



How accountants can assure respect for human rights and be enablers for change

Date: Tuesday, 15 November 2016

Time: 13.20 to 14.40

Room: XXIII - Palais des Nations, Building E

Speakers

Moderator:

- **Ms. Claire Ighodaro:** Claire is a Board member and Audit Committee Chair of Lloyd's of London and of Flood Re, a Non-executive Director and Governance Committee Chair of Merrill Lynch International, and a Council member of University of Surrey. She was an independent Director of the UK Department for Business, Innovation, and Skills; and Board member and Audit Committee Chair of UK Trade and Investment, the Open University, the Lending Standards Board, and the British Council. Until 2005 she was a Senior Executive at BT PLC, working in the UK and Germany. She is a past President of CIMA. Ms. Ighodaro is a Fellow of CIMA and of the Institute of Directors. Since 2013 she has been a member of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants in 2013 She was awarded a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) by Her Majesty the Queen in 2008 for services to business

Speakers:

- **Mr Paul Druckman:** A passionate global leader in capital market reform - from corporate governance to reporting, accounting and sustainability, having led the International Integrated Reporting Council as CEO for five years. Paul's highlights include being a successful software entrepreneur; President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales; chairing The Prince's Accounting for Sustainability Project (A4S) Executive Board; and as a Board member of the UK government regulator, the Financial Reporting Council.
- **Mr Richard Karmel:** Richard is responsible for Mazars' award winning business and human rights reporting line in the UK. Currently, Richard is a key member of the project team of the Reporting and Assurance Framework Initiative (RAFI). In 2015, the RAFI launched the UNGP Reporting Framework (www.UNGPreporting.org) which has since been recommended by the United Nations and several governments as a guide for companies on what good reporting of their human rights performance looks like. In September 2016 the team released their consultation draft of the related Assurance Guidance to act as a guide for both internal and external assurance providers.
- **Dr Ian Peters:** Ian is Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors, a position he has held since June 2009. He was previously Director of External Affairs at the Engineering Employers Federation (EEF) from 2001 and before that Deputy Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce. He has also worked for the Confederation of British Industry where he led their work on Small and Medium Enterprises and for international PR agency Burson-Marsteller. Ian is a currently a member of the Advisory Panel of the UK Chartered Banker Professional Standards Board and has served on a number of government committees. In 2015 Ian was awarded an MBE for services to regulatory reform.
- **Dr Noel Tagoe:** As Executive Vice President - Academics, Dr Tagoe oversees the formulation and implementation of CIMA's research strategy, the development of CIMA's qualifications and related assessment. He was previously Head of Research and Development at CIMA. Prior to joining CIMA Noel taught at University College Dublin (UCD) in Ireland and the universities of Manchester, Reading and Oxford in England. Between academic appointments he held senior accounting and strategy positions with BP and Elf Aquitaine (now part of Total Oil) in Africa. In addition, Noel established and led KPMG's financial advisory consulting practice in West Africa for 3 years. Noel is a chartered accountant from Ghana. He holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Ghana and postgraduate degrees from the universities of Dundee and Oxford.

Focus and aim

The principal aim of the session is to set out how accountants both internal and external to companies can be real enablers for change.

The roles of accountants have changed in many ways over the past decade. They don't only involve looking at the numbers; trained accountants have wide and varied roles within businesses often ending up as CEOs, but also taking roles such as chief risk officers, heads of internal audit, chief operations officers, chief financial officer and many others. Accordingly, ensuring accountants have more than a passing knowledge of the potential impacts and risks that their companies can cause to human rights is vital to increase the pace of change within business.

The five speakers in this session all have the same objective but are approaching it from different perspectives. They will set out how for the role of the accountant to keep pace with business needs, their education and training needs to change to not only attract bright people but people who want to make a difference to the businesses in which they work and the societies in which they live.

Format

Ms Ighodaro will introduce the session and set out the playing field of the roles that accountants have had in the past but how they can upskill and drive change through their businesses.

Each of the other speakers will set out the roles that their own organisations / initiatives are playing to advance the promotion of corporate respect for human rights and how they think accountants can change even further for acting as even greater agents for change.

Ms Ighodaro will challenge each speaker after they have spoken and at the end of all presentations will open to the floor for questions.

Useful links

CGMA report Business and Human Rights: Evolution and Acceptance

<http://www.cgma.org/Resources/Reports/Pages/business-and-human-rights.aspx>

UNGP Reporting Framework

www.ungpreporting.org

Consultation draft Assurance Guidance to the UNGP Reporting Framework

<http://www.ungpreporting.org/consultation-assurance-guidance/>

Mazars business and human rights solutions

<http://www.mazars.co.uk/Home/Our-Services/Consulting/Business-and-Human-Rights>

Integrated Reporting Framework

<http://integratedreporting.org/resource/international-ir-framework/>

Session Organisers



CGMA - Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA®)

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