



17 November, 09:00-13:00  
Assembly Hall (Building A)

## ***High-level opening plenary: Global outlook on business and human rights – “state of play”, global challenges and opportunities for progress***

The high-level plenary will feature opening remarks by the Human Rights Council Vice President, the Forum Chairperson, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Chairperson of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, followed by panel conversations with high-level speakers.

At the centre of discussions are the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council in 2011. This landmark decision provided for the first time a globally recognized framework and blueprint for how States and business enterprises should meet their respective duties and responsibilities for preventing and addressing business-related human rights abuse. While an increasing number of States and companies are committing to implement the Guiding Principles and the three pillars of “Protect, Respect and Remedy”, much remains to be done to translate policy statements and commitments into action and to ensure access to effective remedies for victims of corporate-related human rights abuse.

Against this backdrop, the opening plenary will take stock of the current state of play of the human rights and business agenda and offer perspectives on key challenges and opportunities for making progress.

### ***Agenda and speakers***

#### **09:00-09:30 – Opening remarks**

- Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Vice President of the Human Rights Council
- Diana Chavez, Chairperson - 2015 UN Forum on Business and Human Rights
- Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (by video)
- Margaret Jungk, Chair of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights

#### **09:30-10:30 – Leadership panel I: Framing the issues: progress, access to remedy and other remaining challenges**

Moderator: Caroline Rees, President Shift

- Linda Kromjong, Secretary General, International Organisation of Employers
- Rafael Marques de Morais, Angolan investigative journalist and 2015 Index on Censorship award-winner
- Lee Sung-ho, Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea
- Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples

Moderated panel conversation followed by Q&A with the audience (brief interventions only, max 1-2 minutes)

*10:30-10:40: Transition between panels*



**10:40-11:45 – Leadership panel II: Addressing barriers and challenges to progress**

Moderator: Dan McDougall, award-winning Foreign Correspondent and Creative Director of Miran

- Aishah Bidin, Commissioner, Human Rights Commission of Malaysia; Professor of Corporate and Insolvency Law, National University of Malaysia
- Erol Kiresepi, CEO, Santa Farma Pharmaceuticals
- Mark Nordstrom, Senior Labor and Employment Counsel at General Electric
- Katie Redford, Founder and Director of Earthrights International

Moderated panel conversation followed by Q&A with the audience (brief interventions only, max 1-2 minutes)

*11:45-11:55: Transition between panels*

**11:55-13:00 – Leadership panel III: Market enablers and opportunities for progress**

Moderator: Caroline Rees, President Shift

- Adriano Campolina, Executive Director of ActionAid International
- Espen Barth Eide, Managing Director at World Economic Forum, former Foreign Minister of Norway
- Michael Meehan, Chief Executive, GRI
- Steve Waygood, Chief Responsible Investment Officer at Aviva Investors

Moderated panel conversation followed by Q&A with the audience (brief interventions only, max 1-2 minutes)

***Format***

The opening remarks will be followed by the moderated Q&A-discussion style panel conversations. Time permitting, participants in the audience will be invited to raise questions and comments during each of the panel segments. The moderators may use their discretion in the management of the interventions from the floor in order to achieve balanced discussions that are pertinent to the topic of the session.

The session will have simultaneous interpretation in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Korean, Russian and Spanish. It will also be live-streamed on UN Web TV and archived for later viewing via the Forum's web page.

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