Brent Wilton has overall responsibility for the management of the IOE Secretariat in its work to support the global business community, in the International Labour Organization, and in other international forums, such as the G20 and the World Economic Forum (WEF). He is also the Secretary of the Employers’ Group of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

A lawyer by profession, Brent’s career began in private legal practice before joining the Employers’ Association in New Zealand. For the next thirteen years he was involved in national, regional and enterprise-based bargaining and represented employers in a variety of legal matters, both in mediation and in the Labour Court, and addressed a wide range of industrial relations and human rights issues across industries and sectors in New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific. Brent regularly presented at a variety of New Zealand universities on labour and human resources issues.

After leaving the Auckland Employers in 1999 as Manager of Legal and Advocacy Services, Brent joined the IOE as Senior Adviser, becoming Deputy Secretary-General in 2003. He was appointed Secretary-General on 26 May 2012.

As well as managing the Secretariat, Brent oversees all IOE labour and social policy developments, and has a particular responsibility for Global Industrial Relations, through the Global Industrial Relations Network (GIRN). He has spoken extensively on global industrial relations and authored the IOE paper on the subject. In this context, he has assisted, through IOE members, a range of MNEs on IFA matters. Brent is also responsible for following the work of the Global Union Federations and frequently lectures on industrial relations to universities and MBA programmes.

He has led the IOE’s involvement from the outset in the debate on the business and human rights relationship and coordinated a representative business contribution to the work of the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative on Business and Human Rights in the lead-up to the adoption of the Guidelines by the UN Human Rights Council. Brent is also a member of the Board of the UN Global Compact.

Brent Wilton is Co-chair of the B20 Task Force on Job Creation, Employment and Investment in Human Capital within the G20 consultative process.

*The IOE is the largest network of the private sector in the world. With 150 business and employer federation members in 143 countries around the world, the IOE is the global voice of business.*

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