**Side Event**

**Launch of publication on trade union rights and the Guiding Principles**

**When and Where**

4 December in Room XXII of the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 8:00 to 8:45

**Who is invited?**

Representatives of companies, trade unions, NGOs and anybody else who is interested in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

**Purpose**

This side meeting is for the purpose of launching the publication *“The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the human rights of workers to form or join trade unions and to bargain collectively”.* <http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/12-11-22_ituc-industriall-ccc-uni_paper_on_due_diligence_and_foa.pdf>

 This paper is being issued by The IndusriALL Global Union, the International Trade Union Confederation, UNI Global Union, and the Clean Clothes Campaign.

The right to join or form a trade union and the right to bargain collectively are established human rights falling within the scope of almost every business enterprise in almost every situation or context. Yet the corporate responsibility to respect these human rights is too often not being met, with the result that millions of workers the world over are denied their rights.

This paper sets out what it means for a business enterprise to respect the rights of workers to join or form a trade union and the right to bargain collectively:

* Do nothing that would have the effect of discouraging workers from exercising their right to form or join a trade union;
* Not seek to avoid any genuine opportunity to bargain collectively;
* Exercise due diligence in identifying and preventing anti-union policies and practices as well as mitigating the adverse impacts on the exercise of these rights by other business practices.

The paper reaffirms the centrality of industrial relations to both the exercise of due diligence and the remediation of adverse human rights impacts within the framework of the UN Guiding Principles.