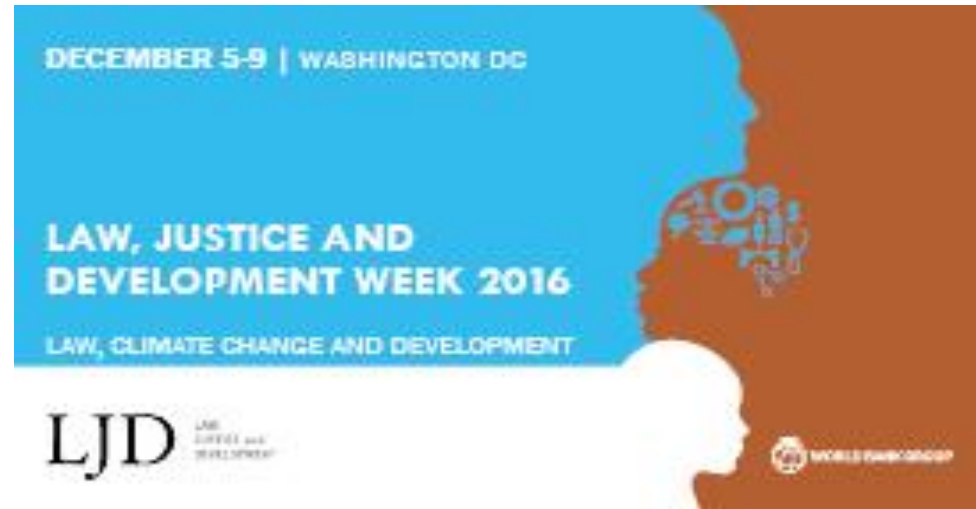


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GF-21 || Community of Practice on Human-Centered Business Model
*“Principles of the 14 prevalent Religions related to Corruption, Extortion,
Bribery and Business Conduct”.*

Pierre Viaud

75% of the world population follow a religion

- In descending order of number of followers, the major religions of the world are: i) **Christianity** with 2.1 billion followers; ii) **Islam**, 1.5 billion; iii) **Hinduism**, 900 million; iv) **Daoism including Confucianism**, 550 million; v) **Buddhism**, 376 million; vi) **Sikhism**, 23 million; vii) **Judaism**, 14.5 million; viii) **Bahá'í**, 7.4 million; ix) **Jainism**, 4.3 million; x) **Shinto**, 4 million
- The moral and ethical principles that these **religions preach seem very close to the secular common principles adopted by the international community over the last hundred years** in the framework of international institutions through their legal instruments like treaties, agreements, resolutions and declarations.

The principles established by each of the major world religions may, in part, constitute the common platform agreed by consensus among the nations forming the international community.

- Rules on **corruption, extortion, and bribery**.
- Concepts related to **honesty in business** conduct.
- A commonality among the most followed religions in the world emerges and shows that **these concepts are common to the 14 leading faiths**.

1. Comparative theological principles relating to corruption, bribery and extortion

- **Corruption is universally condemned.** In Judaism, in Christianity, and in Islam it is derived from that of the human body's death and decomposition. The Hindu and Jain religions derive their condemnation of corruption from the expectation of honesty demanded by their faith. Daoism, Confucianism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Shinto and Bahá'í directly outlaw corruption.
- **The practices of bribery and extortion are universally condemned by the major world religions,** which expressly prohibit this practice to their believers. Confucianism enjoins the nobleman to correct these practices *a posteriori* in those who have not understood this moral imperative. All other religions condemn these practices *a priori*.

2. From comparative theological principles that favor honesty to contemporary business ethics.

- The sacred texts of the religions that account for three-quarters of the world population **do not deal, of course, with contemporary forms of business.**
- The contemporary theology of each of these major religions have **developed sets of conclusions that examine ethical issues arising in a business environment.**
- The business ethics which derive from their sacred texts highlight a series of **eleven common themes.**

2. From comparative theological principles that favor honesty to contemporary business ethics (cont.)

- Eleven common themes:
- The most universal prerequisites of the 14 faiths are **honesty, trustfulness and justice**. The second most commonly shared theme is the **interdependence between individuals, society, and God**. The third is **caring for the poor**, while the fourth is the **protection of human dignity**. The fifth is the **legitimacy of business and profit that serves the interests of society**. The sixth is the clear **obligation to avoid fraud**. The seventh sets an **obligation for timely payments**. The eighth imposes **stable and honest prices**.

2. From comparative theological principles that favor honesty to contemporary business ethics (cont.)

- Furthermore, Judaism, Islam, Sikhism and Baha'i highlight the **divine ordination of wealth**.
- Judaism, Catholicism, Daoism and Shintoism impose on their believers the **need to care for the environment**.
- Last, but not least, Judaism, Catholicism and Sikhism preach **against discrimination to the stranger or on the basis of gender**.

Conclusion

- The identified commonalties are a further recognition of the almost universal value of anticorruption, antibribery and anti extortion also from a religious perspective.
- The inclusion of these principles within the Human Centered Business Model core objectives is therefore inline with a universal applicability of the Model.