



Business and Human Rights:
Implementing the UN Guiding Principles
15-16 September 2011

Programme

DAY 1 - Thursday 15 September	
9.30 – 10.00	Registration
10.00 – 10.30	Welcome Professor Robert McCorquodale , British Institute of International and Comparative Law
10.30 – 12.00	The State duty to protect human rights The Guiding Principles explain that the State duty to protect human rights includes a duty to protect against human rights abuse by third parties, including business. However, some States have expressed skepticism as to whether international law obliges them to take more active steps to regulate the conduct of business and, in particular, whether new domestic laws and regulations are required. Speakers will consider the implications of the Guiding Principles for States and the measures that States should take to implement their duty to protect. Chair: Federico Ortino , Reader in International Economic Law, King's College London Speakers: Dr Jennifer Zerk , Jennifer Zerk Consulting Dr Peter Utting , Deputy Director, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development Dr Christopher Ward , 12 Wentworth Selborne Chambers Susan Bird , Policy Coordinator, European Commission DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch
13.00 – 14.30	Liability for corporate human rights abuse The Guiding Principles encourage States to consider civil, administrative or criminal liability for enterprises that commit or contribute to gross human rights abuses. Speakers will discuss existing regimes and the challenges associated with prosecuting criminal or civil cases involving allegations of corporate human rights abuse. Chair: Richard Meeran , Partner, Leigh Day & Co Speakers: Dr Radu Mares , Senior Researcher, Raoul Wallenberg Institute Ingrid Gubbay , Senior Lawyer, Hausfeld LLP Patricia Feeney , Executive Director, Rights and Accountability in International Development Mauricio Lazala , Deputy Director, Business and Human Rights Resource Centre
14.45 – 16.15	Discharging the corporate responsibility to respect According to the Guiding Principles, the corporate responsibility to respect human rights exists independently of States' ability or willingness to discharge their legal duties to promote and protect human rights and 'over and above' compliance with national law. Speakers will consider how the corporate responsibility to respect is to be discharged in different contexts and sectors. Chair: Graham Baxter , Director, International Business Leaders Forum Speakers: Rae Lindsay , Partner, Clifford Chance LLP Charlotte Wolf , Head of Corporate Responsibility, ArcelorMittal Marie-France Houde , Senior Economist, OECD Dr Mary Dowell-Jones , Research Fellow, University of Nottingham Human Rights Law Centre
16.15 – 16.45	Tea/Coffee

Programme continued

16.45 – 18.15	<p>Special panel discussion on human rights due diligence</p> <p>John Sherman will moderate a panel discussion dealing with the key challenges associated with implementation of the framework, with a particular focus on the concept of ‘human rights due diligence’. The panel will discuss whether the Guiding Principles imply that businesses’ existing policies and mechanisms for managing social impacts and risks – including Corporate Social Responsibility policies – must be overhauled. It will also consider the role of international standards and national regulations in encouraging effective human rights due diligence.</p> <p>Chair: John F. Sherman III, Senior Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School Center for Business and Government</p> <p>Speakers: Andrea Shemberg, former legal advisor to Professor John Ruggie Larissa Luy, Senior Environmental & Social Specialist, International Finance Corporation John Morrison, Executive Director, Institute for Human Rights and Business Benedetta Lacey, Special Advisor on Corporate Accountability, Amnesty International Professor Doreen McBarnet, University of Oxford Centre for Socio-Legal Studies</p>
18.30 – 19.30	<p>Drinks Reception</p>
19.30 – 22.30	<p>Dinner</p> <p>Dinner Speaker: Ambassador Luis Gallegos, Ambassador of Ecuador to the United States; member of the global leadership group convened by Professor Ruggie in 2008; former Vice-Chair, UN Commission on Human Rights; Member of the UN Committee against Torture</p>
<p>DAY 2 - Friday 16 September</p>	
9.00 – 9.30	<p>Coffee</p>
9.30 – 11.00	<p>Conflict Zones</p> <p>The Guiding Principles emphasise that the risk of gross human rights violations is heightened in conflict-affected areas and call upon States to take various steps to ensure that business enterprises operating in conflict zones are aware of the risks and do not become involved or implicated in human rights abuses. Speakers will discuss existing initiatives and approaches to reducing the risk of abuses linked to business activities and the prospects for action by States in this context.</p> <p>Chair: Marie Tuma, Director, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law</p> <p>Speakers: Aidan Davy, Director – Community Reporting and Assurance, International Council on Mining & Metals Claire O’Brien, Human Rights Adviser, Danish Institute of Human Rights Vuyelwa Kuuya, Fellow of the Institute for African Development, Cornell University Andie Lambe, Campaign Leader – International Justice, Global Witness</p>
11.00 – 11.30	<p>Tea/Coffee</p>
11.30 – 13.00	<p>Non-judicial grievance mechanisms</p> <p>The Guiding Principles encourage use of non-judicial grievance mechanisms as a way of improving access to remedy for victims of business related human rights abuses. The Guiding Principles also suggest that such mechanisms should meet certain “effectiveness criteria”. In particular, non-judicial mechanisms should be, legitimate; accessible; predictable; equitable; transparent; and rights-compatible. Speakers will discuss challenges associated with the design of non-judicial grievance mechanisms and comment on existing mechanisms in light of the effectiveness criteria proposed in the Guiding Principles.</p> <p>Chair: Audley Sheppard, Partner, Clifford Chance LLP</p> <p>Speakers: Dame Meg Taylor, Vice President and Compliance Advisor Ombudsman, World Bank Group Frans Evers, Chair, Dutch National Contact Point for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises Ute Joas Quinn, Assistant General Counsel, Shell International B.V. Dr Emma Wilson, Senior Researcher and Sustainable Markets Team Leader, International Institute for Environment and Development</p>
13.15 – 14.15	<p>Lunch</p>

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