



16 November

11:40-13:00

Room XX (Building E)

See also session on 17 November at 15:00 on “Measuring and tracking businesses implementation”

Measuring States’ implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

The session is organized by the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, jointly with the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, the Danish Institute for Human Rights, the Institute for Human Rights and Business, Measuring Business and Human Rights Project, Shift, University of Denver, and the US Council for International Business

Focus and background of the session

Businesses can have an adverse impact on every human right, in any country in the world. Yet there is no comprehensive data on the nature, scale and extent of that impact, or on the efforts made by States and companies to prevent and remedy business-related harm. Measuring and tracking progress on business and human rights, and getting that fact-based data, is crucial to assessing whether current efforts by all stakeholders to implement the Guiding Principles are effective, and to speed up their implementation.

This session will discuss existing measuring initiatives that are specific to measuring the State duty to protect against business-related harm (Pillar I of the Guiding Principles). It will assess the extent to which States’ efforts to implement their duty to protect are being measured and where gaps are. It will weave in broader methodological, operational and strategic questions related to measurement, drawing lessons from existing initiatives and from other fields such as measuring labour standards. Building on existing initiatives, this session will explore some of the key vehicles for a more robust measurement of States’ implementation of the Guiding Principles, such as National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights.

The session will also include discussion on measuring availability and access to state-based remedies (Pillar III of the Guiding Principles) as part and parcel of measuring the State’s duty to protect.

A second session on 17 November will focus on measuring companies’ respect of human rights (Pillar II of the Guiding Principles). The two sessions should be taken together to encourage learning across fields.

Targeted audience

The session is intended to anyone from government, international and non-governmental organizations, academia and business interested in measuring and tracking as an essential tool to manage efforts to implement the Guiding Principles, to secure accountability and help incentivize actors.

Those governments and organizations already involved in measuring initiatives will be able to reflect on what they are doing, learn from and create synergies with others.

Aims of the session

- Reflect on the use of measurement in giving incentives to States to implement the Guiding Principles and increase accountability
- Delve into operational, methodological and strategic issues related to measuring States' implementation of the Guiding Principles, including in relation to access to remedy
- Promote and discuss good practices of measurement
- Understand challenges associated with measurement and how to overcome them
- Identify key entry points for increased and more robust measurement on States' implementation of the Guiding Principles
- Reflect upon the UN Working Group's recommendations in its report to the General Assembly to work towards more agreement around indicators and how State implementation of the Guiding Principles is measured

Panel discussion

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

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

Panellists:

- *Harriet Berg, Minister-Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations*
- *Claire Methven O'Brien, Strategic Adviser, Danish Institute for Human Rights*
- *Valentina Stoevska, Senior Statistician, Department of Statistics, ILO*
- *Tricia Olsen, Assistant Professor, University of Denver*
- *Geneviève Paul, Head of Globalisation and Human Rights Desk, International Federation for Human Rights*

An open dialogue with the audience, facilitated by the moderator, will follow.

Key discussion questions

- What are the strengths/weaknesses of existing measuring approaches related to States and access to remedy?
- What are the challenges associated with measuring States' duty to protect and access to remedy in particular?
- Where are gaps in State-related data and needs for further data (including on access to remedy)? What are entry points for more robust and comprehensive data?
- How do existing measuring initiatives support and offer added incentives for improved performance and accountability of States and businesses?
- What lessons (methodological, strategic, and political) can we draw from measuring efforts in other fields, such as with respect to the Sustainable Development Goals and measuring labour standards implementation?

****Background reading***

Working Group's report to the General Assembly on "Measuring the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights" (A/70/216), and Executive Summary, available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Pages/Reports.aspx>