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NEWS RELEASE

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CIPE AND SAI MAKE A BUSINESS CASE FOR IMPLEMENTING WORKPLACE STANDARDS

Washington, D.C. – The Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) and Social Accountability International (SAI) are pleased to announce the release of new corporate citizenship case studies: *From Words to Action: A Business Case for Implementing Workplace Standards*. These case studies present different means of improving workplace conditions and analyze the benefits of doing so for workers and businesses.

Investment in human capital has a high rate of return because healthier, better-trained, and more loyal staff drives quality, productivity, innovation, and the sustainability of enterprise. The case studies demonstrate the core principle of corporate citizenship: business can do good while also doing well with benefits such as: improved productivity, better quality products, and success in competitive international markets. “These cases illustrate that an ethical, compliant workplace is better for both workers and businesses,” observed John D. Sullivan, executive director of CIPE.

The companies profiled differ in maturity, scale, industry, and geographic location, and include a mid-size garment factory in China, a world-renowned steel manufacturer in India, and a large textile company in Turkey. Nevertheless, all businesses reported significant and replicable benefits of using SAI tools, including the SA8000 system for managing ethical workplace conditions.

“Business attains corporate sustainability when all three bottom lines – financial, environmental, and social – are addressed in an integrated fashion, because stakeholder and shareholder value are inextricably linked,” said Eileen Kohl Kaufmann, executive director of SAI.

The lessons learned can be applied by other businesses in developing and developed countries alike. Voluntary systems such as the SA8000 are needed to show the necessity of high workplace standards, to make the benefits of compliance as visible as the costs, and to make good corporate citizenship an integral part of a basic business model. The case studies are available at www.cipe.org/workplace_standards and on SAI’s website www.sa-intl.org.

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The Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) strengthens democracy around the globe through private enterprise and market-oriented reform. CIPE is one of the four core institutes of the National Endowment for Democracy and a non-profit affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Since 1983, CIPE has worked with business leaders, policymakers, and journalists to build the civic institutions vital to a democratic society. CIPE's key program areas include anti-corruption, advocacy, business associations, corporate governance, democratic governance, access to information, the informal sector and property rights, and women and youth. CIPE programs are supported by the National Endowment for Democracy, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Middle East Partnership Initiative. www.cipe.org

Social Accountability International (SAI) is a non-governmental, international, multi-stakeholder organization dedicated to improving workplaces and communities, with a vision of decent work for all. SAI convenes key stakeholders to develop consensus-based, voluntary standards [best known is SA8000], conducts research, provides training and technical assistance, and assists corporations in improving social compliance in their supply chains. SAI partners with trade unions, local NGOs, other multi-stakeholder initiatives, business, organic, fair-trade and environmental organizations, development charities, and anti-corruption groups to carry out ground-level and international research, training and capacity building programs. www.sa-intl.org

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