

OHCHR Forum Secretariat
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30. September 2013

Re: Call for Proposals for side events and stands

With this letter GLOBAL CSR wishes to propose three side events and apply for a stand/table at the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights.

Side events

Below we outline three proposed side events.

- I. Our first suggestion is on 'Responsible Sourcing and the UN Guiding Principles',
- II. The second is on 'Export Credit Agencies and the UN Guiding Principles', and
- III. The third suggestion is on '*Constructive Campaigning* - applying the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to civil society campaigning'.

For more information on each proposal, please refer to the following pages.

GLOBAL CSR recognises that it might not be possible to include all side events, and therefore the three proposals are presented in order of priority.

Please note that we would need to deliberate on the final wording and presentation of the proposed side events before making any of the suggested items public (out of respect for the suggested stakeholders involved).

Stand

In recognition of the fact that stands are subject to availability, we would like to request such a stand/table. The stand would be used to show-case and facilitate dialogue on recent tools and publications of interest to conference participants.

This includes:

- i. Human Rights Explained - publication and e-Learning on Business and Human Rights (including a publication – “Human Rights Explained – for business” and free e-learning trials for the modules on the UNGPs and human rights explained.
- ii. KnowShow - a human rights identification app
- iii. Constructive Campaigning - applying the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to civil society campaigning (the printed version confer side event above)

For more information, questions and future correspondence please contact:

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Request for side event I:

How to practice Responsible Supply Chain Management in alignment with the UN Guiding Principles?

Theme:

The workshop will explore and discuss the possible impact of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) on current and future responsible procurement / responsible supply chain management (RSCM) practices.

IMPA ACT (<http://impa-act.org/>) - a newly launched maritime sector driven RSCM initiative that was designed and shaped with its point of departure in the UNGPs will be show-cased and act as a concrete case for reflection.

Objective:

The side event aims to engage participants in constructive discussions on the implications of the UNGPs to RSCM practices. The side event aims to be as specific as possible, by asking questions such as:

- How may Codes of Conduct look like in light of the UNGPs?
- How does the audit-tradition fit with the UNGPs?, and
- How can companies work with the concept of leverage in practice?

Relevance to Forum mandate:

The side event targets one of the biggest business challenges in implementing the UNGPs, namely what the Guiding Principles mean to the buyer-supplier relationship. The UNGPs has provided for an authoritative reference point for all actors engaged with the impacts of business on human and labour rights; key impacts included in the discourses developed around RSCM over the past 20 years. By engaging a panel of some of the most relevant actors within the RSCM field as well as the event participants, the side event aims to inspire further dialogue on the alignment to the UNGPs of RSCM practices.

Modality:

To enable a focused discussion that is as close as possible to the business reality, the side event will start off with a short presentation of IMPA ACT and its Supplier Code of Conduct. IMPA ACT has integrated the UNGPs directly in their Supplier Code of Conduct, which will be made available in print for event participants. IMPA ACT will serve as example of an initiative that places the UNGPs at its very core.

Relevant panel participants will challenge and discuss the adequacy of IMPA ACT and highlight the key challenges and opportunities that they find are connected to the RSCM and UNGPs nexus.

Possible Panel Participants:

IMPA ACT could be represented by:

- International Marine Purchasing Association (IMPA) General Secretary, Mr. Stephen Alexander
- Buyer representative, Ship owner J. Lauritzen A/S, CSR Manager Ms. Kathrine Geisler Madsen
- Supplier representative, Alfa Laval, CSR Manager Mr. David Ford

Other possible panel participants include:

- Existing RSCM initiative representatives, e.g.:
 - Ethical Trading Initiative (UK) / Danish or Norwegian Ethical Trading initiatives
 - Fair Labour Association
 - Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI)
 - ILO Better Work Program

- AIM Progress (forum of consumer goods manufacturers and suppliers assembled to enable and promote responsible sourcing practices and sustainable production systems.)
- Social Accountability International (SAI)
- Business representatives (RSCM frontrunners), e.g.:
 - Coca Cola
 - HP
 - Nike
 - H&M
- NGO/academic representatives
 - Amnesty International
 - Human Rights Watch
 - An RSCM academic e.g.
 - Mr. Richard Locke (<http://web.mit.edu/polisci/people/faculty/richard-locke.html>)
 - Mr. Dara O'Rourke (<http://www.daraorourke.com/>)
 - Mr. Rhys Jenkins (<http://www.uea.ac.uk/international-development/People/Academic/jenkins>)
 - Mr. Daved J. Vogel (<http://facultybio.haas.berkeley.edu/faculty-list/vogel-david>)

Possible moderator: Sune Skadegaard Thorsen, CEO, GLOBAL CSR

Contact details for event:

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Request for side event II:

What the UN Guiding Principles imply for Export Credit Agencies?

Theme:

The workshop will explore and discuss the potential impact of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) on the practices of Export Credit Agencies including the field of socially responsible investment practices. The workshop will shed light on the emerging practical application of the UNGPs to the work of Export Credit Agencies – based on very concrete work from one Export Credit Agency both in relation to their own responsibility to respect human rights and to their application in concrete projects (it is possible that 1 or 2 concrete pilots can be demonstrated at the side event).

Objective:

The side event aims to engage participants in constructive discussions on the implications of the UNGPs to investment practices and specifically the role of Export Credit Agencies.

Relevance to Forum mandate:

The side event targets two challenges in one event. Firstly, the event sheds light on the role and potential of the UNGPs in the State-Business nexus - with Export Credit Agencies as the specific example. Secondly, the event aims to inspire further dialogue and collaboration on the implications of the UNGPs to socially responsible investments more broadly.

Modality:

To enable a focused discussion, the side event will start off with a short presentation of a specific Export Credit Agency's recent work with aligning their practices with the UNGPs.

Relevant panel participants will then challenge and discuss the case example and highlight the key challenges and opportunities that they find are connected to Export Credit Agencies and Socially Responsible Investments as such.

Possible Panel Participants:

Suggested panel participants apart from selected Export Credit Agency representatives:

- OECD
- IFC
- Equator Principles
- UNPRI
- UNEPFI Human Rights Work Stream representative
- Institute for Human Rights & Business/ Calvert/ Schilling (based on the report 'Investing the Rights Way')
- Pension funds
- Screening companies (Vigeo / Ethixx / Eiris / GES Investment etc.)
- Sustainability indices (FTSE4Good / DOW Jones Sustainability Index etc.)

Possible moderator: Sune Skadegaard Thorsen, CEO, GLOBAL CSR

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Request for side event III:

Constructive Campaigning - applying the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to civil society campaigning

Theme:

Presenting and discussing the new Guide for civil society organisations: "Constructive Campaigning – applying the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to civil society campaigning".

The guide is primarily written for NGOs describing how to use the UNGPs as a vehicle to enable positive change once adverse impacts were identified with a positive outcome for all involved. Besides NGOs, the guide is relevant for investors seeking to live up to their 'active ownership' responsibilities under the UNPRI.

The side event and the guide use as practical example the pharmaceutical business, Lundbeck's, Death Penalty Case¹.

Objective:

The side event aims to engage participants in discussions on how NGOs can ensure the biggest impact of their activities and whether or not the UNGPs have the potential to increase the impact of NGOs, while improving the business-NGO relationship.

Relevance to Forum mandate:

The side event primarily targets one of the most important stakeholders in the Business and Human Rights arena, namely civil society organisations/ NGOs.

The UNGPs enable constructive dialogue and collaboration between NGOs and businesses in addressing adverse impacts on human rights – the workshop proposes a critical discussion on previous 'naming and shaming' campaign practices as well as critical perspectives on the Constructive Campaigning modality.

Modality:

To enable a focused discussion, the side event will kick off with a brief presentation of the Lundbeck case and the 'Constructive Campaigning' guide.

Relevant panel participants will then challenge and discuss the guide and the case example and highlight key challenges and opportunities that they find relevant to future NGO-Business interactions.

Possible Panel Participants:

Case discussion:

- Lundbeck representative
- Reprieve (UK)
- International Commission of Jurists Danish Section (DK)
- SOMO (Netherlands)

¹ <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/02/world/europe/02execute.html? r=0>

Discussants:

- NGOs: Global Policy Forum/ Amnesty Intl/ Human Rights Watch etc
- Academic: e.g. Mrs Salla Lassonen (http://www.utu.fi/en/units/tse/units/international_business/contact/Pages/Salla-Laasonen.aspx) or Mrs. Debora L. Spar (<http://barnard.edu/about/leadership/president-spar-bio/> <http://www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~hiscox/Spar.pdf>)

Possible moderator: Sune Skadegaard Thorsen, GLOBAL CSR

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