



## **Concept for a side event for the 2013 United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights**

### **Working title: Engaging companies locally to put the UN Guiding Principles into practice**

Organiser: Focal Point of the UN Global Compact Network Germany (DGCN),  
[www.globalcompact.de](http://www.globalcompact.de) in cooperation with other networks/partners

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Preferred date: Afternoon of December 2 or 1-2:30 pm on December 3; 60-90 minutes

### **Objectives of the event:**

- Introducing the approach of the Global Compact Network Germany and other networks in creating a powerful practice-oriented dialogue on implementing the UNGPs
- Introducing formats and tools developed in the German Network to promote business uptake of the UNGPs
- Sharing experiences of companies that have profited from the *peer learning approach* to implementing the UNGPs
- Sensitising companies and other stakeholders how they can effectively engage with others to make progress on UNGP implementation
- Motivating and inspiring others to follow the examples/ good-practices given

### **Relevance for the Forum:**

The aim of the Forum is to provide a global platform for the promotion and implementation of the UN Guiding Principles. As they are not legally binding the principles will only be successfully implemented if they are taken up by companies in different locations and become an integral part of the national/local sustainability dialogue. The event aims at supporting this process by sharing experiences and knowledge on how to initiate and lead business engagement processes on implementing the UNGPs. It can inspire companies and other stakeholders to follow the example and launch similar practical implementation processes.

### **Proposed content of the event:**

Introduction of the German Network's approach to supporting uptake of the UNGPs in Germany and beyond

Elements of the German Network's approach:

- creating a broad multi-stakeholder dialogue on business and human rights at network meetings,



- developing practical tools and publications on business and human rights (e.g. the publication “Respecting human rights – A guide for business”, available in German and English),
- offering focused training courses on operationalizing the UNGPs for businesses (seven courses completed with around 50 participants since 2008; similar training courses run in the UK and the Ukraine inspired by the German format),
- facilitating a peer learning group of companies for continuous learning and exchange on implementation challenges (with participants from Germany, Italy and the Netherlands) as well as regular dialogue with civil society

During the event, a business member of the human rights peer learning group will present how his/her company has implemented the UNGPs and how the peer learning approach has supported this. Additionally, the application of the *Organisational Capacity Assessment Instrument (OCAI)* will be presented and discussed. The OCAI, developed by members of the peer learning group, DGCN and twentyfifty Ltd, will by then be available in all UN languages. The OCAI supports companies in analysing their management capacities to implement the UNGPs and develop a strategy to move forward. See English version of the tool here: [www.globalcompact.de/tools/ocai](http://www.globalcompact.de/tools/ocai).

The session will conclude with a discussion of complementary approaches and tools developed by other business and civil society networks from around the world with a focus on identifying synergies and collaboration opportunities.