

## **UN expert group welcomes revised ILO declaration on multi-national enterprises – another step toward greater convergence on business and human rights**

GENEVA (28 April 2017) The United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights warmly welcomes the revised ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles Concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (MNE Declaration),<sup>1</sup> which converges with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights\*.

The MNE Declaration adopted by the ILO Governing Body in March 2017 provides a key international reference for collective efforts to ensure that labour rights are protected and respected in the operations of transnational business. The revision represents a significant contribution toward greater normative coherence in this area by integrating the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and taking account of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Working Group, which is mandated by the Human Rights Council to promote worldwide implementation of the UN Guiding Principles, commends the efforts of governments, employers and workers organizations, as well the ILO, to ensure alignment of the MNE Declaration with the Guiding Principles. Importantly, the MNE Declaration recognizes:

- the respective duties and responsibilities of States and business enterprises in relation to human rights (10a);
- the fact that the duties and responsibilities of States and business enterprises apply to all States and to all enterprises (including national enterprises) regardless of their size, sector, operational context, ownership and structure (10b);
- the corporate responsibility to respect human rights requires that enterprises, including multinational enterprises wherever they operate: (i) avoid causing or contributing to adverse impacts through their own activities, and address such impacts when they occur; and (ii) seek to prevent or mitigate adverse human rights impacts that are directly linked to their operations, products or services by their business relationships, even if they have not contributed to those impacts (10c);

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\\_547615/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_547615/lang--en/index.htm)

- the need for all business enterprises to carry out due diligence to identify, prevent, mitigate and account for how they address their actual and potential adverse impacts that relate to internationally recognized human rights, understood, at a minimum, as those expressed in the International Bill of Human Rights and the principles concerning fundamental rights set out in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (10d);
- the process of gauging human rights risks, by which business enterprises should identify and assess any actual or potential adverse human rights impacts with which they may be involved either through their own activities or as a result of their business relationships, which should involve meaningful consultation with potentially affected groups and other relevant stakeholders including workers' organizations (10e);
- the need for access to remedies and examination of grievances (64-66).

The Working Group also welcomes various operational tools such as tripartite national focal points provided for in the MNE Declaration to promote its implementation.

Realizing decent work for all is recognized as a universal goal in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With the revised MNE Declaration, a range of stakeholders, including governments, multi-national enterprises, workers, employer organizations, civil society and international organizations, have a new tool to help guide their efforts.

The UN Working Group looks forward to its continued collaboration with the ILO towards the common goal of promoting business operations founded on respect for human rights, in pursuit of a socially sustainable future for all.

ENDS

(\*) The [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#).

*The Working Group on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises was established by the UN Human Rights Council in June 2011. Its five members are: Michael Addo (current Chairperson), Mr. Surya Deva (Vice Chair), Mr. Pavel Sulyandziga, Ms. Anita Ramasastry and Mr. Dante Pesce. The Working Group is independent from any government or organization. It reports to the Human Rights Council and to the UN General Assembly. More [information](#)*

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