

PILLARS IN PRACTICE

multi-stakeholder workshop

The Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will host a multi-stakeholder workshop on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in Medellin, Colombia on August 30, 2013. The workshop is part of a three-day Regional Forum on Business and Human rights hosted by UNDP, the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights and the Government of Colombia.

The purpose of this workshop is to identify ways in which participants can begin to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in their local contexts. The workshop will be based on DIHR's "Pillars in Practice" programme, jointly implemented by DIHR and Social Accountability International (SAI) in Bangladesh, Nicaragua and Zimbabwe. "Pillars in Practice" seeks to provide local stakeholders in each of these countries with practical knowledge and tools to apply the UN's "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework to real-world contexts.

The objectives of this workshop will be to:

- Provide a brief overview of the UN Guiding Principles
- Identify key human rights and business issues in Latin America
- Generate dialogue on human rights and business at a regional level
- Compile a list of recommendations for businesses, governments and civil society to address human rights and business issues in Latin America
- Identify key stakeholder initiatives that address these issues and may contribute to implementation of the UN Guiding Principles across the region.

DIHR's Human Rights and Business Country Portal methodology will be used to guide participants through workshop activities. The Human Rights and Business Country Portal is a free resource for companies to identify, assess and address their human rights impacts around the world. The Country Portal provides country- and sector-specific information about the human rights impacts of businesses, alongside concrete recommendations for preventing and mitigating adverse impacts. The Country Portal emphasizes multi-stakeholder engagement and dialogue through which human rights due diligence and policy recommendations are developed and key multi-stakeholder initiatives identified.

Regional Forum participants from all stakeholder groups are invited to participate in the "Pillars in Practice" workshop. DIHR and UNDP believe that Latin American businesses, governments, civil society and trade unions share a vision where companies contribute to the sustainable development of all Latin Americans. The "Pillars in Practice" multi-stakeholder workshop is a step toward that vision.