

2016 United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights
14-16 November 2016
Statement by Greece on National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights

Greece aligns itself with the statements delivered by the EU during this Forum.

We attach great importance to the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Apart from existing applicable legislation, we are in the process of completing a National Action Plan on Corporate Social Responsibility drawing also on the UN Guiding Principles. The Plan aims to the adoption by both businesses and individuals of a more respectful behavior towards human rights, the improvement of the quality of life and the adoption of practices that protect the environment. In our view CSR should be seen as part of a common culture, aiming to recognize healthy business and promote practices towards socially responsible behavior. The draft National Action Plan on CSR was prepared by a working group of various stakeholders including CSR Hellas the Greek business association on CSR and affiliate of the UN Global Compact Network.

At this point I would like to welcome the presence to this Forum of representatives of the Greek business sector including from the Hellenic Telecommunication Company, Athens International Airport and LIDL Hellas, who are at the same time members of CSR Hellas. Allow me Mr Chairman to give very briefly the floor to Mr Pakis Papadimitriou Vice Chairman of CSR Hellas and Manager Corporate Quality, Athens International Airport to say a few words, within the allocated speaking time.

Thank you Madame Ambassador,

The Greek business community, represented through business associations, is in cooperation with the State authorities, in order to effectively address sustainability challenges. In addition to the global challenges addressed by the Sustainability Development Goals, Greek society and Greek business are faced with local challenges of unprecedented proportions: youth unemployment, refugee crisis and the acute effects of long standing economic recession. We work with the Government in the spirit of SDG-17 “partnership for the goals”, embedding human rights and Guiding principles in our agenda. We recognize the substantial contribution of this Forum towards the collaboration of business with governments and civil society and we shall share with our colleagues in Greece the added value generated here.