



## Protecting and defending victims of economic crimes

### Why“SHERPA”?

The Sherpa are an ethnic group from the mountainous regions of Nepal whose guides are well-known for their endurance, dexterity and boldness; they are so reliable that their name has become synonymous with “porters”. Like them, our association aims at accompanying populations’ victims of economic crimes in their quest for justice.

### Who are we?

SHERPA is a Paris-based non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and defending victims of economic crimes.

The association brings together international jurists and lawyers and works in close collaboration with civil society organizations from all over the world.

SHERPA’s activities also rely on the generous support of volunteers, interns and *pro bono* lawyers.

### What do we do?

#### Vision and Mission

Convinced that law has a key role to play in ensuring fair and sustainable development, SHERPA has decided to use its legal skills and knowledge in order to contribute to the concrete implementation of the Millennium Goals (MDGs).

## **Programs**

### **1. Illicit financial flows and development**

Whether linked to corruption or to multinational corporations' tax evasion, illicit financial flows are a big part of the development issue. They reduce the amount of available resources for essential public services and worsen the burden of southern countries' debt. As a consequence, most governments in developing countries fail to fulfil basic human needs.

SHERPA conducts campaigns that aim at denouncing these illicit financial flows.

### **2. Globalization and human rights**

The European Commission defines Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as "a concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and in their interaction with their stakeholders on a voluntary basis" (Green Book on Corporate Social Responsibility, 2001).

Such a position is insufficient to Sherpa which strongly advocates for the settlement of a comprehensive corporate accountability framework.

## **Means of action**

### **1. Legal assistance**

Thanks to its network of jurists and lawyers, SHERPA aims at providing redress to populations' victims of economic crimes. SHERPA uses all kinds of legal tools ranging from negotiation to the use of soft law instruments (OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, Codes of conduct) and ultimately legal actions (Criminal or civil proceedings).

### **2. Research & Advocacy**

As a legal think tank, SHERPA proposes changes in the law and then conducts advocacy campaigns at both national and international levels in order to promote a better regulation of transnational financial flows and commercial activities.

### **3. Awareness & Training**

Convinced that transferring know-how can pave the way for sustainable development, SHERPA dedicates a large part of its activities to education and training. SHERPA regularly facilitates workshops in order to create awareness among civil society and empower them to combat economic crimes.

## How do we work?

### Partners



SOMO



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**U N C A CIVIL  
SOCIETY Coalition**



**FORUM CITOYEN  
POUR LA RESPONSABILITÉ  
SOCIALE DES  
ENTREPRISES**

### Funders

Since its origin, SHERPA has benefited from the support of the following private foundations:

- La Fondation France Libertés - Danièle Mitterrand
- Sigrid Rausing Trust
- La Fondation Charles Leopold Mayer pour le Progrès de l'Homme
- Open Society Institute
- La Fondation de France
- L'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie

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