

UN Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises

Managing human rights risk in the garment sector supply chain – what lessons learned from the perspective of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights?

Panel discussion

Fifth session of the Working Group, 20 June 2013 – 15.00 to 17.30, Room XX, Palais des Nations

Background

On 24 April 2013, the Rana Plaza garment factory building collapsed, resulting in significant loss of life. The Rana Plaza incident served as a catalyst for action on the part of governments, trade unions and industry alike to address systemic human rights issues in the sector. The lessons learned from both past responses (often audit-based) and new initiatives offer insights into both the complexities involved in global garment supply chains and lessons applicable to other industries.

Objective

The panel discussion aims to reflect on lessons learned from attempts to manage human rights risks in the garment sector and to discuss how effective implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights by all actors, including States, and local and international businesses, can help to prevent and address such risks.

Questions for consideration during the panel discussion include:

- What are key lessons learned in relation to human rights due diligence and implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in complex global supply chains, including with regards to access to remedy for victims?
- How can the momentum behind the Bangladesh Accord on Fire and Building Safety be extended to address working conditions in the garment sector globally, and to other sectors with similar challenges?

Format

The panel will start with brief opening remarks from the moderator and targeted questions from the moderator to each panellist. The moderator will then open the debate to questions and comments from the floor. All speakers are asked to keep their interventions short, dialogue-focused, and specific to the topic for discussion, with a maximum speaking time of 2 minutes. There will not be a speakers list for this discussion.

The panel discussion will take place during the fifth session of the Working Group at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, and will be open to all stakeholders.

Panellists

- Ms. Jenny Holdcroft, Director, Policy, Trade & Development, IndustriALL
- Mr. Aleix Gonzalez Busquets, Senior CSR and Supply Chain Manager, Inditex
- Mr. Peter McAllister, Director, Ethical Trading Initiative
- Ms. Caroline Rees, President, Shift
- Mr. Daniel Rees, Director, Better Work Programme, ILO
- Mr. Andy York, Ethical Trading Manager, JD Williams / N Brown Group

- Mr. Kamran Rahman, former president of the Bangladesh Employer's Federation, and VP of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Dhaka (MCCI)

Moderator: Ms. Alexandra Guáqueta, UN Working Group on business and human rights

Registration and practical details

Please register before 14 June. Registration is mandatory for all participants who do not hold a badge for the Palais des Nations. Participants with a badge are kindly asked to advise the Secretariat of their attendance.

Details on registration and practical details are available on the website of the Working Group:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Pages/WGSessions.aspx>

Stakeholders may also submit their input to the discussion questions presented in this concept note in writing before 14 June 2013 to wg-business@ohchr.org.