



**16 November**  
**10:00-11:30**  
**Room XX (Building E)**

## **“Promoting the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in global governance frameworks: Recent developments and opportunities for further alignment”**

*Session organized by the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights*

### ***Focus of the session***

This session will provide an opportunity for international and regional organizations and other stakeholders to share updates on recent efforts to enhance protection and respect for human rights in the context of business activities. It will discuss ways to promote policy coherence and convergence around the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. It will also serve as a forum for identifying key issues where further alignment and clarification efforts may be needed.

### ***Aims and objectives***

- Take stock of recent developments across responsible business/sustainability frameworks and initiatives that interface with the Guiding Principles
- Identify ways to enhance coordination and harmonization, levelling the playing field and reaching the “non-pioneers” among States and business actors
- Identify areas where there is a risk of diverging interpretations/approaches and/or need for clarifying key elements in the Guiding Principles

### ***Background***

Since the endorsement of the Guiding Principles by the UN Human Rights Council in 2011, there has been notable alignment between key elements of the Principles and other international standards and initiatives related to responsible business, such as:

- Integration into other international standards and guidelines (such as the OECD in the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the International Organization for Standardization in the corporate social responsibility standard, ISO 26000)
- Integration into international initiatives for corporate sustainability with global coverage (such as the UN Global Compact and the Global Reporting Initiative);
- Explicit promotion of or recognition of the Guiding Principles in work by regional organizations (such as the EU, the OAS, the AU and the ASEAN);
- Endorsement of the Guiding Principles by G7 Leaders in 2015;
- Reference to the Guiding Principles in the outcome document for the 2030 global sustainable development agenda.

While such examples of progress are encouraging, most of the hard work of translating policy statements and commitments into action remains to be done. The Working Group's report to the Human Rights Council in June 2015 (A/HRC/29/28) identified opportunities for the UN to promote convergence on the Guiding Principles to improve policy coherence of governance frameworks. This session builds on that report, but goes beyond the UN system. It seeks to strengthen dialogue and coordination between the international and regional organizations that play a central role in the international frameworks and efforts that shape State and business conduct. Ultimately the goal of achieving maximum coherence and alignment between the Guiding Principles and other relevant frameworks has the potential of leveraging their influence on corporate conduct and generate greater scale of effects.

### **Speakers**

Moderator: *Dante Pesce, Member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights*

Stakeholder perspectives:

- *Filippo Veglio, Director, Social Impact, World Business Council on Sustainable Development,*
- *Mariëtte van Huijstee, Senior Researcher, Centre for Research on Transnational Corporations (SOMO)*

Updates, divergence risks & ways to ensure alignment and greater scale

- *Teresa Fogelberg, Deputy Chief Executive, Global Reporting Initiative*
- *José Alcorta, Technical Group Manager in the Energy, Health, Data Applications, Services and Management department, ISO*
- *Kathryn Dovey, Manager – NCP coordination, OECD*
- *Michelle Lau, Manager, Human Rights and Social Sustainability, UN Global Compact*
- *Tomislav Ivančić, Team leader, CSR European Commission*
- *Githa Roelans, Head, Multinational Enterprises and Enterprise Engagement Unit, Enterprises Department, ILO*
- *Anthony Miller, CSR Focal Point, Investment and Enterprise Division, UNCTAD*
- *Maria Luisa Silva, Director of UNDP's Geneva Liaison Office, UNDP*

### **Format**

This session will be moderated as an open dialogue by the Working Group. Invited speakers will give brief introductory comments (4-5 minutes) to share updates and highlight from their respective areas of work issues related to the Guiding Principles where further coordination and clarifications are most needed. Other stakeholder groups, including Governments, business and civil society will be able to join the discussion to share their views.

### **Background reading**

The Working Group's report to the 29th UN Human Rights Council (A/HRC/29/28):

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Pages/Reports.aspx>

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