



### ***Addressing Asia's NAP gap***

*Parallel session – Wednesday 20 April, 09:45-11:15*

#### ***Can national action plans on business and human rights in the region kick-start a race to the top for sustainable investments and supply chains?***

There is broad agreement that government-led national action plans (NAPs) on business and human rights would be key policy tool for advancing implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights has developed authoritative guidance for States on the why's and how's.<sup>1</sup> This guidance has been informed by wide and inclusive consultations with stakeholders and experts, including in collaboration by Asian experts on business and human rights.<sup>2</sup> Complementary, detailed tools to support States in development of NAP processes also exist.<sup>3</sup>

Yet few States have launched NAPs, and in the Asia-Pacific there are none to date. While national human rights institutions are leading efforts towards developments of NAPs in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, and the Philippines, and the Government of Myanmar has expressed its intention of developing one, the whole region faces a significant NAP gap. Credible NAPs could potentially lay the ground for addressing Asia's key business-related human rights challenges, such as abuse of migrant workers, protection of and respect for labour rights, and impacts on land rights, the environment and the rights of indigenous people. NAPs done correctly could thus play a role in promoting more sustainable investments and supply chains in Asia. With the continued rise of Asia in the global economy, Asian States could play a key role in leading a race to the top not only within the region, but also beyond.

The NAP session at the Asia Regional Forum will bring together stakeholders and experts from the region to discuss questions such as:

- Why have there not been any NAPs in Asia to date, and when will we see the first NAP in the region?
- What will it take to kick-start a NAP process?
- How are different actors (business, civil society, international organisations, national human rights institutions) supporting developments towards NAPs?

#### ***Multi-stakeholder panel followed by discussion with the audience***

- *Dante Pesce, Chairperson, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights (moderator)*
- *Nur Kholis, National Human Rights Commission of Indonesia*
- *Livio Sarandrea, UNDP*
- *Sandra D'Amico, Cambodian Federation of Employers; HRINC*
- *Harpreet Kaur, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre; ETI's Dialogue for Change: Strengthening Business & Human Rights in India Project*

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Business/UNWG\\_NAPGuidance.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Business/UNWG_NAPGuidance.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://business-humanrights.org/sites/default/files/documents/CALS-SMU-Coalition-third-submission-on-NAPs-Oct-2015.pdf>; <http://business-humanrights.org/sites/default/files/documents/workshop-report-smu-acn-nov2015.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://icar.ngo/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/DIHR-ICAR-National-Action-Plans-NAPs-Report3.pdf>