



2016 Asia Regional Forum on
Business and Human Rights
Doha - 19-20 April 2016



Business and human rights in South Asia

Parallel session: Sub-regional discussions

Wednesday 20 April, 08:30-10:00

“Make in South Asia - Responsibly, sustainably: How to source responsibly from South Asia”

Most of the countries in South Asia are sourcing countries – for products and for labour. While these countries manufacture for many industries, they also supply migrant labour to work in other regions across the world. Labour rights violations and abuses – within its factories and of migrant workers in other regions – are a major challenge in this sub-region. The session at the Asia Regional Forum will bring together stakeholders and experts from the region to discuss how to minimize human rights impacts while sourcing from South Asian countries and to protect rights of migrant workers of these countries, and beyond. Some of the main questions to be discussed include:

- What are some of the key challenges in making South Asian countries responsible and sustainable market places?
- Are these challenges sector- or country specific; or due to other situations such as conflict, poverty, political instability, economic development?
- Who are the stakeholders and what good practices in responsible sourcing can be identified?
- What can be recommended as three action points for each of the stakeholder to ensure make in South Asia, responsibly and sustainably

The session on South Asia is organised in collaboration with the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre.

Multi-stakeholder panel followed by discussion with the audience

- *Harpreet Kaur, Senior South Asia Researcher & Representative, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (moderator)*
- *Binda Pandey, Deputy member of the governing body of the ILO, Nepal*
- *Nasir Mansoor, Deputy General Secretary, National Trade Union Federation, Pakistan*
- *Priyanga Hettiarachi, Sri Lanka Country Representative, Westminster Foundation for Democracy*
- *Rajinder S. Maker, Director General, Employers’ Federation of India*

Profile of panellists:

Ms Binda Pandey

Ms. Pandey is the Deputy member of the governing body of the ILO, Nepal, and is the first woman from South Asia elected to the 188-member governing body of the ILO. Prior to this she held senior positions at planning commission of the General Federation, Fundamental Rights & Directive Principle Committee of the Constituent Assembly of Nepal, Department of Foreign Affairs and National Women's Commission. She had been involved in Nepal's trade union movement for more than a decade, and was the driving force behind most publications brought out by GEFONT, one of the largest confederations of Nepalese trade unions. She was one of 1000 women proposed for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.



She is a Postgraduate in Gender and Development Studies from AIT, Bangkok.

She tweets via [@PandeyBinda](https://twitter.com/PandeyBinda)

Mr Nasir Mansoor

Mr Mansoor is the Deputy General Secretary at the National Trade Union Federation, Pakistan, affiliate with IndustriALL Global Union. He has been one of the key labour rights advocates in Pakistan and has written on health and safety at workplaces. He is also the member of Task Committee on Home based workers in Sindh and Member of Committee working on reformation of labour laws in the country. Mr Mansoor is also working with ILO to organise agriculture workers on unions in Sindh. He is a postgraduate in International Relation (IR) and Marine Engineering.



He tweets via [@NasirMansoor1](https://twitter.com/NasirMansoor1)

Mr Priyanga Hettiarachi

Priyanga Hettiarachi is the Sri Lanka Country Representative of Westminster Foundation for Democracy. From 2012-2015, he worked in the business and human rights field, working in Sri Lanka to implement the UNGPs in Sri Lanka. He was formerly an executive level officer at the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet in Canberra, Australia; and a senior associate at international law firm Norton Rose advising the construction industry. Priyanga was educated in Sri Lanka, India, the United Kingdom and Australia. He is a graduate of Oxford University and has a Master of Laws from Melbourne University. He is a Barrister of the Inner Temple. He has written widely and speaks on business and human rights. In 2006, he received a State award from the Premier of Victoria for his contribution to Victoria's Charter of Human Rights. In 2014 and 2015, he received an industry award from Indian business for his leadership in the business and human rights field.



Mr R S Maker

Mr Maker is Director General of Employers' Federation of India and represents the employers' group at the ILO, Geneva. He has over 42 years of experience in the field of HR, Industrial Relations, Consulting and Education. He started his career with ACC, where he continued to work for a decade and a half across both plant and corporate office. During his tenure, he worked with some of the most prominent trade union leaders of the country. He turned into an entrepreneur in 1994 when he joined as executive director at Omam Consultants - a leading HR Consulting firm in Delhi that later helped him start his own consulting company - Maker Executive Search. In 2003 Mr. Maker ventured into the field of Management Education, Training and Development. He is a Post Graduate from XLRI and has a LLB degree.



Dr Harpreet Kaur

Dr Harpreet Kaur is the Senior South Asia Researcher & Representative at the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre. Based in Delhi, Harpreet is responsible for research and outreach highlighting corporates' human rights impacts in South Asia. Harpreet has conducted research missions in the region focusing on [labour rights abuses by companies in the garment sector](#) and has written extensively on the subject. She has also been advocating for development of Country's National Action Plan on Business & Human Rights – both through her [writing](#) and [implementing projects](#) to deliver the [same](#).



She has previously held senior management positions at BBC Media Action and Panos South Asia, and worked with various organizations including Ford Foundation, GiZ, Social Accountability International & Partners in Change.

Harpreet has a PhD and her dissertation focus was on Terrorism & Human Rights: a cross cultural study in Jammu & Kashmir. She has an MSc in Anthropology from University of Delhi, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Human Rights Law from National Law School of India University, Bangalore. Harpreet is also an SA 8000 certified auditor and recently completed Human Rights in Asia course at Seoul National University.

Harpreet tweets via [@hkaur0304](#)