



## **Inclusive and sustainable development: Role of business**

**12 October 2023 (1:15pm-2:30pm)**

**Conference Room E**

**UN Headquarters, New York**

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The world is facing multiple challenges: from poverty to inequalities, gender-based violence, child labour, exploitation of workers, populism, the digital divide, the triple planetary crisis, food and energy insecurity, forced displacement, shrinking civic space and conflicts. Moreover, as highlighted by [The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023](#), we are seriously offtrack to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

The right to development can underpin a transformative shift needed in the current economic order to overcome these challenges and achieve accelerated progress towards the 2030 Agenda. The UN Special Rapporteur in his recent vision report ([A/HRC/54/27](#)) to the Human Rights Council articulated a new model of ‘planet-centred participatory development’. Businesses will be an integral part of such a model to ensure inclusive, equitable and sustainable development.

In addition to respecting all human rights in line with the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) and other international standards, businesses should contribute to addressing the root causes of the current challenges faced by the world. In his first thematic report to the UN General Assembly ([A/78/160](#)), the Special Rapporteur calls for a fundamental shift in how businesses operate in society by reorienting the purpose of business, changing irresponsible business models and going beyond the ‘do no harm’ approach.

Against this backdrop, the [UN Special Rapporteur on the right to development](#), the [Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in New York](#) and the [United Nations Development Programme](#) will co-organise a side event to discuss the role of businesses in contributing to inclusive and sustainable development.

### **Aims**

1. Highlight linkages between the right to development and the SDGs
2. Examine the role of businesses in contributing to inclusive and sustainable development
3. Explore how companies can more effectively embed their responsibilities under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in their business models and across their value chains

## **Questions for discussions**

- How can a holistic understanding of the right to development support the accelerated progress towards meeting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?
- What are good practices of businesses contributing to inclusive and sustainable development? How can these be scaled up?
- What has been the impact of responsible business conduct standards and mandatory human rights due diligence laws? What more is needed to harness the role of business in contributing fully to realising all the SDGs?
- How can States and other stakeholders such as investors, consumers and civil society organisations encourage companies to embrace responsible business models?

## **Moderator**

Mr Rio Hada, Chief, Equality, Development and Rule of Law Section, OHCHR New York Office

## **Panellists**

1. Mr Surya Deva, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to development
2. Ms Sarah Rattray, Senior Advisor on Human Rights, Rule of Law, Security and Human Rights for Sustaining Peace, UNDP New York
3. Ms Norine Kennedy, Senior Vice President, Policy and Global Strategy, United States Council for International Business
4. Ms. Joan Birika, Senior Manager, Human Rights, UN Global Compact Office
5. Ms. Anita Thomas, Chair, NGO Committee on Financing for Development
6. Ms. Barbara Adams, Chair of the Board, Global Policy Forum (Women's Major Group)