# 2017Business_Forum_header_EN.jpgDRAFT PROGRAMME OUTLINE

(21 *September 2017*)

**About the 2017 UN Forum:** The UN Forum on Business and Human Rights is the global platform for yearly stock-taking and lesson-sharing on efforts to move the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf) (UNGPs) and the “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework from paper to practice. The central theme of the 2017 Forum is **“*Realizing Access to Effective Remedy*”**.The programme will include two plenary sessions, and more than 60 “parallel” sessions organized in simultaneous tracks throughout the three days. These are organized by both UN and external organizations, and are based on extensive consultations and submissions. In addition, the Forum will include a “developments and tools snapshots” track, where organizations wishing to highlight relevant work may be able to sign up for brief presentations.

**Background documents:**

* [Concept note](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Business/ForumSession6/ConceptNote.pdf)
* [Reflections on the theme](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Business/ForumSession6/ExplainingThemeLaunchingBlog.pdf)
* [2017 Forum blog series](http://blog.journals.cambridge.org/2017/09/14/launch-of-the-2017-un-forum-on-business-and-human-rights-blog-series-realizing-access-to-effective-remedy/)

**Web page:** [www.ohchr.org/2017ForumBHR](https://www.ohchr.org/2017ForumBHR)

**Registration:** <https://reg.unog.ch/event/16132/>

**General queries:** [forumbhr@ohchr.org](mailto:forumbhr@ohchr.org)

**Registration queries:** [registrationforumbhr@ohchr.org](mailto:registrationforumbhr@ohchr.org)

**Hashtags:** *#UNForumBHR / #bizhumanrights*

**Follow on Twitter:** *@WGBizHRs*

**“Post-Forum” events:** The [*UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Pages/WGHRandtransnationalcorporationsandotherbusiness.aspx) *(UNWG)* and a number of other organizations are convening events and consultations on business and human rights in the days after the Forum. Organizations wishing to highlight “Post-Forum” events to other participants are encouraged to submit details [via this link](https://goo.gl/forms/SyM3tDTX6H586hNY2). The information will be compiled and listed on the Forum web page.

**Background:** *The Forum was established by the UN Human Rights Council in 2011 “to discuss trends and challenges in the implementation of the* [*UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights*](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf)” *and promote dialogue on business and human rights ” (resolution 17/4, paragraph 12).The Forum is guided and chaired by the* [*UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Pages/WGHRandtransnationalcorporationsandotherbusiness.aspx) *(UNWG) and organized by its Secretariat at the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).*

# Day 1 – 27 November

## Early morning sessions (parallel)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Introductory sessions* | * *Introduction to the UNGPs* * *Introduction to the access to remedy pillar* * *Introduction to the UNGPs and the SDGs: separate, related, or integrated?* |
| *Operationalizing the UNGPs at country level* | * *UNGPs implementation: lessons learned from UNWG country missions* |
| *Stakeholder perspectives* | * *Indigenous peoples and access to remedy: developments and new approaches* |

## Morning session (plenary)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Opening plenary* | * *Part 1: Opening statements* * *Part 2: Keynote panel featuring women leaders from different backgrounds* |

## Lunch-time sessions (parallel)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Exploring new solutions and the role of “shapers” of corporate practice* | * *Legal counsel, disputes and respect for rights* * *How proposals for international arbitration and an international remedy institute would work in practice* |
| *Operationalization of the UNGPs in a sector context* | * *Implementing the UNGPs in the commodities trading sector* |
| *Private sector standing up for human rights* | * *Promoting inclusion and countering anti-migrant narratives: the role of business* |
| *Operationalizing the UNGPs: regional experiences* | * *Responsible investments and sustainable supply chains through implementing the UNGPs and human rights due diligence* |

## Afternoon tracks (parallel)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Exploring elements of effective remedy* | * *Part 1: Conversation with the UNWG Chair: The UNWG report to the UN General Assembly – realizing access to effective remedy* * *Part 2: Victims’ perspectives concerning effective remedy (case studies)* |
| *Implementing the UNGPs through policy and regulation – Trends and case studies* | * *Part 1: Where is government regulation heading?* * *Part 2: The French duty of vigilance law – companies and stakeholder perspectives* * *Part 3: Rule of law Reform in the Indonesian fishing industry: Remediation mechanisms and access to justice for victims* |
| *Operationalizing corporate respect for human rights: how far have we come?* | * *Part 1: Taking stock of efforts to operationalize the responsibility to respect across the business community* * *Part 2: How to build on and scale implementation of corporate respect for human rights* |
| *A business and human rights lens on the SDGs* | * *Part 1: Case studies on UNGPs-SDGs linkages* * *Part 2: Corporate respect for human rights and the SDGs: understanding and unleashing a powerful relationship* |
| *Technology and human rights* | * *Part 1: Addressing access to remedy in the context of sharing and processing personal data* * *Part 2: Do we need a digital Geneva convention?* |

## Evening sessions (parallel)

|  |
| --- |
| * *Solid documentation as point of departure for access to remedy* * *Film screening: “Complicit”* * *Multi-stakeholder debate (“Oxford Union style”): Can non-judicial remedy be effective?* * *Book launch session* * *Cultural exhibition* |

# Day 2 – 28 November

## Early morning sessions (parallel)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Access to remedy trends and stakeholder perspectives sessions* | * *Access to remedy across the value chain: regulation and litigation trends* * *An African perspective to access to remedy – Regional challenges and needs* * *Addressing impacts on indigenous peoples in Asia* |
| *Rights issues in focus and collaborative solutions* | * *The right to information - Access to remedy for workers and communities affected by toxic waste* |
| *Exploring conceptual and practical issues of international mechanisms* | * *Updates on the process of elaborating a legally binding instrument* |

## Morning tracks (parallel)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Exploring elements of effective remedy* | * *Part 1: How to integrate voices of the affected communities?* * *Part 2: Settlement agreements and international standards on right to effective remedy* |
| *Improving effectiveness of non-judicial mechanisms* | * *Part 1: State-based non-judicial mechanisms on corporate accountability and remedy: supporting actors or lead players?* * *Part 2: National human rights institutions as a global non-judicial remedy mechanism* |
| *Frameworks for leveraging access to remedy in supply chains and business relationships* | * *Part 1: Access to remedy in global governance frameworks: new developments and building further convergence* * *Part 2: Using leverage to advance access to remedy through business relationships – exploring innovations of the ILO MNE Declaration* |
| *Protecting and supporting human rights defenders* | * *Part 1: Developing UN guidance* * *Part 2: Human rights defenders as agents for access to remedy* * *Part 3: Remedying, redressing and preventing attacks against human rights defenders* |
| *Technology and human rights* | * *Part 1: Are emerging technology innovations driving better access to remedy in global supply chains?* * *Part 2: Remedy against the machine* |

## Lunch-time sessions (parallel)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Private sector standing up for human rights* | * *UN corporate standards of conduct on tackling discrimination against LGBTI: bringing an LGBTI “lens” to the UNGPs* |
| *Exploring new solutions and the role of “shapers” of corporate practice* | * *Human rights benchmarks: what they tell us about access to remedy* |
| *Rights issues in focus and collaborative solutions* | * *Worker debt bondage – is reimbursement of fees the only remedy?* * *Exploring pro bono legal support to communities* |
| *Operationalizing the UNGPs: regional experiences* | * *UN Global Compact Local Network experiences: implementing the UNGPs and human rights due diligence to achieve the SDGs* |

## Afternoon tracks (parallel)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Exploring elements of effective remedy: focus on women’s rights* | * *Part 1:* *Business-related impacts on women’s rights – challenges and strategies for addressing them* * *Part 2: Women’s rights and land intensive investment: what does meaningful access to remedy look like?* * *Part 3: Women workers in global supply chains: operational-level grievance mechanisms and access to remedy* |
| *Effectiveness of judicial remedy – from paper to practice* | * *Part 1:* *Increasing the effectiveness of judicial mechanisms in cases of business-related human rights abuse* * *Part 2: The life cycle of a criminal prosecution: Overcoming challenges and increasing accountability for cross-border corporate human rights crimes* |
| *Improving access to remedy in collaborative approaches* | * *Part 1: The role of business and industry associations* * *Part 2: Strengthening access to remedy in multi-stakeholder initiatives* |
| *Improving effectiveness of non-judicial mechanisms* | * *Part 1: Lessons learned from the OECD peer review process* * *Part 2: Independent accountability mechanisms as forums to achieve effective remedy* |
| *Access to remedy through multi-stakeholder engagement* | * *Case studies: achieving access to remedy through multi-stakeholder engagement on the ground* |

## Evening sessions (parallel)

|  |
| --- |
| * *Cultural event* * *Responsible sourcing initiative (reception)* |

# Day 3 – 29 November

## Early morning sessions (parallel)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Rights issues in focus and collaborative solutions for improving access to remedy* | * *The right to housing: A remedy to financialization?* * *Compensating migrant worker victims for labour abuse* |
| *Access to remedy through multi-stakeholder engagement* | * *The role of mediation in assessing project impacts and providing access to remedy: principles and practice of mediation in a local and global context* |
| *Making operational-level grievance mechanisms work* | * *Making operational-level grievance mechanisms work for workers* |
| *Exploring new solutions and the role of “shapers” of corporate practice* | * *Business lawyers, litigation and corporate human rights impacts (role play)* |

## Morning tracks (parallel)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *National action plans(NAPs) and access to remedy* | * *Part 1: UNWG perspectives* * *Part 2: State presentations* * *Part 3: Multi-stakeholder dialogue – How to make NAPs work in improving access to remedy?* |
| *The State as an economic actor and access to remedy* | * *Part 1: The “State-business nexus” and the access to remedy pillar* * *Part 2: Realizing access to remedy: Implications of the international investment regime* |
| *Improving access to remedy in collaborative approaches* | * *Part 1: Lessons learned from efforts to provide remedy to victims of industrial supply chain accidents* * *Part 2: The role of dialogue mechanisms in prevention of industrial disputes* |
| *Making operational-level grievance mechanisms work* | * *Part 1: Operational-level grievance mechanisms: how to make them work for affected stakeholders* * *Part 2: Do operational-level grievance mechanisms in the extractive industries work? Companies and stakeholder perspectives* |
| *Exploring access to remedy in the bank sector* | * *Part 1: Banks and remedy under the Dutch Banking Sector Agreement* * *Part 2: Public-private partnerships for effective remedy: a case study on human trafficking* |

## Lunch-time sessions (parallel)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Private sector standing up for human rights* | * *Universal Declaration on Human Rights at 70: the role of business* |
| *Exploring new solutions and the role of “shapers” of corporate practice* | * *Investor perspectives on addressing access to remedy in supply chains* |
| *Improving access to judicial remedy* | * *Addressing interference in access to justice: perspectives from the ground* |
| *Operationalizing the UNGPs: regional experiences* | * *Moving forward with NAPs on business and human rights and implementing Pillar III in ASEAN* * *Embedding respect for human rights in the Tokyo Olympics* |

# Day 3 – 29 November (cont.)

## Afternoon sessions (parallel)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Addressing modern slavery* | * *Improving access to remedy for victims of modern slavery in supply chains* |
| *Childs rights and access to remedy* | * *Child rights in global supply chains – Practical case studies from the field* |
| *Access to remedy through multi-stakeholder engagement* | * *Case study: lessons from a NCP case* |
| *Role of regional human rights mechanisms* | * *How regional mechanisms play a role in supporting access to remedy for affected stakeholders – Case study of indigenous peoples affected by business operations* |
| *Ensuring access to remedy in post-conflict contexts* | * *Implementing the UNGPs in a post-conflict scenario* |

## Late afternoon (plenary)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Closing plenary* | * *“Connecting the dots” and charting out next steps for achieving coherent and concerted action on the UNGPs’ Pillar III* |

## Evening sessions

|  |
| --- |
| * *Launching a resource website on business and human rights NAPs (reception)* |