



General Assembly

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Human Rights Council
Forum on Business and Human Rights
First session
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Agenda and organization of work
4 – 5 December 2012

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the Secretariat

Provisional agenda

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2. From principles to practice: How can the global community ensure business respect for human rights?
3. Taking stock of the first steps towards implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
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5. Conclusion: the way forward

Annotations

1. Agenda and organization of work

Venue

Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 17/4, the first session of the Forum on Business and Human Rights will be held in Geneva on 4 and 5 December 2012.

The Forum will have before it the provisional agenda contained in the present document. A tentative schedule of work for the session is contained in annex I.

Opening meeting

It is envisaged that the President of the Human Rights Council will deliver an opening statement. Statements will then be made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Chairperson of the Forum on Business and Human Rights and the Chairperson of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

Documentation

A list of documents for the session is provided in annex II. In addition to normal distribution, official documents for the session will be made available on the Human Rights Council website at the following address: www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Pages/ForumonBusinessandHR2012.aspx.

Trends and challenges in the implementation of the Guiding Principles and multi-stakeholder dialogue

Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 17/4, the annual Forum on Business and Human Rights will discuss trends and challenges in the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework, including challenges faced in particular sectors, operational environments or in relation to specific rights or groups, as well as identify good practices.

After the presentations and panel introductions at the beginning of each agenda item, there will be open discussions to which all participants will be invited to contribute, based on a sign-up sheet.

The Forum has also been established to promote dialogue and cooperation on issues linked to business and human rights among all relevant stakeholders. The programme of work and composition of panels have been designed to fulfil the objective set by the Member States of the Human Rights Council.

2. From principles to practice: How can the global community ensure business respect for human rights?

The high-level segment of the Forum will consider how relevant stakeholders can ensure that the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights are acted upon and become part of the everyday practice of States and business enterprises. It is envisaged that during this segment, the Forum will consider how it can best promote multi-stakeholder dialogue and cooperation in the area of business and human rights.

The Forum will be addressed by a number of keynote speakers.

3. Taking stock of the first steps towards implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

Under this agenda item, the Forum will break into parallel sessions, which will focus on initial steps taken by relevant stakeholders to date, and the state of play with respect to implementation and uptake of the Guiding Principles. Parallel sessions will highlight the following:

- Efforts by States to implement the State duty to protect against business-related human rights impacts, including initiatives to develop national action plans for the implementation of the Guiding Principles;
- Efforts by international institutions and regional organizations to align policies and frameworks with the United Nations standards for business and human rights and discuss how to achieve synergies in this area;
- Efforts by the United Nations system to start embedding and integrating the Guiding Principles into policies and operations;
- Efforts by business enterprises and other actors in the business sector to advance the implementation of the corporate responsibility to respect human rights.

Other sessions will also focus on the implementation of the third pillar of the Guiding Principles and access to effective remedy for victims of business-related human rights abuse, considering both judicial and non-judicial grievance mechanisms.

Sessions under this agenda item will seek to highlight the emerging trends in the implementation of the three pillars of the Guiding Principles and the United Nations Framework, discuss lessons learned to date, and identify possible good practices.

4. Challenges in the implementation of the Guiding Principles

Under this agenda item, presentations and discussions in parallel breakout sessions will focus on identifying top challenges faced by stakeholders in the implementation of the Guiding Principles, including States, business enterprises, civil society actors and other affected stakeholders. Thematic sessions will also address challenges with regard to particular stakeholder groups, sectors and issues. Sessions may also focus on the challenges in implementing the Guiding Principles and ensuring business respect for human rights in the context of:

- Business activities affecting indigenous peoples
- Conflict-affected areas
- The activities of small and medium-sized enterprises

Participants may, in other sessions, consider the question of the implementation of the Guiding Principles with regard to State-investor contract negotiations, the particular role of investors in advancing implementation of the Guiding Principles, and the role of the legal profession.

Sessions under this agenda item will be aimed at contributing to the understanding of existing and potential challenges across stakeholder groups, thereby laying the ground for greater dialogue between stakeholders. Moreover, by identifying challenges and their nature, discussions could also consider possible good practices and the role that different

stakeholders could play in ensuring the effective implementation of the Guiding Principles, and ultimately the enhanced protection and respect of human rights in the context of business activities.

5. Conclusion: the way forward

In the closing plenary, the Chairperson of the Forum and members of the Working Group will deliver their concluding remarks, including reflections on the collective learning generated by the Forum in terms of the experiences of stakeholders, good practices discussed, and challenges and solutions which have been identified. The session will also include a discussion open to all participants. The discussion will focus on the way forward for advancing the implementation and uptake of the Guiding Principles by States and business and other stakeholders and enhancing access to remedy for affected persons.

Annex I

Schedule of work

Tuesday, 4 December 2012

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Opening

- Welcoming and opening remarks by the President of the Human Rights Council
- Remarks by the Chairperson of the Forum on Business and Human Rights
- Remarks by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Remarks by the Chairperson of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises

Thematic sessions

Taking stock of the first steps towards implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (continued)

High-level session

Taking stock of the first steps towards implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

Wednesday, 5 December 2012

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Challenges to the implementation of the Guiding Principles

Challenges to the implementation of the Guiding Principles (continued)

Conclusion: the way forward

Annex II

List of documents before the Forum on Business and Human Rights at its first session

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
A/HRC/FBHR/2012/1	Provisional agenda and annotations; note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/FBHR/2012/2	Background note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/FBHR/2012/3	Concept note by the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises
