in the content of the Global Compact.

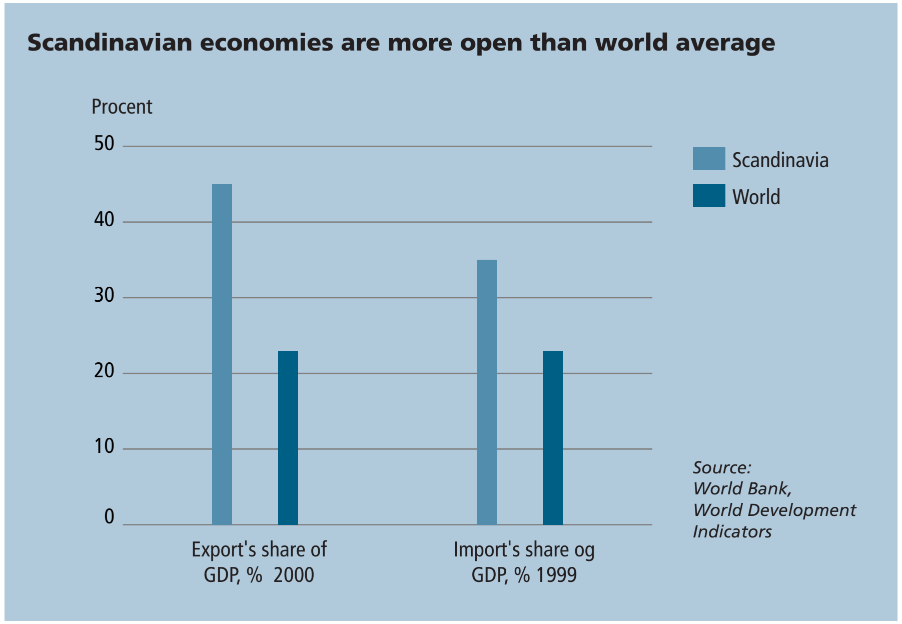
- Nordic companies are expected to respect human rights, the basic principles of labour law and fundamental environmental standards wherever they operate in the world.

- Individual businesses must decide for themselves, on the basis of their own operating conditions, what forms their work on these issues should take; whether to adopt specific codes, reporting models, accounting standards and the suchlike in the area of CSR; and whether there is any reason or need to formulate their own company-specific CSR policies.

Nordic economies in a global context



Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators and OECD, International Direct Investment, Statistics Yearbook



A free and equitable global market

The markets must work for all and not just for the developed world. Today there are too many barriers. Business should continue to play a role in building a freer and more equitable global market. Our aim is to see the creation of a global market in which trade is less distorted by subsidies, tariffs and non-tariff barriers.

If trade is good for development, barriers to trade are bad for development. This is an issue that the members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) have agreed to address in the ongoing WTO trade negotiations.

Free trade gives equal opportunities, better access to technology, enhances competition, improves efficiency and generally increases the dynamics of the economy. Protection and lack of trade may save uncompetitive companies and sectors for a while, but it generally lowers competitiveness, with severe long-term consequences for the economy and society .

Open markets matter

The Nordic countries are all now democracies with advanced knowledge-based industrial complexes and with living standards that are among the highest in the world. However, not more than 150 years ago, all were predominantly agriculturally-based developing countries. In hindsight, this has been a remarkable transformation.

The developing countries of the modern era must go through this modernisation process even faster than was the case in the Nordic region. This might seem to be an impossible challenge. However, we believe this might be possible if they are able to enjoy sufficient assistance and support to build on best practices, provide openness and pursue sound governmental policies.

Open markets rest on some core foundations. One is the strong preference of people for more freedom of choice. A second foundation is based on the old principle of comparative advantage; countries, like individuals, prosper when they use their resources – natural, human, industrial and financial – to concentrate on what they do well relative to others.

The incomes for countries will be higher if individuals and companies are free to engage in specialisation and trade. Specialisation allows both businesses and individuals to deploy their relative strengths, abilities and expertise. Freedom of exchange through trade and investment lowers prices, broadens the range of quality goods and services available to companies and consumers.

Trade and investment liberalisation provides powerful incentives to local producers to lift their performance by improving production techniques and by using research and development to generate innovations that will enhance their competitiveness. Openness allows countries to absorb technologies developed in other countries at a faster rate and thus to grow more rapidly than countries that are less open.

Moreover open economies are key factors in securing peace and stability between countries. Economies that are interdependent and based on political and economic cooperation are less vulnerable to political imbalance.

Barriers to trade

The link between trade and development is positive. More trade gives more economic growth. This is true for both developed and developing countries.

The developing countries generally have high barriers to trade. These are very harmful to development, but at the same time very difficult to remove. Many African countries fear competition from South and East Asian countries for manufactured products. Similarly, many African governments rely heavily on customs duties to finance state budgets. For these reasons many developing countries are reluctant to remove barriers to trade.

On top of this, developing countries also suffer from a lack of free and fair access to the markets of the rich nations, who impose tariffs and quotas to protect their own economies – in particular in the agriculture, textile and clothing industries.

In these areas, many developing countries are actually very competitive and would benefit substantially from more free trade. Currently the agricultural sector in developing countries faces unfair competition because their markets are inundated with subsidised products from the EU and other rich nations. It has been estimated that the support to agriculture in the OECD-countries is six times higher than all aid provided to the developing world.

The ability of the developing countries to export agricultural goods is also limited by trade barriers. Agricultural tariffs are very high throughout the OECD-area. Average bound tariffs on agricultural products are at over 40 percent, compared to four percent for manufactured products. As agricultural development is essential for overall development these issues are considered to be particularly important. Equally there are many barriers to trade in textiles, which are harmful to the developing countries

Capital movements

International capital movements have increased sharply since the mid-1970s. The expansion of capital movements particularly took place at the end of the 1980s, following deregulation and liberalisation.

With the liberalisation of capital markets, abundant savings in the developed world have been invested in developing countries and emerging markets. This has had the effect of radically improving the scope for conducting business operations in various parts of the world.

Paradoxically, as the global financial market has expanded, the number of financial crises affecting international capital flows has risen. Since information is more accessible financial problems are spread more rapidly between countries. Globalisation of financial markets has also meant a growing interdependence and countries experience impacts from events in remote economies.

The reasons for crisis have been complex and mixed. However, it seems that countries with misguided economic policies, inadequate risk management in the banking system, widespread corruption, high inflation and over-expansive

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- The developing countries should move towards a more open and liberal trade regime.
- Within the WTO negotiations, the western world should reduce domestic support to agriculture, reduce, with the view of phasing out, all types of export subsides and reduce tariffs on agricultural products substantially.
- The way to solve problems posed by financial crises is not to impede access to foreign capital. Instead, the financial markets should be made even more international than they are today. All countries should successively open their markets to capital flows to and from abroad. At the same time financial institutions should be strengthened and sound regulations implemented. This will empower them to manage the risks to which they are exposed.

monetary policy have been most exposed. The costs of bad policies have risen in a global economy.

On the other hand, the scope for sound and responsible economic policy has increased and the reward for such policy is higher than ever. Nowadays countries that pursue good policies, strengthen their institutions and encourage long-term growth have better prospects of obtaining low-cost loans for their investments. Since creditors constantly keep an eye on how the money is used, good governance is encouraged.

Poverty reduction

Combating poverty is the most important and challenging issue in the world. The United Nations has the declared objective of reducing poverty by 50 percent by the year 2015. This is an ambitious goal, which we believe business can play a key role in fulfilling. Fighting poverty in the world needs a policy mix of better national policies, more open trade and investment policies and better development aid. Wrong national policies that are unfriendly to business and commerce, will not help the poor countries, they only contribute to more marginalisation and exclusion.

Roughly speaking, 80 percent of the world is poor, 10 percent middle income and 10 percent rich. This is not sustainable. More than one billion people live in extreme poverty. Even more people live without fundamental human rights.

Despite these tremendous challenges, the situation in general is getting better, not worse. All in all people live longer, are in better health, have more education and earn more today than in any other period in human history. However, progress has varied considerably, and there are still very large regional differences. Six in ten Asians were extremely poor in 1975, but the figure is less than two in ten today. Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa unfortunately lag far behind other regions.

The business case for poverty reduction is straightforward. Business cannot succeed in societies that fail.

Better national policies

Good governance is comprised of good national institutions and sound policies. Many countries have not yet been able to establish a stable market economy and the institutions this entails. Institutions are required to ensure legal protection for individuals and enterprises. Countries need to have democracy and rule of law, effective judicial systems to protect property rights, reliability of contracts, lack of corruption, offer reasonable trade terms, have competition rules, fair accounting systems and predictable government interventions.

During the past three decades, many poor countries have experienced rapid economic development after adopting more liberal economic policies. Countries with more open trade and investment policies attract more foreign direct investments and have higher growth rates, and thus higher living standards for the people than countries that are less open to trade and investment.

Since the 1950's the economic development of nations with open economies has been significantly better than nations with closed trade regime. An illustrative example of this is the six Asian tigers compared with the African countries. In 1948 the six Asian tigers exported approximately three per cent of the world's export while Africa exported approximately eight per cent. In 1999 the picture has reversed and the Asian tiger contributes to ten percent of world export while Africa contributes to only two per cent.

Open trade

Openness to trade is a key factor in development. Developing countries share of world trade climbed from about 20 percent in the 1970s to roughly 33 percent in 2001. More open markets and more trade are needed to further this development. Increased trade can develop the national industry's competitiveness and increase the incomes to the society and thus create greater prosperity. We believe that governments that make it hard for business to do business, and governments that try to take the place of business, keep their people poor. Openness promotes economic development, welfare, democracy and peace.

Many developing countries encounter serious trade barriers for their industrial and agricultural products alike. Better market access on the industrialised countries markets must be achieved through the ongoing WTO-negotiations. The often high barriers to trade in developing countries must also be reduced so more trade can take place between developing countries. A country must also be open towards imports, not believe that more exports are the only

advantage. Protection shrinks the domestic economy. The Nordic experience is that open domestic market is a source of competitive strength.

Investment

The developing countries need more investment. Foreign direct investment (FDI) is currently a chief integrating force in the world economy. More open economies enjoy higher rates of private investment.

Investments bring capital and jobs as well as lasting managerial skills, access to knowledge and necessary technology. Indeed, foreign companies typically pay better salaries and benefits, offer higher productivity and have much better environmental records than domestic companies in developing countries.

The lesson is striking. Developing countries that have oriented their economies towards dynamic participation in world trade, investment and technology flows, have dramatically improved their living standards and have been able to fight poverty. Poverty has prevailed in countries that have been less committed to market forces and those who have not sufficiently encouraged international trade and investment.

The bulk of foreign direct investment (FDI) is concentrated in developed countries, but a growing share is accounted for by developing countries, both as homes and as hosts. The problem is however that the least developed countries receive only a small fraction of total FDI to developing countries. The share of FDI inflows by non-OECD countries increased from 20 percent to 35 percent between 1990-1995. The FDI inflows to the developing countries in the last 10 years has been greater than the total amount of developing aid in the last 50 years. Private capital investment is therefore very important for the economic development of many of the poorer countries.

Many bilateral investment agreements (BITs) have been established, especially during the 1990s in order to promote and protect foreign investment. By the end of 2000 the number of BITs have increased to about 1940 agreements. There is no multilateral agreement on investment. Hence, multilateral investment negotiations should be part of the WTO negotiations after the next Ministerial Conference in 2003.

Official development aid

Official aid programs to the developing countries have existed for the past 50 years. The effects of these programs are not impressive. However, developing aid targeted and aimed at promoting efficient insti-

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- Efficient development aid can make a positive contribution to development. The private sector involvement should be strengthened.
- The developed countries should give better market access to products and services from the developing countries in the ongoing WTO negotiations, especially in agriculture, textile and clothing.
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tutions and open economic policies can help to contribute to a better situation in many of the poorest countries in the world.

The UN conference in Monterrey in Mexico in March 2002 agreed to increase official development aid by 20-25 percent from 2004-2006 in order to meet the challenges of reducing poverty by 50 percent in 2015. We believe that the businesses can and must contribute to private sector development through partnerships with governments and civil societies and local businesses. Developing aid should focus above all on actions to spur self-initiated actions and entrepreneurship within the developing countries.

Sustainable development

The Brundtland Commission defined sustainable development in 1987 as development that allows people "to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". The premise is that development and growth must be sustainable from a social, environmental and economic point of view. The business community shares a strong commitment to sustainable development.

The process towards a more sustainable development is urgent and improvement is needed. There are however positive signs. The fact is that there are constant improvements in the supply of clean water, housing standards, access to electricity and medical care. There are many encouraging signs in global development. Today, average life expectancy is rising, infant mortality is declining, and more and more people are getting enough to eat. Democratisation is proceeding and human rights are being strengthened, although much still remains to be done. In many areas we are now seeing improvements in the environmental situation. In the past 20-30 years in most western countries there has been a sharp decrease in emissions and hazardous discharges.

However there are still too many destitute people plagued by starvation, war and disease. Illiteracy is still a major problem in developing countries and tends to lock people in the poverty trap. In the very poorest parts of the world, the population is growing. Poor people are forced to live from hand to mouth to survive. Pollution and environmental hazard remains a global challenge.

Climate change is a particularly pressing issue. Climate change is a real challenge for governments and businesses. We would like to see a rapid and efficient ratification and implementation of the Kyoto-protocol. All the industrialised countries must reduce emissions in order to make a future global agreement possible. We need an international system of emission trading in order to reduce climate emissions cost-effectively, as envisaged in the Kyoto-protocol. In addition, national reduction commitments are needed.

In the same way as much of human activity, business activities can represent environmental threats. At the same time business is able to learn, innovate, develop and implement new technologies which provide solutions to environmental problems and substantially reduce or even eliminate the negative impacts of business activities. In the market economy, companies strive to use available resources in the most efficient way. This means that new and better technology is being developed all the time. More products can be produced with smaller inputs of raw materials and energy. Goods and products are becoming more "intelligent"; designed so as not to inflict unnecessary strains on the environment. Indeed, many Nordic companies are global leaders in the field of environmental technology and clean production.

In the view of the Nordic Confederations:

- International co-operation for sustainable development must be strengthened
- For development to be sustainable, economic as well as environmental and social factors must be taken into account. Business and industry must be profitable in the long term to permit investments to be made, new technology introduced and sustainable growth achieved.
- Democracy and the market economy are conditions that must be fulfilled in order for development to be made sustainable.
- Free trade helps to ensure that the world's joint resources are used optimally, and thus contributes to sustainable development.
- Governments bear a responsibility for global environmental protection. Legislation and standard regulations must be implemented on a global scale.
- The Kyoto-protocol should be ratified and implemented rapidly and efficiently.

From a global perspective, we believe that innovation in product and production technology has never been more important. Business will take the lead in this issue. However, governments must provide sufficient incentives and encouragement in the quest for sustainable development. Badly-framed markets cannot encourage sustainable progress.

The global market and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

As companies become increasingly international the business agenda expands. Companies meet new demands on their own conduct and that of their suppliers and business partners. Companies are not only measured by their economic performance, they increasingly also have to demonstrate a good environmental and social performance. We welcome this development. We believe business has a commitment to contribute to sustainable economic development.

The world economy is increasingly global. Many Nordic companies buy and sell products throughout the world. Worldwide, there are now some 63,000 multinational enterprises. About 16,500 of them are located in the Nordic countries.

The interests and opinions of many stakeholders have to be met. Governments regulate, trade unions and organisations follow the conduct of companies closely, but the ”market”, in the form of demands from consumers, business associates, investors and capital managers plays the most important roll.

As a consequence, we are seeing a proliferation of various national, regional and international initiatives and regulatory instruments aimed at establishing norms for corporate social responsibility. Recent initiatives include the revised OECD Guidelines for multinational companies, the EU initiative on corporate social responsibility, the UN Global Compact as well as ILO conventions and declarations. Many interest organisations have also drafted various ”codes of conduct” to which they think companies should conform, such as the Global Sullivan principles and the Global Reporting Initiative. In addition, there are the internal guidelines and policies of the companies themselves, which are often based on the regulations. A growing number of companies are actively engaged in these issues.

The basis for the whole CSR discussion is the ambition to bring about a decent global level in terms of certain fundamental, and internationally-recognised and established values.

In the plethora of international CSR rules, conventions, initiatives and policies, there is a common core: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the ILO core conventions. Combined with some basic principles relating to the environment, these form the joint value-based platform of principles to which the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan has proposed that companies should act in their own corporate domains. This initiative, known as the Global Compact, provides a value-based platform that appears to be a core for CSR.

The primary role of companies is to supply goods and services to their customers economically and efficiently. In relation to their owners, employees, suppliers and other partners, businesses should be good and reliable operators. Respecting society’s rules – both written and unwritten – is, of course, part of their fundamental social responsibility.

Every company bears individual responsibility for its conduct, and most companies also conduct themselves responsibly. The private sector and other individual citizens bear no collective responsibility for bad conduct. Nor can private enterprise be in any way collectively to blame for the misbehaviour of an individual business. A part of CSR is high ethical values as the basis of operational management of the company.

The CSR debate sometimes appears to start with the incorrect assumption that companies are the ”bad guys”. We know of no research indicating that new or systematic

problems stem from the rapidly growing number of Multinational Enterprises (MNEs). On the contrary, there are ample signs that multinationals often act in a way that improves both the social and business climate in the third world. OECD studies show that they often pay average salaries considerably above the norm in domestic companies in the countries in which they operate, and that they often introduce new, environment-friendly technology, modern management systems and so on.

The Nordic Confederations regard it as self-evident that companies, like countries, should respect human rights, basic principles of labour law and fundamental environmental standards.

The world is becoming ever more transparent. Media, consumers and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) closely monitor corporate conduct and the production of goods and services. If consumers find products or manufacturing methods unacceptable, they quite simply stop buying the goods concerned and urge others to follow their example. Investors and capital managers work in the same way. They attempt to avoid risks, scandals and unfavourable publicity. The market is therefore a more powerful control instrument than regulations. Best practice is disseminated better by market pressure than by new regulatory instruments.

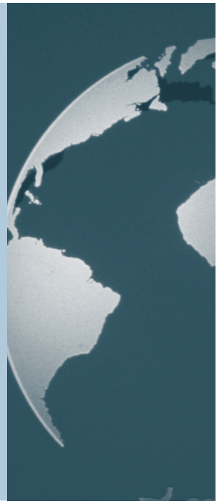
In response to the market's increased ethical demands, a wealth of voluntary certification arrangements, codes of conduct, monitoring standards and reporting models of various kinds have emerged. The strength of these voluntary instruments lies in the market pressure upon which they are based. The voluntary nature of these arrangements is necessary, since it permits the requisite flexibility and encourages companies to take actions.

The Nordic Confederations do not believe that all businesses can follow a single model. There can be no ”one-size-fits-all” approach to these issues in the practical work involved.

Companies must therefore have the freedom to choose the manner in which they wish to assume responsibility. In the final analysis, it is a company's conduct that counts – not the existence of a set of corporate principles or its affiliation to a particular model.

The Nordic Confederations:

- Support the value-based platform that finds expression in the content of the Global Compact.
- Trust that Nordic companies will respect human rights, basic principles of labour law and fundamental environmental standards wherever they operate in the world.
- Believe that individual businesses must decide for themselves, on the basis of their own operating conditions, what forms their work on these issues is to take; whether to adopt specific codes, reporting models, accounting standards and the suchlike in CSR; and whether there is any reason or need to formulate their own company-specific CSR policies.



The Nordic countries at a glance

	Denmark	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Sweden	Source
Area						
Total area (thousand sq. Km.)	43	338	103	324	450	1
Population						
Population 2000 (thousands)	5.340	5.181	281	4.491	8.872	1
Population growth rate 2000/1999, %	0,3	0,2	1,4	0,6	0,2	1
GDP						
GDP 2001, (using current Purchasing power parity), Billion USD	160	134,5	8,7	140,4	227,9	1
GDP 2001 (PPP) per capita. Index OECD=100	121	105	123	126	104	1
GDP growth, annual average 1991-2001	2,3	2,9	2,8	3,2	2	1
Sectoral contributions to gross value added					1	
Agriculture	2,6	3,7	10,1	1,9	1,8	1
Industry	27,3	34,2	29,5	43	28	1
Services	70,2	62,1	60,5	55,2	70,2	1
Labour market						
Total labour force 2000 (thousand)	2853	2609	160	2350	4418	1
Employment by sector 2000, % of total						1
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3,3	6,1	8,3	4,2	2,4	1
Industry	26,4	27,6	23	21,9	24,6	1
Service	70,2	66,3	68,7	73,9	73	1
Standardises unemployment rates (2001)	4,3	9,1	2,3 (2000)	3,6	5,1	2
Taxes						
Total tax recieipts % of GDP (1999)	50,4	46,2	36,6	41,6	52,2	1
Inflation						
Harmonised Consumer Price Index (HCPI) July 2001 – July 2002	2,2	2	4	1,2	1,8	6

	Denmark	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Sweden	Source
Direct investment flows						1
Average inflow, million USD, 1995-1999	4.385	3.891	89	3.936	21.833	4
Average outflow, million USD, 1995-1999	4.393	6.645	61	4.401	14.371	4
Inflow % of GDP, 2000	9,81	7,31	1,84	3,72	10,22	1
Outflows % of GDP, 2000	5,33	19,88	4,46	5,1	17,74	1
Trade						1
Exports (Goods and services billion USD at current prices and exchange rates, 2000)	69	51,6	3	75,4	108,1	5
Exports – partners in %, 1999:	EU 66.5 Germany 20.1 Sweden 11.7 UK 9.6 France 5.3 Netherlands 4.7 Norway 5.8 US 5.4	EU 58 Germany 13 Sweden 10 UK 9 France 5 Netherlands 4 US 8	EU 64 UK 20 Germany 13 France 5 Denmark 5 US 15 Japan 5	EU 73 UK 17 Germany 11 Netherlands 10 Sweden 9 US 5	EU 55 Germany 11 UK 10 Denmark 6 Finland 5 France 5 US 9 Norway 8	3
Imports (Goods and services billion USD at current prices and exchange rates, 1999)	57,6	37,8	3,4	50,4	91,3	5
Imports – partners in %, 1999:	EU 72.1 Germany 21.6 Sweden 12.4 UK 8.0 Netherlands 8.0 France 5.8 Norway 4.2 US 4.5	EU 60 Germany 15 Sweden 11 UK 7 US 8 Russia 7 Japan 6	EU 56 Germany 12 UK 9 Denmark 8 Sweden 6 US 11 Norway 10	EU 66 Sweden 15 Germany 12 UK 9 Denmark 7 US 10	EU 67 Germany 18 UK 10 Denmark 7 France 6 Norway 8 US 6	3

Source:
1) OECD in Figures 2002
2) OECD main Economic Indicators, August 2002
3) The World Factbook (Prepared by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency)
4) OECD, International Direct Investment, Statistics Yearbook
5) World Bank, World Devlopment Indicators
6) Eurostat

The Nordic Confederations of Industry and Employers

DANSK INDUSTRI

Confederation of Danish Industries (DI)

The Confederation of Danish Industries (DI) is the organisation of all competition-oriented companies in Denmark. DI has 6,100 members from both the manufacturing and the service sector. The members are organised in one or more of DI's more than 50 branch associations. The head office is located in Copenhagen. DI has an office in Brussels.
DI operates in both the Danish and the international political framework. DI works to influencing legislation and other sets of rules that are passed or formulated by the Danish parliament (Folketing), ministries, counties, local councils and other authorities, in a more business-friendly direction. The same applies to sets of rules adopted or formulated by international authorities such as the European Union and the United Nations.
DI is member of UNICE (Union of Industrial and Employers Confederations of Europe), ICC (International Chamber of Commerce) and BIAC (Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD).

Confederation of Finnish Industry and Employers

The Confederation of Finnish Industry and Employers (TT)

The Confederation of Finnish Industry and Employers (TT) is an organisation serving, promoting and safeguarding the interests of industrial enterprises and businesses in the fields of manufacturing, construction, transport and in other sectors of business that are closely connected to industry. TT has nearly 5,700 member companies, which employ about 540,000 people. The member companies are organised into 31 branch associations. TT`s member companies account for three quarters of the total export income and value added of the Finnish industry.
TT has eight regional representatives located in Finland's major cities . Along with PT (The Employers Confederation of Service Industries in Finland) TT has a joint office in Brussels.
TT's main task is to advocate the policy interests of Finnish companies as they pertain to industry, finance, labour markets, energy and international trade. The Confederation promotes entrepreneurship, the market economy and the internationalisation of business.
TT is member of UNICE, BIAC, ICC and IOE (the International Organisation of Employers).

SAMTÖK ATVINNULÍFSINS

Samtök iðnaðarins
Federation of Icelandic Industries

The Confederation of Icelandic Employers (SA)

SA has 2,700 members in 7 member federations (SI being the largest member) and accounts for almost 60% of all salaried employees on the Icelandic labour market. SA's projects include negotiations of contracts with unions on wages and working conditions, and the interpretation as well as communication of decisions by governmental authorities that directly affect the financial performance of businesses at both the domestic and international level.
SA is member of UNICE and IOE.

The Federation of Icelandic Industries (SI)

SI has some 1,400 members and is the main organisation of Icelandic employers in manufacturing industries, crafts, software production and related services, ranging from small family businesses to Iceland's largest industrial companies.
SI's mission is the creation of a more favourable climate for industrial enterprise in Iceland and the supporting of its interests at home and abroad, promoting the competitiveness, profitability and the increased internationalisation of Icelandic companies.
SI is member of UNICE.

NHO

The Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry (NHO)

The Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry (NHO) is the dominant business organisation in Norway, managing the interests of some 16,500 member companies. The head office is located in Oslo and 15 regional offices are spread throughout Norway. NHO has an office in Brussels. A network of 23 affiliated sector federations work in close co-operation with NHO. NHO’s members come from nearly all industries in the private sector, manufacturing industries, services, handicrafts and trade.
NHO works to improve the framework conditions for businesses and entrepreneurship in Norway and also internationally. Norwegian welfare can only be secured through a prosperous and competitive business community.
NHO is member of UNICE, BIAC and IOE.

SVENSKT NÄRINGSLIV
CONFEDERATION OF SWEDISH ENTERPRISE

The Confederation of Swedish Enterprise (SN)

The Confederation of Swedish Enterprise represents companies in Sweden and has approximately 48,000 large and small and medium-sized member companies. These are organized in 47 sector and employer associations. The associations are the Confederation's members.
Operations cover an extensive field and address numerous target groups. SN works to shape public opinion and improve knowledge, develop new ideas and produce tangible proposals for an improved atmosphere for entrepreneurship. Free enterprise is both a public interest and a special interest. Swedish welfare can only be secured and developed through a prospering business community.
SN is member of UNICE, BIAC and the IOE.