



“Integrating human rights in international investment agreements”

Parallel session 14 November, 15:00-16:20 (Room XXII)

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights clearly affirm that states, when entering into international investment agreements (IIAs), should ensure they “retain adequate policy and regulatory ability to protect human rights under the terms of such agreements, while providing the necessary investor protection”. This session seeks to explore practical models for achieving a better balance between protection of human rights and the rights of investors in the context of IIAs, by addressing the following inter-related aspects:

- the critical importance of transparency in IIA negotiations and arbitration
- integration of human rights and “CSR” standards in IIAs (including by considering recent developments in the field, such as Brazil’s Agreement on Cooperation and Facilitation of Investments and India’s Draft Model Bilateral Investment Treaty)
- the role of arbitrators
- how alignment with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights may support greater coherence in this field

Moderator: Surya Deva, Member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights

Panel:

- Caio Borges, Attorney in the Business and Human Rights Project at Conectas Human Rights
- Leïla Choukroune, Director of the Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities (CSH), New Delhi India, the French National Research Centre (CNRS) Unit on South Asia
- José Henrique Vieira Martins, General Coordinator for Trade Policy, Secretariat for International Affairs of the Ministry of Finance, Government of Brazil
- Viviane Schiavi, Senior Policy Manager, Corporate Responsibility and Anti-corruption, ICC (International Chamber of Commerce)
- Elisabeth Tuerk, Chief, Section on International Investment Agreements, UNCTAD