



Moving forward with National Actions plans on business and human rights and implementing Pillar III in Southeast Asia

Parallel session

29 November

13:30-14:45

Organized by the Royal Thai Government and the United Nations Development Program

Brief outline: With support from UNDP's Regional Program: "Supporting Regional and National Partnerships for the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in Asia-Pacific", this session aims to showcase Southeast Asia's momentum in implementing the UNGPs by sharing ongoing efforts on:

- 1) Developing National Action Plans through Joint Government, NHRIs initiatives which involve also the private sector and CSOs.
- 2) Adopting Business and Human Rights Policies for specific business sectors
- 3) Raising awareness and building capacities of Judiciaries and NHRIs in becoming effective instruments of State Judicial and non-judicial remedies
- 4) Agreeing on a Regional strategy for Business and Human Rights in Southeast Asia/ASEAN

Southeast Asia is one of the world's most robust and dynamic regions for business. While striving to be at the forefront of global economic growth, Southeast Asia has also faced challenges including social inequality, risks of human rights violations and environmental degradation. The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) adopted at the Human Rights Council in 2011 have gained increased interest and support in this region. At present, a number of countries have taken steps to implement the UNGPs. More specifically Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia are drafting or exploring options to develop their National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP). Business companies in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam have also set up UN Global Compact local Networks as a part of the commitment from CEOs to align companies' strategies and operations with the universal principles on human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption. This parallel session will provide information on what already being done at National and Regional level, and allow for exchange of views among various

stakeholders on the progress achieved and challenges still being faced. Mechanisms and practices to provide access to remedy the context of business and human rights will also be discussed.

Session objectives: The objective of the session is to highlight good practices, such as the National Action Plan being developed in Thailand and planned in Malaysia, the training to State Owned Enterprises delivered in Thailand, the human rights certification for the fishery sector adopted in Indonesia or the capacity building training (with a strong focus on remedies) hosted by AICHR. Representatives of the Governments of Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia will illustrate their ongoing activities and strategies to implement the Protect, Respect and Remedy Framework. An AICHR Representative will illustrate ongoing initiatives within ASEAN.

Session format and content:

- Moderator: Livio Sarandrea, UNDP
- Opening Remarks:
 - **Dante Pesce**, Member of the Working Group on Business and Human Rights
 - **H.E.Mr. Sek Wannamethee**, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations in Geneva
 - **H.E.Ms. Diana Madunic**, CSR Ambassador, Royal Government of Sweden
- Panel Discussion:
 - **Mr. Bonanza P. Taihitu**, Deputy Director, Directorate for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Indonesia
 - **Professor Dato Dr. Aishah Bidin**, Commissioner, Malaysian Human Rights Commission, SUHAKAM
 - **Ms. Pitikan Sithidej**, Director-General, Department of Rights and Liberties Protection, Ministry of Justice, Royal Thai Government
 - **Dr. Seree Nonthasoot**, Thai Representative, ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission for Human Rights
- Interactive Dialogue: Question and answer session