

NGO Südwind - General Statement Human Rights Due Diligence

By e-mail to ohchr-igwg-intervention@un.org

The session during which the oral intervention is to take place: General statements
(Monday, AM or PM)

How the intervention will take place: in person delivery,

The type of stakeholder speaking: NGO with ECOSOC status

Name of the State or organization: Verein Südwind Entwicklungspolitik

Name of the speaker: Leonie Pohl

Dear Chair, Dear Ladies, Gentlemen and others,

I am speaking on behalf of the association Südwind that participates in the 8th session with a European youth delegation. We welcome the third revised draft of the LBI and are convinced it is a solid basis for further negotiations about the urgent issue of global supply chains.

To an average consumer buying a t-shirt, a toothbrush or chopsticks the strings attached to such purchases are rarely visible. In order to avoid negative effects from our consumer behaviour, everyone would have to carefully watch *where* items are being manufactured, under *what conditions* their goods are produced and what *consequences* each purchase has on the lives of workers and our environment.

But this information is currently unavailable to most people. Supply chains are obscure things, gathering information about them can be a full time job and thus to fully fathom the true significance of our consuming habits is *impossible*.

This fact however does not change our responsibility owed to the workers suffering under truly horrible conditions in sweatshops and to our environment hurt by chemical byproducts destroying rivers and our oceans. Our earth can no longer endure what industries put it through, and it is only a united effort that can save it.

To say it in the words of the 12th SDG „sustainable consumption and production patterns“: unsustainable patterns of consumption and production are a root cause of the triple planet crisis, meaning climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

And that is how this challenge relates to human rights due diligence:

Only a compulsory human rights due diligence can shed light onto the reality of production processes of big multinational companies. As a young citizen of the European Union I truly believe that change can happen, and with this incredibly meaningful opportunity to speak in front of you today I would like to really appeal to each and every single one of you.

This issue is one that is decided by you today (these days) but will have effects on many upcoming generations and their consumption. All aspects of our daily life are affected by our choices and their consequences – and right now we are living without an awareness about the consequences of our own actions. But this lifestyle is not sustainable and my generation and I will have to pay the price. And people in global supply chains are paying the price right now.

This room here, though has the power to change the current (unsustainable) state we are in, and to influence how corporations and multinational corporations will produce our goods in the future.

To summarise: in order for individuals to place their trust into the hands of truly sustainable and non-human rights abusing companies a compulsory human rights due diligence and the investigation of their supply chains imposed by governments worldwide are desperately needed. Therefore we call on all states for constructive engagement in this session towards a Legally Binding Treaty.