

## **Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift van Maria Pia Sacco**

1. In the long-run, corruption has a negative impact on economic growth, equality and the quality of a country's governance.
2. Intermediaries play an important role in international corporate transactions and they can act as a channel for the provision of legal and illegal services.
3. A socially desirable liability regime addressing corporate crime must promote the following objectives: the internalization of the social harm of crime and corporate investment in self-enforcement activities.
4. If regulators limit the application of vicarious liability to the existence of an employment relationship, companies may have the incentives to strategically outsource risky activities to asset-proof independent contractors.
5. The certification of anti-bribery compliance (ABC) programs can represent a meaningful signal if certification companies are subject to standards of independence and professionalism and if they are held accountable for their negligent or intentional misconduct.
6. The debate on the business and human rights agenda originated in the 1990s when, following liberalisation, technology and innovation, companies invested internationally. This rapid market expansion led to important opportunities as well as to governance gaps, which Kofi Annan once defined as “problems without passport”.
7. The creation of a common language regarding sustainability would increase legal certainty, facilitating comparability of companies' performances and reducing the risks of greenwashing.
8. According to estimates of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), in 2016, nearly 40.3 million people were in a situation of modern slavery, of which 24.9 million in forced labour and 15.4 million in forced marriage. COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these risks and has, particularly, impacted the most vulnerable groups (e.g. women, children, informal workers and migrant workers).
9. During COVID-19 pandemic, businesses with better environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance have been more resilient amidst the crisis. These findings are consistent with the view that stakeholders (including workers, suppliers and customers) are more inclined to support these businesses in times of duress.
10. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming our societies and will have a disruptive impact on our lives. Ethical-based, voluntary, standards have proven to be insufficient to address these challenges and momentum is growing towards a mandatory, human rights-based approach to AI.
11. A PhD is like a hero's journey. In the early stages, you must follow the call to head off in the unknown. During the journey, you will test your boundaries, face dangers and failures. In these moments you will not be alone, benign helpers will walk with you. Once your quest has been accomplished, you must return home, willing to generously share your wisdom with the rest of the world.