



# 2015 UN Forum Side Session: Public Procurement and Human Rights

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**Wednesday, 18 November**  
**Palais de Nations, Room XXII**  
**15:00 – 16:20**

## **Session Title:**

Public Procurement and Human Rights: A Roundtable Discussion

## **Organisers:**

- **International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR):** ICAR is a coalition of human rights, environmental, labour and development organisations that creates, promotes, and defends legal frameworks to ensure corporations respect human rights in their global operations. In 2014 ICAR published the report *“Turning a Blind Eye? Respecting Human Rights in Government Purchasing,”* authored by Robert Stumberg, Anita Ramasastry, and Meg Roggensack.
- **The Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR):** DIHR is the national human rights institution of Denmark. DIHR works both abroad and domestically in Denmark to promote and protect human rights. The Human Rights and Business Department within DIHR focuses on the role of business in respecting human rights.
- **The Harrison Institute at Georgetown University:** The Harrison Institute is a teaching and service program at Georgetown University Law Center that provides research and analysis for public officials and non-profit organisations. The Harrison Institute and participating students have conducted extensive legal analysis on the topic of human rights and public procurement.

## **Moderator:**

- Amol Mehra, *Director*, ICAR

## Speakers:

### Public Procurement and Human Rights: What are States doing?

- Robert Stumberg, *Professor of Law, Director*, The Harrison Institute of Public Law at Georgetown University Law Center
- Daira Gómez, *Executive Director*, CEGESTI

### International Organisation Perspective

- Emily Sims, *Manager ILO Helpdesk for Business, Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy*, International Labour Organisation

### Government Perspective

- Rachel Phillips Rigby, *Deputy Chief, Division of Research and Policy, Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking*, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor

### Sector Specific Reforms

- Security: Nelleke van Amstel, *Project Coordinator - Public-Private Partnerships*, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces
- Electronics: Carlos Busquets, *Director of Public Policy*, Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition

### Discussion of Learning Lab on Public Procurement and Human Rights

- Claire Methven O'Brien, *Strategic Adviser, Human Rights and Development*, Danish Institute for Human Rights

## Brief Summary for Provisional Agenda:

This side event will comprise a roundtable discussion on how to increase protection of human rights in public procurement. The panel will involve a range of relevant expertise and stakeholders, at national, regional and global levels. It will include speakers addressing the legal framework for procurement and human rights in general and in relation to specific sectors, and the panel will include a representative of government, a representative of the ILO, a representative of business, and other procurement and human rights experts. At the end of the Panel discussion, there will be a brief introduction on the International Learning Lab on Public Procurement and Human Rights.

The session will open with expert panelists offering stakeholder perspectives, followed by an open dialogue and moderated Q&A with the audience. Guiding questions will include:

- What are the challenges and opportunities for increasing respect for human rights in the context of public procurement?
- What lessons can private supply chain management provide for public procurement?
- Where are governments leading or lagging on procurement and human rights?