



Working Group on the issue of human rights and
transnational corporations and other business enterprises

Workshop on Developing National Action Plans on Responsible Business Conduct, including National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights

17 June 2015, 12:30 – 18:00
OECD Conference Centre

Audience:

Public policy makers from various countries working on responsible business conduct and human rights issues and involved in the development of National Action Plans (NAPs) on responsible business conduct, including NAPs on business and human rights. Participants will have an opportunity to share their own experiences and ask questions from the floor.

Objective:

The Meeting of the National Contact Points for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on 16-17 June and the 3rd Global Forum on Responsible Business Conduct on 18-19 June provide an opportunity to bring together policy makers and experts to exchange experiences in developing NAPs, and discussing the potential role for NCPs. This joint OECD/UN workshop, co-hosted by the Chair of the OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct and the Chair of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, will provide a forum to exchange good practices and lessons learned on the contents and process of drafting NAPs.

AGENDA

12:30 – 14:00 Lunchtime Consultation with Stakeholders

14:00 – 14:30 Different Types of National Action Plans: Purpose and Mandates

As part of the State responsibility to disseminate and implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UN Guiding Principles), States are encouraged to develop, enact and update a NAP on business and human rights. Many countries have already completed such plans and many more have declared an intention to do so.¹ Some countries have chosen to develop an NAP on responsible business conduct more broadly, including on, for example, environmental issues and corruption in addition to human rights issues. This session will discuss how different countries have decided to frame their NAPs as well as the merits of different approaches. The role of international instruments like the UN Guiding Principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises in shaping NAPs will also be discussed.

¹ For a current list of countries that have completed or are in the process of completing NAPs please see: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Pages/NationalActionPlans.aspx>

Discussion questions:

- What driving forces are behind countries' approach on how broadly or narrowly to frame a NAP?
- What are the merits of various approaches?
- What are the key substantive elements that should be included in a NAP?

Presentations by:

- Melike Ann Yetken, National Contact Point for the OECD Guidelines, United States
- Hans Christian Winkler, Business and Human Rights, German Foreign Office
- Dante Pesce, Member of the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights

14:30 – 15:00 Discussion and Q&A

15:00 – 15:30 Defining the Process and Structure for a National Action Plan

Developing a NAP can be a resource intensive activity. Given the breadth of the issues involved, involvement of a variety of policy makers might be necessary. This session will discuss the process involved in the development of an NAP.

Discussion questions:

- Which actors is it important to involve and at which stages?
- What are some of the organisational challenges to development of a NAP?
- How can the process be made most efficient and effective?

Presentations by:

- Marine de Carné, Ambassador in charge of bioethics and corporate social responsibility, France
- Verónica Zubia, Advisor, Human Rights Division Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile
- Michael Addo, Chair, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights presenting on the UN Guidance on Developing National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights

15:30 – 16:00 Discussion and Q&A

16:00 – 16:30 Networking break



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16:30 – 17:00 Implementing National Action Plans

This session will focus on how a NAP is implemented once it is finalised. It will discuss how NAPs are incorporated into other policy goals or strategies, as well as the mechanisms necessary to ensure that NAPs are executed in practice. It will also discuss the potential role of NCPs in the implementation of NAPs.

Discussion questions:

- What monitoring and evaluation mechanism should be put in place with regard to NAPs?
- How is a NAP publicized and how are the relevant government bodies made aware of their role in implementing it?
- How are other stakeholders involved in implementation of a NAP? Specifically, what role should international organisations play in facilitating implementation?

Presentations by:

- Stephen Lowe, Head, Business & Human Rights/Freedom of Expression, Human Rights & Democracy Department, UK
- Gilles Goedhart, Senior Human Rights Policy Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands

17:00 – 18:00 Discussion and Q&A