**Export Credit and the UNGPs:**

**Challenges and Proposals**

The Danish Export Credit Agency (EKF), Justiça nos Trilhos, ECA-Watch and GLOBAL CSR

December 3, 14:30 – 16:00

The UN Guiding Principles (UNGPs) identify the state-business nexus as an important area where heightened due diligence is expected. They call on states ‘to protect against human rights abuses by business enterprises that receive substantial support and services from State agencies such as export credit agencies.’ The UNGPs advise states to ‘encourage and, where appropriate, require human rights due diligence by government agencies and the business enterprises that receive their support.’

In his opening address to the first UN Forum on Business and Human Rights in 2012, Mr. Ruggie identified export credit as an area where states are taking steps to prevent corporate-related human rights harm abroad. Mr. Ruggie highlighted export credit agencies’ requirement that companies conduct human rights due diligence as a condition for public support.

EKF, ECA-Watch, Justiça nos Trilhos and GLOBAL CSR will explore both state and ECA policy and practice regarding export credit and human rights. The objective of the session is to discuss ECA uptake and application of the UNGPs and to identify recommendations for continued improvement. This analysis is especially timely, as export credit agencies will consider modifying their approach to human rights due diligence in 2015 through on-going work in the OECD. An enhancement in this area would establish a valuable precedent for other state agents and agencies.

ECA-Watch will present a publication on these questions, making use of case studies involving investments that have received ECA financing since the development of the UNGPs. The publication will evaluate human rights practice by export credit agencies and their clients. It will focus on investments supported by several ECAs, in diverse sectors and multiple host states.

The side event will include short presentations by the sponsoring organizations, as well as discussion with forum participants.

ECA-Watch is an international civil society network formed in 2000 to promote enhanced transparency and accountability regarding the operations of export credit agencies. The network’s programming includes a focus on human rights.

Justiça nos Trilhos (JnT) is a network founded in 2007 that unites local organizations representing peasant, quilombola and indigenous communities who are affected by the largest mining project in Brazil. JnT participates in national and international policy debates regarding corporate accountability and human rights.

EKF (the Danish Export Credit Agency) was founded in 1922 and is today servicing approx. 500 Danish exporters from a wide range of sectors in providing financial guarantee for projects in most parts of the world. EKF is owned and guaranteed by the Danish state, but operate on commercial terms. Through its CSR policy dated 2014 EKF has committed to implementing the UN Guiding Principles for Businesses and Human Rights (UNGP). The work of implementing the UNGPs was commenced in late 2012. EKF actively seeks to share experiences gained from implementing the UNGP.

GLOBAL CSR is an internationally recognised leading sustainability consultancy advising corporations, governments, multilateral organisations and non-governmental organisations on the implementation of respect for human rights in business. GLOBAL CSR has operated since 1996 and has pioneered in the field of Business and Human Rights. GLOBAL CSR has served as an expert advisor to and member on several international initiatives that actively promote social sustainability, including the Global Business Initiative on Human Rights and the Business Leaders Initiative on Human Rights from inception.

**Moderation**: Sune Skadegaard Thorsen, CEO, GLOBAL CSR

**Panel**:

Heike Drillisch, ECA-Watch (GegenStrömung)

Danilo Chammas, Justiça nos Trilhos

Karyn Keenan, ECA-Watch (Halifax Initiative)

Claus Primdal Sørensen, EKF (Danish Export Credit Agency)