



Misión Permanente de Ecuador  
ante las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra

## **2016 Asia Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights**

**Doha, Qatar, 19-20 April 2016**

**Side event organized by Ecuador**

**"Paving the way towards an international legally binding instrument on business and human rights"**

**Sheraton Doha Resort & Convention Hotel, 19 April, 16:30**

### **Background**

1. In the framework of its 26<sup>th</sup> Session, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution A/HRC/RES/26/9 “Elaboration of an International Legally Binding Instrument on Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises with respect to Human Rights”. For this purpose, resolution 26/9 established an Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group, with the mandate to elaborate the mentioned legally binding instrument.
2. According to resolution 26/9, the Working Group’s two first sessions shall be dedicated to conducting constructive deliberations on the content, scope, nature and form of the future international instrument. In compliance with this provision, the first session was held in Geneva, from 6 to 10 July 2015.
3. Constructive discussions were held in the first session among States, Non-Governmental Organizations, International Organizations, UN Divisions, and representatives of the private sector, with the support provided by some recognized experts from all the regions. The first session and the many consultations held by the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group with regional groups and countries from all over the world were a good opportunity for some Parties to express their hopes, expectations and concerns, while for Others it was an opportunity to share the reasons of their impossibility to participate in the process at this early stage.
4. The report of the first session was presented on 11 March 2016, in the framework of the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the Human Rights Council.
5. The second session of the Working Group has been scheduled from 24 to 28 October, 2016, and since the end of the first session, many stakeholders have repeatedly expressed their interest in the intersessional work, as it may provide a good basis for a fruitful second session.

### **Main Objective of the Side Event**

- To inform the 2016 Asia Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights’ audience on the current status of the debate on the process towards a legally binding treaty on



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transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights and to discuss on the expected next steps to be taken.

### **Specific Objectives**

1. To have a dialogue and an exchange of views with stakeholders regarding the preparatory process towards the second session of the working group.
2. To collect views and contributions of different stakeholders regarding key issues and themes that should be addressed during the Second session of the Working Group.
3. To share the next steps planned by the Chair-Rapporteur of the working group.

### **Date, Venue and Format**

- The side event will be opened to participants of the 2016 Asia Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights, and will be held in English.
- It will consist of presentations by panelists, followed by an interactive dialogue and conclusions.
- The side event will take place on 19 April 2016, from 16h30 to 18h00, at the Sheraton Doha Resort & Convention Centre (Room to be confirmed).

### **Panelists**

- Luis Espinosa Salas, Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations – Geneva
- John Morrison, Executive Director of the Institute for Human Rights and Business
- Linda Kromjong, Secretary-General, International Organization of Employers
- Sharan Burrow, General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation
- Daniel Aguirre, International Legal Advisor, Myanmar, International Commission of Jurists