

PRE-FORUM SESSION FOR STATES
FORUM ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS
SIDE EVENT

2 DECEMBER, 15:00-18:00

Palais des Nations, Room XXIII

Self-organized single stakeholder session

Organized by the Governments of Argentina, Ghana, India, Norway and Russia

Background

The Forum on Business and Human Rights has a unique role to provide for global multistakeholder dialogue on how to advance implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. While all other sessions of the Forum will be multi-stakeholder, the Working Group on Business and Human Rights and the Forum Secretariat are providing for single stakeholder sessions to be held during the afternoon of the pre-day of the Forum, as these may potentially play an important complementary role in facilitating additional learning and engagement opportunities. Stakeholder pre-Forum sessions will be held for States, business, civil society organizations, national human rights institutions and indigenous peoples respectively.

The pre-Forum stakeholder sessions will serve as an additional platform for engagement with the Working Group and opportunity for stakeholders to inform the Working Group of: i) key needs for effective further implementation of the Guiding Principles; ii) ideas for what further capacity building is needed in each stakeholder group; iii) highlight regional trends and challenges.

They may also serve as:

- A platform to introduce stakeholders to the objectives and functioning of the annual Forum
- “Safe spaces” for practitioner/peer exchanges on lessons and challenges related to practical aspects of Guiding Principles implementation
- Peer learning platforms
- Capacity building opportunities.
- A complementary platform for engaging new audiences within the respective stakeholder groups and providing additional dissemination opportunities.

The pre-Forum stakeholder sessions are organized by the respective stakeholder groups themselves.

Focus of the pre-Forum State caucus

Best practices for implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Gap analysis and National Action Plans.

During its February 2013 session, the Working Group on Business and Human Rights at a consultation with the informal Geneva-based “ Friends of Business and Human Rights” invited States to create their own implementation plans for the Guiding Principles, and suggested the creation of a global repository of national action plans and other State implementation plans, that could enable and promote the exchange of best practices and lessons learned on State implementation. Thus far a number of States are in the process of embarking on processes to develop national action plans for implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Some have already launched their action plans or strategies for developing such plans, but most are in an initial stage.

States developing National Action Plans and other initiatives aimed at formulating overarching policies on the implementation of the Guiding Principles have embarked in legislative gap analyses or mapping exercises to determine, among others, the extent to which existing laws are adequate to address corporate human rights impacts.

By the time of the 2013 Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights a number of early lessons should be ripe for sharing with other States. Practical experiences of what works and what does not work have been called for by States.

Agenda

15:00-15:10	Opening by H.E. Mr. José Luis Balmaceda, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Chile to the international organisations in Geneva
15:10-17:00	Key process and substantive indicators for initiating and developing a national action plan for UN Guiding Principles implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation by Michael K. Addo, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights How to do a gap analysis and “landscape mapping” for developing national action plans on UN Guiding Principles implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation by Mark Taylor, Senior Researcher at the Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies National Action Plans – who are doing what? What works/what does not? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation by Maria Prandi, Co-founder and Project Director at Business and Human Rights (Spain) Open discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exchange of lessons between participating Governments and Q&A
17:00-17:50	An introduction to the 2013 Forum agenda and how the pieces fit with the Guiding Principles <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lene Wendland, Business and Human Rights Adviser, OHCHR• Q&A
17:50-18:00	Wrap-up

Registration

The side event is open to Governments and inter-governmental organizations.

Please pre-register for the side event via <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/forum-on-business-and-human-rights-side-event-pre-forum-session-for-states-tickets-9276657733>

All participants will need to also be registered for the Forum on Business and Human Rights (<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Forum/Pages/2013FBHRRegistration.aspx>)

Interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation in English, French, Russian and Spanish will be available during the session.

Bios of introductory speakers

Michael K. Addo, Member of the UN Working Group, is an academic expert in international human rights law with a particular focus on its implications for international business policy. He is currently Senior Lecturer at the University of Exeter (UK) where he researches and teaches international law, human rights and human rights & business policy at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. In this capacity, Mr. Addo has successfully supervised doctoral research in diverse fields of international human rights law including in the field of business and human rights. Mr. Addo has authored and edited several books and scholarly publications including one of the earliest collection of essays on Human Rights Standards and the responsibility of Transnational Corporations (Nijhoff 1998). Mr. Addo is a lawyer by training and an advocate at the Ghana Bar.

Mark B. Taylor is a Senior Researcher at the Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies in Oslo. A former Managing Director at the Fafo Institute, Mark Taylor has been an advisor and analyst for Governments, business, civil society on issues concerning human rights and business, armed conflict and non-state actors.

María Prandi is co-founder and Project Manager at Business and Human Rights (B&HR). B&HR provides technical assistance for the Guiding Principles National Action Plan in Spain. Maria Prandi is member of the United Nations GC Expert Group on Responsible Business in High-Risk Areas. She is lecturer and associated researcher at the School for a Culture of Peace at the Autonomous University of Barcelona and lecturer at the Institute for Social Innovation at Esade Business School.