



## Summary

Ethics are accepted principles of right or wrong that rule the behaviour of a person, the members of a profession, or the actions of an organisation. Business ethics are the accepted principles of right or wrong leading the behaviour of business people.

The main problem of international business ethics lies in the fact that most countries and cultures operate under completely different standards of both law and ethics.

The most common ethical issues in international business involve:

- Employment practises
- Human rights
- Environmental regulations
- Corruption
- The moral obligation of a multinational companies

To address differences in international business ethics, companies could:

- Know the laws
- Follow international business guidelines
- Communicate clearly and understand the differences
- Respect differences
- Develop a unified strategy

Ethics are based on different sources of ethical standards formulated by philosophers and ethicists. Examples of approaches are:

The Utilitarian Approach: the ethical action is the one that provides the most good or does the least harm.

The Rights Approach: the ethical action is the one that best protects and respects the moral rights of those affected.

The Fairness or Justice Approach: all equals should be treated equally.

The Common Good Approach: life in community is good in itself and our actions should contribute to that life.

The Virtue Approach: ethical actions ought to be consistent with certain ideal virtues that provide for the full development of our humanity.

