

## FACT SHEET ON HUMAN RIGHTS

### Background

- While two or three years ago, human rights might not have been on the agenda of financial institutions, the landscape is rapidly changing.
- IFC is engaged in a debate on its approach to human rights. It is currently examining where in its policy framework the protection of human rights belongs, including human rights issues in its safeguard policies. IFC believes that corporate social responsibility—directly linked to human rights—helps clients create value.
- IFC believes that there is a business case for human rights and that human rights should be part of the Corporation's mission of sustainable development.

### Main Challenges

- The process of articulating the many different ways in which IFC is already contributing to human rights.
- The definition of consistent principles to determine the extent of practical engagement in human rights.
- The test of practicality and competence since the potential incorporation of human rights into policy could make projects and activities vulnerable to questions about compliance.

### Additional Resources

- **Address by James D. Wolfensohn, World Bank President, March 1, 2004**
- **Address by Peter Woicke, Executive Vice President, IFC, March 1, 2004**
- **Publication: Development and Human Rights – The Role of the World Bank, 1998**

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