**Of the issues identified that IBM enforces in the text, which one of them do you think is the most challenging to enforce for an organization that operates internationally?**

IBM has Supplier Conduct Principles which covers a wide range of issues and holds its suppliers responsible for not practicing forced or child labor; implementing fair wages, benefits, and work hours; and ensuring health and safety (Stanley, 2014).

The text also makes a point of saying that when considering customer-driven requirements, laws, and regulations, being able to apply the principles and theoretical concepts of sustainability and social responsibility is of great importance (Stanley, 2014). However, this is much easier said than done. Laws and regulations vary, especially in developing countries. This makes just about every one of the Supplier Conduct Principles nearly impossible to enforce in every country. Most child laborers begin working very young. Though they are often malnourished and work long hours many times their income is essential for family survival (Roggero, Mangiaterra, Bustreo, & Rosati,2007). To continue, if the only defense is a sanction this is easily side stepped (Boyle, 2018). Health and safety have been an issue as people gasp when corners are cut in the name of progress such as reported by Sinclair (1985) in his book *The jungle* which told of the appalling conditions in one of the first sausage factories. In like fashion, developing countries have very relaxed and diverse health and safety standards and even when standards exist there is little oversight or enforcement (Stanley, 2014).

Here is the problem the way I see it. This is a catch 22. The cheapest products come from developing countries, and they are cheap because they have little regard for following any of these protocols. The alternative is to buy the more expensive merchandise from a developed country that monitors these issues. However, In real life, people will still go to the cheapest place to purchase, in effect, forcing others who are ethical to shut down. Walmart has buying power so it can compete by forcing a cheaper price when they buy in quantity. Unfortunatly, countries that spend money to enforce Conduct Principle cannot afford to sell that cheap. On the flip side, if purchases are not made from developing countries, they will never develop to the point where they can begin to institute such policies.

Decidedly, If I have to narrow it down, I chose two: working conditions, and a fair wage.

**Please explain.**

A factory building collapse in Bangladesh kills over 1,000 workers (Yardley, 2013). In 2013, a factory fire in Pakistan killed 300 workers (Ur-Rehman, Walsh, & Masood, 2012). It may be next to impossible to police most things, including child labor, however, in the least we can make sure people are not treated as a slave or expendable. We business begins to extinguish life in the name of profit lines have to be drawn in the sand. Today human trafficking is a global epidemic (Shelley, 2010). People are put into the worst conditions and made to work or be abused in the name of profit.

**What is a feasible solution to the challenge you presented and why?**

We will have to have a set of global economic standards which are enforceable. These standards must cover basic human rights such as slavery, human trafficking, fair wage according to country standards, and healthy and safe work environments. There will have to be penalties and fines for companies that knowingly do business with producers engaging in such tactics for financial gain. Definitely, this is about as realistic as an economy based on integrity and honor such as in the T.V. series *Star Trek* where money no longer exists, and everyone work for the betterment of humankind.

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