

**Brief report from the State pre-Forum session 2 December for the opening session on 3 December.**

**As chair of the State pre-Forum session yesterday, I am pleased to report back from our very engaged and interesting discussion which was focussed on gap analysis and national action plans.**

- 1. The top development identified during our session as regards implementation of the UN Guiding Principles was the positive developments towards different forms of National Action Plans. While only one State has launched a formal action plan, many states present are taking measures to follow up the UN Guiding Principles. Even more importantly, several national action plans are in the pipeline based on comprehensive preparatory processes, including extensive stakeholder consultations.**
  
- 2. There was also a common view that the main challenge when developing national action plans was related to securing a comprehensive buy-in, awareness and understanding, across all government sectors, as well as, business and civil society. These, in order to gain the necessary public legitimacy (that means clarity, certainty and support). In this regards, policy coherence among all state actors is an important challenge and task.**
  
- 3. Based on our discussion I believe that the most important factors to consider to advance dissemination and implementation of the Guiding Principles among States are to**
  - a. Acknowledge that there are different ways to reach our common goal (of extensive awareness and implementation of the UN Guiding Principles). For instance: the timing of a mapping or gap analysis can differ between States, just as the shape of stakeholder consultations. The plans will also differ in their focus and emphasis.**
  
  - b. The need for persistent leadership and extensive stakeholder engagement when developing the plans and initiatives, also to create the necessary sense of urgency. States needs, for instance, to make clear which expectations they have to business, and to introduce incentives for use of due diligence into their relationship with business (for instance as a requirement in their procurement policies for government agencies and state owned enterprises).**
  
  - c. The need for more competence in implementing the UN Guiding Principles, including through exchange of best practices between States and within regions. Regional dimension can be a powerful instrument to enhance the national plans.**
  
  - d. Communication and dissemination of the Guiding Principles and the Plan of Actions are key factors to reach and engage relevant stakeholders.**