



Tuesday 17 November
16:30-18:00
Room XXIII

The OHCHR Accountability and Remedy Project: Legal Liability for Companies in cases of severe human rights abuses

Ensuring access to effective remedy for those impacted by business-related human rights abuses is one of the three pillars of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, endorsed by the United Nations Human Rights Council in June 2011. Yet much work remains to make access to remedy a reality.

In November 2014, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights launched an initiative "to make domestic legal responses fairer and more effective for victims of business-related human rights abuses, particularly in the most severe cases." The initiative, called the "Accountability and Remedy Project" (ARP), "aims to deliver credible and concrete recommendations and guidance to States to enable more effective implementation of the Access to Remedy pillar of the UN Guiding Principles. The ARP recommendations and guidance will be developed through inclusive multi-stakeholder processes, and will be designed to take into account different legal systems, cultures, traditions and levels of economic development. The ARP focuses on six distinct, yet interrelated issues that may present challenges to victims in bringing claims and where research has identified a need for further clarification and guidance.

During 2015, OHCHR completed two large-scale research and consultation processes, as well as targeted research into particular focus areas. This session will explore the outcomes of OHCHR's global online consultation process, which resulted in more than 130 responses from nearly 60 different jurisdictions, as well as early outputs regarding models and practices for corporate legal liability for involvement in the most severe forms of human rights abuses. The session will provide stakeholders with an overview of the project's progress and collect perspectives from stakeholders on critical questions for further research and consultation, and to test initial findings of the ARP.



Chair/moderator:

Michael Addo, UN Working Group

Opening presentation:

Jennifer Zerk, Consultant to the OHCHR Accountability and Remedy Project

Panel:

- H.E. Ambassador María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, Ecuador
- Robert McCorquodale, BIICL, expert to the ESCR-Net & FIDH 'Treaty Initiative'
- Mark Taylor, Fafo
- Matthias Thorns, IOE

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