



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



Business and human rights in North East and Central Asia

Parallel session: Sub-regional discussions

Wednesday 20 April, 08:30-10:00

Sub-regional trends and challenges in North East and Central Asia – with focus on the third pillar of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights under the third pillar of “access to remedy” stipulate that:

- States “[a]s part of their duty to protect against business-related human rights abuse...must take appropriate steps to ensure, through judicial, administrative, legislative or other appropriate means, that when such abuses occur within their territory and/or jurisdiction those affected have access to effective remedy” (principle 25) through ensuring the effectiveness of domestic judicial mechanisms (principle 26) and non-judicial grievance mechanisms (principle 27)
- Business “...should establish or participate in effective operational-level grievance mechanisms for individuals and communities who may be adversely impacted” (principle 29)

The Guiding Principles further suggest that in order to ensure their effectiveness, non-judicial grievance mechanisms, should be fulfil eight criteria: legitimate, accessible, predictable, equitable, transparent, rights-compatible and based on engagement and dialogue.

However, in the context of North East and Central Asia, access to remedy for business-related human rights is a particular challenge. That is a major focus of the session, which will examine the following questions:

1. What are the key challenges and advances on human rights impacts related to business activities in the region? Are these challenges sector- or country- specific?
2. What are some of the current means to remedies in the region, both judicial and non-judicial?
3. What are their levels of effectiveness?
4. What are the key challenges and opportunities in the region in terms of achieving more effective access to remedy by states and companies through judicial and non-judicial means?

The session on North East and Central Asia is organised in collaboration with the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre.

Multi-stakeholder panel followed by discussion with the audience

Lowell Chow, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (moderator)
Oyunchimeg Purev, Mongolia National Human Rights Commission
Guowei Zhao, China Enterprises Confederation / Global Compact Network China
Kevin May, Oxfam Hong Kong
Sergey Solianik, Crude Accountability