

JAPAN's Answers concerning the "Working Group on the issues of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises"

Question 1

What do you suggest should be the priority focus areas for the Working Group, in line with its mandate as per Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/17/4?

Answer 1

Among the mandate of the UN WG, Japan considers that it is appropriate to prioritize the following two areas:

First: To promote the effective and comprehensive dissemination and implementation of the "Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework.

Second: To develop a regular dialogue and discuss possible areas of cooperation with Governments and all relevant actors, including international organizations such as ILO, the Global Compact, the World Bank and OECD.

Question 2

In addition to promoting and disseminating the Guiding Principles, the Working Group must ensure that they are effectively implemented by both government and business, and that they result in improved outcomes for individuals and groups around the world whose rights have been affected by business activity. How do you suggest that it achieve this complex task?

Answer 2

Japan considers that the UN WG should make the maximum use of the existing mechanisms and initiatives through enhanced cooperation with the relevant organizations such as ILO, the Global Compact, the World Bank and other organizations such as OECD as well as multinational enterprises and civil societies including the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) in order to ensure directly or indirectly effective implementation of the Guiding Principles and to avoid duplication or inconsistency with the guidelines or initiatives of relevant organizations.