The Project "Responsible Business Conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean (RBCLAC)" is funded and designed in collaboration with the European Union (EU) and implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

The objective of the project is to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the EU and in Latin America and the Caribbean, by supporting responsible business conduct practices, in line with the instruments of the United Nations, the ILO and the OECD.

The actions under the project will include a series of regional and national activities, specific to each country.

These activities will be implemented in:

- Argentina
- Brazil
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Ecuador
- Mexico
- Panama
- Peru
It is the first time that these three organizations, with the support of the European framework of a joint regional project. Each organization will contribute to the project.

As the only tripartite agency of the United Nations, the ILO brings together governments, employers and workers from 187 member states to establish labour standards, develop policies and design programs that promote decent work for women and men.

The Tripartite Declaration of Principles on Multinational Enterprises (MNEs) and Social Policy provides direct guidance to companies (both multinational and national), as well as governments and employers' and workers' organizations on social policy and inclusive work practices, responsible and sustainable.

The Declaration on MNEs is the only global instrument in this area, and the only one that was developed and adopted by governments, employers and workers around the world.
The mission of the OECD is to promote policies that improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world.

The OECD is the author of the main comprehensive international instrument on responsible business conduct: The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

The OECD contribution to the Project will focus on Key areas of corporate responsibility covered in the OECD Guidelines, including human rights, the environment, work and corruption.

The OECD has also adopted a series of instruments that provide guidance to companies on how to implement due diligence in practice. The Guidelines also include a single mechanism for implementation and non-judicial claim: National Contact Points (NCP) for responsible business conduct. Currently 48 countries are adhering to the Guidelines and have PNCs; seven of them are LAC countries.
OHCHR is mandated to lead the Business and Human Rights agenda within the United Nations system. In addition, it supports the work of the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights (Working Group) to promote the dissemination and application of UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the authorized global standard on how to prevent and address adverse human rights impacts that involve companies.

OHCHR has extensive experience working on business and human rights issues in the LAC region, through its regional and country offices.
COMPONENTS

Taking into account the particularities of each country and in coordination with national authorities, as well as with local and international stakeholders, the project has three components:

1. SUPPORT
   LAC governments in the development and/or implementation of National Plans of Action on Business and Human Rights/RBC.

2. IMPROVE
   The understanding and capacity of stakeholders (especially companies) to implement due diligence to identify, prevent and address adverse impacts on human rights, decent work and the environment.

3. FACILITATE
   The exchange of experiences and lessons learned and develop joint initiatives that promote RBC practices.

TIME

48 months

The project will be implemented during the 2019-2022 period.

FINANCE

Financed by the European Union.

The total budget is 9.5 million euros.

This initiative is part of the EU’s broad commitment to promote human rights, decent work and sustainable development, a promise backed by the EU Treaties and reinforced in the 2015 European Commission’s trade policy strategy “Trade for All.” For this reason, the EU joins forces with the ILO, the OECD and OHCHR to promote these principles in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean.

For additional information on the project, contact:

European Union - EU
Costanzo Fisogni: Costanzo.FISOGNI@eeas.europa.eu

International Labour Organization - ILO
Olga Orozco: orozc@il0.org

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development - OECD
Froukje Boele: Froukje.BOOLE@oecd.org / Germán Zarama: German.ZARAMA@oecd.org

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights - OHCHR
Alexia Ghyoot: aghyoot@ohchr.org