



Ministry of Economic Affairs
and Employment of Finland

2016 UN Forum on Business and Human Rights

FI Speaking notes
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Speaking notes for Session on National Action Plans to implement the UN Guiding Principles: stepping up Government commitments and actions

The Finnish Action Plan on the UN Guiding Principles was approved by the Government in September 2014.

Our work concentrates on four areas: studies, capacity building, dialogue, and remedies.

We have published several studies with topics ranging from the usage of social criteria in public procurement to stakeholder views on company behavior. We also publish country specific Responsible Business Conduct memos, which include human rights risks related to each country.

On capacity building we offer business and human rights training for companies, as well as public officials. In near future we are going to offer a large training package for public financial institutions.

On dialogue we have a positive result with the grocery trade, where we were able to create together with business, labour and business organisations, and NGOs a shared vision on how grocery trade should do due diligence in its supply chains. At the moment we have an ongoing multistakeholder project on operating in risk countries.

On remedies we renewed our OECD National Contact Point so that it would function better and be more meaningful for all stakeholders. We also had a study made on our current legislation related to the UNPGs.

In addition to the previous, in May this year the Government published a new strategy on state ownership, where responsible business conduct was identified as a core value. SOEs are required to take human rights into account in a transparent way and in line with the UNGPs in both their own operations and their value chains.

Our challenge is how to transfer best practice from the forerunner, large companies to other companies.

The speech was given by Linda Piirto, from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, who is responsible for business and human rights policy in Finland.