



## *Implementing the UNGPs in the commodities trading sector*

*Parallel session*

*27 November*

*13:30-14:45*

*Organized by the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs.*

**Brief description:** This session organized by the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs will focus on discussing the sector guidance for the commodities trading sector on implementation of the UNGPs, elaborated by a multi-stakeholder group created by the Swiss Government and composed of representatives of the commodities trading sector, civil society and government.

**Background:** Switzerland is one of the world's most important commodity trading hubs. The commodities trading sector is characterized by a diverse mix of companies in terms of size, ownership, turnover and commodities traded. As the commodities trading industry grows in size, questions are increasingly being raised relating to the responsibilities of trading companies on human rights, and other issues such as corruption and the 'resource curse'.

In order to address these challenges, the Swiss Government has facilitated the creation of a multi-stakeholder group composed of representatives of the commodities trading sector, civil society and government. This group is supporting the elaboration of sector guidance for the commodities trading sector on implementation of the UNGPs. The Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB) is facilitating this process.

**Session objectives:** The session will discuss the process and the challenges of elaborating this sector guidance for the commodities trading sector on implementation of the UNGPs, its structure and seek comments and feedback from civil society, business and government representatives. This panel provides concrete examples of industry specific approaches to human rights due diligence, including efforts to improve company and multistakeholder mechanisms to prevent and mitigate adverse impacts involving commodities trading firms.

### Key discussion questions:

- What are the challenges and the opportunities of creating guidance for the commodity trading sector within a multistakeholder group?
- What are the peculiarities of commodities trading that make a sector-specific approach helpful for undertaking human rights due diligence processes consistent with the UNGP?
- What are the peculiarities of commodities trading that make a specific approach necessary for undertaking human rights due diligence processes consistent with the UNGP?
- In what ways does the diversity of the commodities trading sector create challenges in implementing the UNGPs?
- How should the Swiss government and other stakeholders support and ensure companies implement the guidance once it is published in early 2018, given its legally non-binding nature?

### Speakers:<sup>1</sup>

- **Ambassador Valentin ZELLWEGER**, Permanent Representative to The United Nations in Geneva (**Moderator**)
- **Frederic CHENAIS**, Political Advisor. Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- **John MORRISON**, Chief Executive. Institute for Human Rights and Business
- **Andreas MISSBACH**, Head of Commodities. Public Eye
- **Anna KRUTIKOV**, Head of Sustainable Development. Glencore
- **Stéphane GRABER**, Executive Director. Swiss Trading and Shipping Association

**Format:** Opening presentation offering a brief overview of the main goals, format and content of the draft sector guidance for the commodities trading sector. This will be followed by a moderated conversation among two sets of industry and civil society sector stakeholders, comparing and contrasting expectations about the implementation of the UNGPs for the commodities trading sector, followed by comments by a representative of the Swiss government. The moderator will then facilitate questions from participants.

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<sup>1</sup> Further information on speakers provided in Annex

## **ANNEX. SPEAKERS SHORT BIOS.**

### **Dr. Andreas Missbach**

#### ***Joint Managing Director, Public Eye (formerly Bern Declaration).***

Social scientist with a Ph.D on the North-South conflict in the UN Climate Change negotiations. Co-authors in 2011 of “Commodities – Switzerland’s most dangerous business”.

### **Dr. Stéphane Graber**

#### ***Secretary General, Swiss Trading and Shipping Association (STSA)***

PhD in Business Administration, HEC – University of Geneva, Dr. Graber was previously an Economic Development Officer at the Economic Development Office of the Canton of Geneva.

### **Anna Krutikov**

#### ***Head of Sustainable Development, Glencore***

Anna leads engagement with external stakeholders, and is responsible for the design and implementation of business strategies that reflect the challenges associated with the political, social and environmental landscape.

### **Ambassador Valentin Zellweger**

#### ***Permanent Representative, Permanent Representation of Switzerland to the United Nations Office in Geneva***

Mr. Zellweger holds a Ph.D. in law. Prior to assuming his position in Geneva, Mr. Zellweger held the position of Director of the International Public Law Directorate at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

### **John Morrison**

#### ***Executive Director, Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB)***

Before IHRB, John directed the Business Leaders Initiative on Human Rights, was Head of Public Affairs for The Body Shop International, and before this worked in the field of refugee.

### **Frederic Chenais**

#### ***Political Advisor, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)***

Frédéric works on commodities and human rights at FDFA. Before he was Principal Advisor for Communities Relations at Rio Tinto, for the Simandou project.