**Draft Agenda**

3rd UN Forum on Business and Human Rights in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

"Responsible Business in Times of Crisis"

10-11 November 2022 / Hybrid (in Istanbul and online)

**DAY 1**

***Thursday, 10 November 2022/Istanbul Time (TRT)***

**9:00 – 09:35**  Registration and introduction of the Forum platform

**09:35 – 10:20**  ***High-Level Opening Plenary***

|  |
| --- |
| **Objective:** The opening plenary will set out the key global and regional business and human rights trends to be discussed in the 3rd UN Forum on Business and Human Rights for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. It will set out the challenges amidst the crises besetting the region, while presenting the key challenges to be tackled in the region in the short and medium term. The session will feature a panel discussion that will frame the business and human rights work in the region in the context of key developments such as the wave of mandatory human rights due diligence legislation and policies in jurisdictions including the EU, Japan and beyond, the ongoing conflicts in the region, environmental degradation, concomitant citizens’ movements, and others. |

*10:20-10:35 Break*

**10:35– 11:35**  ***Session I – Business and Human Rights in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: the state of play***

|  |
| --- |
| **Objective:** To frame the discussion on the state of play to business and human rights in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, this session will feature the launch of the ***UNDP Scoping Study findings on the Implementation of UNGPs in Eastern Europe and Central Asia****.* The Scoping Study, conducted in 2021 and finalized in 2022 by a team of leading BHR academics and researchers in the region, sets out the key trends in, and challenges to, the BHR agenda in the region. It will be followed by a discussion on key regional challenges, the multitude of crises present in the region and the opportunities presented for accelerating the business and human rights agenda. |

*11:35 – 11:50 Break*

**11:50 – 13:00 *Session II - Mandatory human rights due diligence developments in the EU and beyond: The implications for Eastern Europe and Central Asia***

|  |
| --- |
| **Objective:** In its Roadmap for the Next Decade of Business and Human Rights, issued in November 2021,the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights urged countries to “seize the wave” of mandatory human rights due diligence, which has principally been generated by EU member states, such as Netherlands, Norway, Germany and France. Following their adoption of mandatory human rights due diligence laws, the EU itself issued its draft Mandatory and Environmental Human Rights Due Diligence Directive in February 2022. In addition, the Government of Japan recently issued its own draft guidelines on the subject, demonstrating that companies in Eastern Europe and Central Asia wanting to do business in, or with, major markets will increasingly have to introduce human rights due diligence in their operations. This session will explore the principal implications of this trend for governments, businesses, workers and other stakeholders in the region. |

*13:00 – 14:00 Lunch*

**14:00 – 15:00  *Session III – Heightened human rights due diligence (hHRDD): unpacking the responsibilities of businesses in conflict-affected contexts***

|  |
| --- |
| **Objective:** Eastern Europe and Central Asia are home to a number of ongoing and protracted conflicts. Businesses and states have heightened responsibilities in conflict-affected contexts; chief among these is the responsibility of businesses to carry out heightened human rights due diligence (hHRDD). In June 2022, the UNWG and UNDP issued a Guide on hHRDD; this session will unpack what this responsibility entails – and what it will require from businesses, states, the UN and other stakeholders. |

**15:00-15:45 *Session IV –The responsibilities of states and businesses in alleviating the consequences of crises in Eastern Europe and Central Asia***

|  |
| --- |
| **Objective:** Eastern Europe and Central Asia have been beset by myriad crises, including the Covid-19 pandemic, the climate crisis, and ongoing armed conflicts. This session will highlight the consequences of these crises, including widespread joblessness, increasing levels of poverty, outflows of refugees and migrants, and so on. It will further examine the responsibilities of states and businesses in this regard under the framework of the UNGPs, and consider what steps should be taken by these and other actors to alleviate these consequences. |

*15:55 – 16:05 Break*

**16:05-17:00** ***Session V – The path to a regional Roadmap in Eastern Europe and Central Asia***

|  |
| --- |
| **Objective:** Following the launch of the UNGPs 10+ Roadmap of the Next Decade on Business and Human Rights in November 2021, the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights is aiming to develop regional roadmaps. As part of this process, this session will be used to consider stakeholder perspectives on the path forward on the implementation of the UNGPs in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. |

**17:00 - 17:30** ***Closure of the Forum***

**DAY 2**

***Friday, 11 November 2022/Istanbul Time (TRT)***

**09:00 - 13:00** ***Session VII – Internal session for UN agencies on the business and human rights***

|  |
| --- |
| **Objective:** This session will provide an opportunity for UN agencies active on business and human rights, including UNDP and OHCHR, to strategize on possible joint programming, build their capacities on chosen topics, such as human rights due diligence, and to engage in peer-learning. |