# 3 December

14:30-16:00

Room XX

Thematic track: Global Governance

# The Sustainable Development Goals and Business and Human Rights

The year 2015 is the end date for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The successor global development framework will be negotiated between January to September 2015. Based upon member States' existing agreements, it is likely that the post-2015 framework will be a universal one, relevant and applicable to all countries, and it is likely to be anchored explicitly in member States' existing human rights commitments. It will likely address a wide range of economic, social, environmental and governance goals and targets along with means of implementation in areas including finance, trade and technology transfer.

It is increasingly recognised that the complex challenges of development cannot be met by States alone. The private sector has contributed actively to the debates leading towards the post-2015 agenda. Businesses are now positioning themselves to support the implementation of the agenda through corporate sustainability frameworks (including the Global Compact and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights), leveraging finance, technological innovation, business initiatives and Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) on sustainability issues, multi-stakeholder global partnerships on particular post-2015 goals, improved "integrated" reporting, disclosure and accountability frameworks, among others.

However human rights contractions and controversies are never far from the surface, from project level through to trade and investment policy, the distribution of risk and benefit from PPPs, procurement policy and tax evasion. Despite persistent efforts from within and outside the UN system, member States have so far been slow to embrace the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights as part of the governance and accountability framework for the post-2015 development agenda.

This panel therefore offers a timely opportunity to review efforts by the business community, governments, the UN and civil society to build stronger partnerships for sustainable development objectives and ensure that the contributions of business and private finance to the post-2015 development agenda are consistent with and build upon international human rights commitments - including within the framework of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Moderated by Mac Darrow, Chief of the Millenium Development Goals Section, OHCHR

**Speakers:**

* Puvan Selvanathan, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights
* Caterina de Albuquerque, former UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation
* Pregs Govender, Deputy Chairperson, South African Human Rights Commission
* Filippo Veglio, Director of Social Impact Cluster, World Business Council for Sustainable Development
* Bhumika Mucchala, Senior Policy Analyst, Finance and Development, Third World Network
* Judit Arenas, Director, External Relations, Deputy Permanent Observer to the UN, IDLO

**Video Message:** Amina J. Mohammed, UN Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning