

## RESPECT IN PRACTICE

### 2 Dec, 14:30-17:45, Room XXI

The purpose of this session is to enable a meaningful multi-stakeholder dialogue about good practices, lessons, challenges, shortfalls, innovations and complexities relating to implementation of the second pillar of the UN Framework – The Corporate Responsibility to Respect.

The session is being organised by the UN Working Group in collaboration with the Global Business Initiative on Human Rights and Business & Human Rights Resource Centre. It has been designed with three premises in mind. First, that there is a genuine commitment of some of the world's major corporations to align their operations with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and the UN Annual Forum is an ideal space for these companies to share their progress and practices. Second, much more is needed in terms of human rights outcomes on the ground, even in situations where companies have begun to implement due diligence or engage in remediation. And third, there is often a discourse and trust gap between companies and civil society when it comes to “respect in practice” and the UN Annual Forum should be an opportunity to bridge this gap and showcase examples of constructive engagement (including valuable tensions) between the two.

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## WELCOME AND SESSION OVERVIEW

*Margaret Jungk, Member, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights* Part one: Embedding the Guiding Principles into decision-making and processes

## PART ONE

### INTEGRATING HUMAN RIGHTS INTO POLICIES AND PRACTICES

The Guiding Principles outline a standard of conduct for both States and businesses. For businesses, respect for human rights requires clear policy commitment to respect human rights, acting with human rights due diligence and engaging in remediation. This is not a check-box exercise. Rather it requires genuine mind-set, culture and systems changes (akin to the journeys we have seen around health & safety, anti-corruption and environmental management). Furthermore, the Guiding Principles articulate certain concepts and ideas that are intended to improve the quality of, and outcomes from, corporate action. This panel will involve business leaders sharing about their company's work to achieve meaningful integration and explore how some companies are working with some of the key concepts set out in the Guiding Principles.

- Mark Hodge, Global Business Initiative on Human Rights (Moderator)
- Julie Vallit, Group Legal Department, Compliance & CSR; and Peter Herbel, Former Senior Vice President & General Counsel, Total S.A.
- Kasumi Blessing, Senior Project Manager, Corporate Sustainability, Novo Nordisk A/S
- Sidsela Nyebak, Director of Social Responsibility, Group Sustainability, Telenor Group
- Shane Boladeras, Social Performance Manager, BG Group

## **PART TWO**

### **APPLYING THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES IN SPECIFIC SITUATIONS AND CONTEXTS**

The Guiding Principles are a means to an end - i.e. better human rights respect and protection for those impacted by business operations, decisions, omissions and actions. Guiding Principles' implementation is far more than the development or enhancement of policies, processes and management systems. As such, companies should and need to communicate openly about specific cases and situations including where they have made progress but also where mistakes have been made and lessons have been learned. Further, understanding what good quality and meaningful "respect in practice" looks like is a task that is highly dependent on the specific operating and human rights context, and in this regard cooperation with civil society organizations is crucial. And the Guiding Principles themselves call for engagement with human rights experts, relevant stakeholders and affected populations as part of due diligence processes. This panel will bring together businesses and civil society organisations working collaboratively (though not always in full agreement) to apply the Guiding Principles in specific local contexts.

- Phil Bloomer, Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (Moderator)
- Simone Rocha Pinto, Gerente de Políticas Sociais e Direitos Humanos, Vale; and Nisha Varia, Associate Director, Women's Rights Division, Human Rights Watch
- Yann Wyss, Human Rights Specialist, Nestlé S.A; Irit Tamir, Senior Campaigns and Advocacy Advisor - Private Sector Department Oxfam America; and Nick Weatherill, Executive Director, International Cocoa Initiative.
- Dan Bross, Senior Director of Corporate Citizenship, Microsoft; and Rebecca MacKinnon, Co-founder of Global Voices Online
- Felix Poza, Director of RSC, Inditex; and Isidor Boix, CCOO de Industria (Industri-ALL Global Union Spanish affiliate)

## **PART THREE**

### **REFLECTIONS FROM GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES**

- Mark Hodge, Global Business Initiative on Human Rights and Phil Bloomer, Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (Moderators)
- Guillermo Rivera, Consejero Presidencial para los Derechos Humanos y el Derecho Internacional Humanitario de Colombia (Presidential advisor on human rights and international humanitarian law), Government of Colombia
- Stephen Lowe, Team Leader, Human Rights and Democracy Directorate at Foreign and Commonwealth Office – UK Government

Organized by the UN Working Group in collaboration with Global Business Initiative on Human Rights (GBI) and the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (BHRRC)