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The Role of Corporate Reporting in the Implementation of the UNGP on Human Rights

**Fourth UN Forum on Business and Human Rights
18th November 2015 11:40 to 13:00
Room XXI (Building E)**

Parallel Session proposal – In collaboration with:
Clifford Chance, GRI, Group of Friends of Paragraph 47, Shift and Mazars

Clifford Chance, GRI, Group of Friends of Paragraph 47, Shift and Mazars will hold a parallel session during the Fourth United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights, taking place in Geneva (Switzerland) from 16 to 18 November 2015. The session will be entitled The Role of Corporate Reporting in the Implementation of the UNGP on Human Rights on Wednesday 18 November 2015.

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) emphasize the importance of corporate transparency and communication. In doing so, the UNGPs recognize that reporting is a key element for companies to address human rights, in which states and businesses have a role to play. In recent years, many states have extended requirements for human rights reporting across companies more generally, in particular large, listed, state-owned and public interest companies. There has also been growing attention among stock exchanges, investors and civil society groups to the need for greater transparency in this area of companies' performance. These developments reflect the growing recognition that corporate respect for human rights is essential both for the equitable development of societies and for the sustainability of businesses themselves.

The session will provide a platform for dialogue between diverse stakeholders involved in corporate reporting in relation to human rights. These stakeholders share a concurrent but differentiated responsibility to avoid the abuse of human rights as a consequence of the working activities or through their partners. The session will be structured in two main parts: The first one will focus on the growing number of regulatory frameworks that are requiring businesses to be more transparent about their management of human rights impacts. Governments and experts in regulatory developments will explain and discuss some existing initiatives and trends to promote corporate transparency. The second part will focus on the practice of how companies are reporting on human rights. GRI and RAFI will bring their experience and expertise in working with companies to paint a picture of the current state of human rights reporting and company participants will address how they are responding to increasing regulatory, investor and civil society expectations for transparency. Both parts will be followed by a moderated Q&A with the audience.

Audience:

The session will be open to participants of the Fourth UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, with a specific focus on companies, business leaders but also policy makers, investors, thought leaders, and civil society organizations.

Event Format:

The session will last 80 minutes and will consist of two panel discussions followed by questions from the audience as follows:

Moderated panel discussion: - 30 min

Question 1: What impacts do State policies seek to have on corporate reporting on human rights and how do States promote their effective implementation?

- Moderator:
 - **Tatiana Krylova**, Head of Enterprise Branch, UNCTAD
- **Richard Howitt**, MEP and CSR European Parliament Rapporteur
- **Amol Mehra**, Director, International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR)
- Group of Friends of Paragraph 47:
 - **Verónica Aranzazu Zubía Pinto**, Advisor, Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile
 - **Marine de Carné**, CSR Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France
- **Rae Lindsay**, Partner, Clifford Chance

Moderated panel discussion: - 30 min

Question 2: What is the status of corporate reporting on human rights and how can reporting contribute to understanding and changing companies' impacts on human rights?

- Moderator:
 - **Richard Karmel**, Partner and Global Head of Human Rights, Mazars
- **Teresa Fogelberg**, Deputy Chief Executive, GRI
- **Rachel Davis**, Managing Director, Shift
- **Camilla Goldbeck-Lowe**, Expert Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility, Ericsson
- **Malin Helgesen**, Leading Counsel, Legal, Statoil

Questions from the audience- addressing both panels (moderated by Richard Karmel): 10 minutes

Summary of the session and looking beyond reporting: future innovations and initiatives for progress on human rights reporting and practice – 10 min

- **Richard Howitt**, MEP and CSR European Parliament Rapporteur