



16 November & 18 November

15:00-16:20

Room XX (Building E)

Multi-stakeholder action across “Protect, Respect and Remedy” – Addressing specific impacts

Organized by the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights in collaboration with the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre and the Global Business Initiative on Human Rights

Focus

These two sessions have the same focus on specific cases in which all three pillars of the UN “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework are being applied. The overall spirit will be to support good practice examples while also highlighting tensions, and challenges and ways forward. These twin sessions will feature concrete cases from different sectors (infrastructure investment, agricultural production, retail and garment sourcing) and regions (the Americas, Africa and Asia). Each example will feature perspectives of civil society and business as well as Government (in several cases – to be adjusted subject to confirmation of invited speakers). This is because the panels will focus on constructive collaboration between Governments, business and civil society to address human rights and business issues in specific cases, with reference to international standards.

Panel 16 November

Introductory remarks: Margaret Jungk, Chairperson of the UN Working Group

Moderator: Mark Hodge, Executive Director, Global Business Initiative on Human Rights, GBI

Introductory panel presentations:

- **Multi-stakeholder engagement in Myanmar’s Thilawa Special Economic Zone**
 - Vicky Bowman, Director, Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business
 - Aye Khaing Win, Thilawa Social Development Group and displaced community member
 - Than Aung, Secretary, Thilawa SEZ Management Committee
 - Takashi Yanai, President and Chief Executive Officer, Myanmar Japan Thilawa Development Limited
- **Malawi 2020: Towards a living wage for 50,000 tea workers**
 - Sarah Roberts, Executive Director, Ethical Tea Partnership
 - Rachel Wilshaw, Ethical Trade Manager, Private Sector team, Campaigns, Policy and Influencing Team, Oxfam GB

Panel 18 November

Introductory remarks by Dante Pesce, Member, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights

Moderator: Phil Bloomer, Executive Director, Business and Human Rights Resource Centre

Introductory panel presentations:

- **Labour rights in Florida's tomato growing industry: The Fair Food Programme**
 - Greg Asbed, Co-Founder of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers
 - Miguel Rios, Agricultural Enforcement Coordinator for the Southeast Region of the U.S. Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor
 - Cheryl Queen, VP Communications, Compass Group
- **From supply chain management to rights protections in Cambodia's textile factories**
 - An Nan, Field Representative, Workers Rights Consortium and the Arbitration Council of Cambodia
 - Lars Åke Bergqvist, Global CSR Coordinator, H&M
 - Susan Hayter, Senior Specialist - Labour Relations, ILO

Background

Since the endorsement of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights by the Human Rights Council in 2011 a great deal of focus and debate has been on how each pillar of the UN "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework is being implemented. Generally speaking, conferences, research, projects and dialogue address the detailed, technical implementation and challenges of delivering on the promise of each pillar. This is necessary and urgent given that implementation of the Guiding Principles is nascent and requires policy, process and practice innovations within complex institutions. Nonetheless, there is often less attention given to instances in which all three pillars of the UN Framework are, or need to be, applied simultaneously to bring about meaningful change. This is problematic, because lack of simultaneous action will only ever lead to partial or passing human rights protection. Neither effective State action alongside bad corporate conduct, nor good quality human rights due diligence alongside lack of access to remedy, nor strong remedial avenues without company capacity to prevent adverse impacts can deliver strong solutions to business and human rights challenges (especially the most severe and intractable ones).

This holistic application of the Guiding Principles is arguably where their power and intrinsic value ultimately lie. As the introduction to the Guiding Principles notes, "Each pillar is an essential component in an inter-related and dynamic system of preventative and remedial measures." The commentary to the General Principles reinforces this point by reminding that "These Guiding Principles should be understood as a coherent whole and should be read, individually and collectively, in terms of their objective of enhancing standards and practices with regard to business and human rights so as to achieve tangible results for affected individuals and communities, and thereby also contributing to a socially sustainable globalization".

In light of the relative lack of spaces in which the Guiding Principles are read and considered collectively, it seems necessary and timely to make use of the annual Forum to support a multi-stakeholder dialogue in which all three pillars (Protect, Respect and Remedy) are considered in unison. The sessions build (and expand) on a discussion held at the 2014 Forum focused on sharing lessons from specific cases of engagement between business and civil society in order to support implementation of the corporate responsibility to respect human rights (see references below).

Aims and objectives

The core purpose of these two sessions is to demonstrate the transformational power of approaches to business and human rights which integrate all three pillars of the Guiding Principles, and to inspire

advocates in business, Government, and civil society, to adopt this approach together, especially where there are high material human rights risks in business operations and supply chains. With this in mind, the sessions will seek to:

- Identify examples where all three pillars have begun to be applied together via collaboration/coordination among States, businesses and civil society – with a strong focus on delivering results “on the ground”
- Make use of the diverse expertise and perspectives at the UN Forum to support speakers and participants to address challenges they are facing
- Identify cross-cutting lessons, challenges, capacity needs and opportunities when seeking to deliver results at a local level via coordinated action
- Establish how the UN Working Group and others can support better coordinated action and collaboration
- Encourage multi-stakeholder dialogue and learning about the inter-relationship of “Protect, Respect, and Remedy” – both conceptually and in practice.

Key discussion questions

- With reference to the specific cases, what were the key challenges and obstacles experienced by each of the involved parties for achieving effective results for affected stakeholders? How were they addressed?
- What value added did the multi-stakeholder engagement bring out, and what was the role of each stakeholder group?
- How were/are tensions and disagreements dealt with?
- What general lessons can be drawn for other situations with potential for multi-stakeholder action to deliver better protection and respect for human rights?

Format

Both sessions will feature introductory presentations of the identified cases, with the perspective of different stakeholders brought forward in each example. Following the introduction by the panel, the moderator will involve the audience in a discussion on the cross-cutting lessons from these examples and other similar experiences.

Background reading

- Addendum report by the Working Group to the 29th UN Human Rights Council (A/HRC/29/28/Add.3): *Identifying emerging approaches and lessons learned in corporate respect for human rights: reflections from discussions held at the 2014 Forum on Business and Human Rights*; available at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Pages/Reports.aspx>
- Report by BHHRC and GBI from the “Respect in practice” session held at the 2014 UN Forum, available at <http://business-humanrights.org/sites/default/files/documents/Respect%20in%20Practice%20Report.pdf>

Forum Twitter hashtag: **#bizhumanrights**

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