

Human Rights

Human rights are founded on the principle that all human beings are equal and entitled to live with dignity. Over the last century, several major international instruments have defined and codified these rights using the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) as their primary reference. The UDHR includes both civil and political rights such as freedom of speech and political participation and economic, social and cultural rights such as the right to a decent standard of living, to health care and an education.

It is the primary duty of governments, supported by the international community, to ensure human rights are respected, protected and fulfilled within their states. The main contribution of business to the realization of rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, is through responsible business practices that improve economic welfare and benefit the common good.

Novartis Position

Novartis supports the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and is committed to the United Nations Global Compact. We define our human rights obligations in a specific human rights corporate citizenship guideline. It sets out our human rights commitments and responsibilities within our sphere of influence, which are implemented through normal management procedures. Novartis is committed to conducting all business activities at a minimum in compliance with existing labor, environmental, tax and other laws and regulations, and - where these are not consistent with our values - often at a higher standard. We are constantly reviewing our own actions and striving for continuous improvement by using and developing new compliance and awareness-raising tools.