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The Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and is pleased to submit, in the attachment to this Note Verbale, its responses to the Survey on the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights.

The Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 29th July 2016



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Questionnaire of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises – implementation of the Guiding Principles on BHRs

Answers by the Czech Republic

- 1) The Czech Republic has started the process of developing its National Action Plan. The process was launched in December 2015 at an international expert seminar in Prague. Subsequently, Minister for Human Rights has established a working group which comprises governmental as well as non-governmental stakeholders: representatives of business, business associations, trade unions, NGOs and respective ministries.
 - a. The process contributes to identifying gaps in State and business implementation of the Guiding Principles – the work is ongoing. To open the domestic discussion, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic commissioned a study on UN Guiding Principles implementation in the Czech Republic which was prepared by an academic institution. A thorough analysis of the gaps will follow.
 - b. It is the ambition of the working group to suggest concrete action points in the NAP.
 - c. At this stage, the discussion within the working group has helped to inform the respective ministries and to incite information sharing. Improving policy coherence is certainly a desired outcome of the work.
 - d. The role of the States vis-à-vis companies that are owned or controlled by the State was subject to discussions within the working group and will be further addressed.
 - e. Companies' responsibility to respect human rights and the concept of due diligence, i.e. second pillar of the Guiding Principles, are currently subject to discussion of the working group.
 - f. The third pillar of the Guiding Principles will be subject to further discussions of the working group.
 - 2) The national working group has consulted the Guidance on NAPs on BHRs. Further assistance was provided by a representative of the OHCHR who attended the international expert seminar in Prague (December 2015) and a member of the UN Working Group who helped to steer a discussion on NAPs among the members of the European Union (the Hague, May 2016).
 - a. The chair and the secretariat of the national working group suggested the methodology of work of the group on the basis of the Guidance.
 - b. Suggestions on the overall structure and content of NAPs; essential criteria on NAPs (such as continuity of the process and its open-ended character); recommended phases of the process were found particularly useful.
 - c. Given the slowly growing number of NAPs, an updated version of the Guidance would be appreciated (selected examples of practice might be expanded).
- 3 + 4) Not applicable.