Supply Chain Act, Global Gateway and AU Agenda 2063

Human rights violations such as child labor, modern slavery and environmental degradation occur daily in many high-risk industries and countries in global supply chains. As a result, many governments around the world have enacted laws to protect vulnerable groups and curb pressing global issues.

Industrialized nations can secure and increase their prosperity in the long term by improving environmental and human rights compliance in their countries of origin. By improving the livelihoods and GDP of buyer countries, they can increase their productivity and participation in global trade, thereby increasing global prosperity. Companies should be included in the commitment to source and produce more responsibly. They need to make supply chains transparent so that risks and violations are visible and can be remedied. Moreover, supply chain transparency and good and close relationships ensure the company's long-term competitive advantage, as the Corona pandemic has shown not least.
Legal requirements for companies and their legal supply chains are constantly evolving (e.g. German Supply Chain Act, French Loi de Vigilance and UK Modern Slavery Act) and also the EU announced the first draft of the EU Supply Chain Act in early 2022, which will make companies directly liable for environmental damage and human rights violations along their value chains, including civil law consequences. However, the compliance monitoring of human rights needs to be easy and efficient to become a standard in all industries.

bizpando is a platform that helps companies bring the global supply chain laws into action. The all-in-one web-based platform connects, participates, and gives real-time insights into compliance across supply chains, all with little effort and cost. From a legal point of view, it is not relevant whether only some of a company's products contain material from suppliers that do not produce in compliance with the law. Therefore, bizpando takes into account the entire supply chain to the registered legal entity and not separate product-specific supply chains.
Through a digital questionnaire, each company performs a self-audit and then invites their suppliers and customers to complete the questionnaire as well. Immediately, an automated compliance report on the supply chain and the result of each participant is created. Potential for improvement is indicated by a three-level traffic light system.
All basic features of bizpando are free, making it accessible to any company, regardless of size.

The importance of supply chains is not only relevant in Europe; especially in the wake of the AU Agenda 2063, economic growth and thus transparency are becoming increasingly important for Africa. Europe is looking for impact investment and wants to reduce dependency on Chinese supplies, making Africa the perfect opportunity in the long run. An African cooperation would enhance direct partnership to important suppliers and assure long term access to necessary resources, resulting on the other hand in increased local wealth and political stability for the African nation.
Several services will be required to implement and monitor compliance. European companies will need to request and pay for assessments. At the same time, a local implementation and inspection industry is much more cost-effective than sending inspection teams from abroad.

In summary, corporate due diligence and contributions to environmental and human rights improvements in supply chains benefit many stakeholders and is, therefore, an important part of a future thriving economy.