

The OECD Guidelines: A tool for operationalising the business and human rights framework?

OECD Watch **side event** at the
OHCHR Consultation on business and human rights:
Operationalizing the "Protect, Respect, Remedy" framework
6 October 2009, 13:15 – 14:45, Geneva
(lunch will be available in the room)

OECD Watch welcomes the framework developed by Professor Ruggie as an opportunity to explore solutions to global governance gaps with regard to business and human rights. The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises are currently one of the few mechanisms available for holding companies to account, and they provide a potentially valuable instrument for operationalisation of the SRSG's framework. However, if that potential is to be realised fundamental changes are needed to harmonise performance of National Contact Points and enhance the OECD Guidelines' effectiveness in ensuring that businesses respect human rights. A review of the OECD Guidelines is expected to start in 2010 and could provide an opportunity for such improvements.

This lunchtime side event will explore the Guidelines' potential to contribute to the Ruggie framework. OECD Watch will encourage professor Ruggie and his team to engage with the OECD and member states in upgrading the Guidelines and create synergy towards a more effective and accountable business and human rights framework.

Draft Programme

Chair - Richard Howitt, MEP (tbc)

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| 13:15 | Welcome and introduction by <i>Richard Howitt, MEP (tbc)</i> |
| 13:20 | The OECD Guidelines' potential contribution to the Ruggie Framework - <i>Joseph Wilde-Ramsing, OECD Watch</i> |
| 13:30 | Perspectives from the South:
Can the OECD Guidelines provide effective remedies? <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Rashmi Venkatesan, Cividep, India</i>- <i>Samson Mokoena, GroundWork, South Africa</i>- <i>Victor Ricco, CEDHA, Argentina</i> |
| 14:00 | Responses from Ruggie Team members <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Andrea Shemberg (tbc)</i>- <i>Caroline Rees (tbc)</i>- <i>Gerald Pachoud (tbc)</i>- <i>Vanessa Zimmerman (tbc)</i> |
| 14:20 | Discussions with the audience |
| 14:40 | Conclusions and recommendations: Towards the review of the OECD Guidelines - <i>Joris Oldenziel, OECD Watch</i> |

OECD Watch is an international network of civil society organisations promoting corporate accountability. The network currently consists of 88 civil society organisations from 45 different countries around the world. For more information visit www.oecdwatch.org or e-mail info@oecdwatch.org.