



# General Assembly

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**Human Rights Council**  
**Forum on Business and Human Rights**  
**Second session**  
Item 1 of the provisional agenda  
**Agenda and organization of work**  
3–4 December 2013

## Provisional agenda and annotations

### Note by the Secretariat

#### Provisional agenda

1. Agenda and organization of work.
2. Deepening the involvement of all regions in the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
3. Plenary sessions: Implementation of the three pillars.
4. Parallel sessions: Focus on specific groups, sectors and alignment of key initiatives with the Guiding Principles.
5. Conclusion: The way forward.

#### Annotations

### 1. Agenda and organization of work

#### Venue

Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 17/4, the second annual meeting of the Forum on Business and Human Rights will be held in Geneva on 3 and 4 December 2013, with a number of pre-events on 2 December 2013.

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 plenary

The President of the Human Rights Council will open the Forum and introduce the Chairperson, who will preside over the plenary sessions. Statements will then be made by

the United Nations High Commissioner for 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. A more detailed programme of work will be made available in advance on the Forum website: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Forum/Pages/2013ForumOnBusinessandHumanRights.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. The Guiding Principles were unanimously endorsed by the Human Rights Council in June 2011.

The Forum is also intended to promote dialogue and cooperation on issues linked to business and human rights among all relevant stakeholders.

Following the presentations and panel introductions at the beginning of each session, the floor will be opened for discussion, to which all participants will be invited to contribute, subject to the time available.

## **2. Deepening the involvement of all regions in the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights**

The mandate of the Forum underscores the importance of engaging stakeholders at the regional levels in order to effectively contribute to the global efforts to promote the implementation of the Guiding Principles. Given the central role of regional organizations in the global governance architecture, they are key strategic actors for strengthening convergence around the Guiding Principles so as to ultimately enhance the practices and accountability of Government and business with regard to the human rights impacts of business operations.

The opening plenary and the dedicated side events will address ways to advance the business and human rights agenda in the regions, including with regard to the dissemination and implementation of the Guiding Principles among stakeholders in each region, and the current and potential efforts by the main intergovernmental regional bodies.

## **3. Plenary sessions: Implementation of the three pillars**

During the plenary sessions on the first day of the Forum, participants will have the opportunity to collectively take stock of the first steps towards the implementation of the Guiding Principles, with a view to identifying what additional steps should be taken by States, business, civil society, national human rights institutions and other stakeholders in this regard.

Discussions during these sessions will seek to highlight the emerging trends in the implementation of the three pillars of the Guiding Principles and the Framework —

“protect, respect and remedy” —, integrate lessons learned to date and identify possible good practices.

Some plenary sessions will focus more particularly on access to remedy, the cross-cutting third pillar of the Guiding Principles. Participants will have the opportunity to consider ways of developing a more coherent and consistent response to corporate liability for gross human rights violations, and discuss the current practice regarding non-judicial grievance mechanisms.

Other thematic plenary sessions are yet to be confirmed.

#### **4. Parallel sessions: Focus on specific groups, sectors and alignment of key initiatives with the Guiding Principles**

The parallel sessions on the second day of the Forum will seek to contribute to the understanding of existing and potential challenges across stakeholder groups, thereby laying the ground for enhanced dialogue among stakeholders. Discussions will also seek to identify good practice and the role that different stakeholders can play in ensuring effective implementation of the Guiding Principles and, ultimately, enhanced protection and respect of human rights in the context of business activities. Participants will also identify concrete steps to be taken by States, business, civil society and other relevant stakeholders.

There will be parallel sessions focusing on particular human rights and pertaining to specific groups, such as indigenous peoples, human rights defenders, children, victims of trafficking and women.

In some parallel sessions, participants will have the opportunity to discuss the application of the Guiding Principles in specific sectors, including finance, employment and recruitment, information and communications technology and agribusiness.

In other parallel sessions, the focus will be on aligning practices and standards in key areas with the Guiding Principles, including supply chain management, business operations in conflict contexts, international investment and public finance.

#### **5. Conclusion: The way forward**

In the closing plenary, the Chairperson of the Forum and selected speakers will put forward proposals for priorities and key issues to be addressed in 2014. Finally, the Working Group will deliver the closing remarks, including reflections on the collective learning generated by the Forum in terms of stakeholders’ experiences, good practices discussed, and challenges and solutions identified.

## Annex I

### Schedule of work (to be confirmed)

	<i>Pre-event</i> <i>Monday, 2 December 2013</i>	<i>Day One</i> <i>Tuesday, 3 December 2013</i>	<i>Day Two</i> <i>Wednesday, 4 December 2013</i>
8.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Opening session for the Working Group	Opening session: High-level plenary and plenary sessions	Parallel sessions (specific groups, sectors or other thematic focus)
	Break	Break	Break
	Side events: Focus on implementation of the Guiding Principles in the regions	Plenary sessions continued	Parallel sessions continued
1 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.	Lunch (side events/training sessions may be held during this time slot)	Lunch (side events/training sessions may be held during this time slot)	Lunch (side events/training sessions may be held during this time slot)
2.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Stakeholder caucuses: Side events organized by States, businesses, national human rights institutions and civil society	Plenary sessions continued	Parallel sessions continued (specific groups, sectors or other thematic focus)
	Break	Break	Break
4 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Stakeholder caucuses continued	Plenary sessions continued	Closing session: High-level plenary and closing remarks

## Annex II

### **List of documents before the second annual Forum on Business and Human Rights (4 and 5 December 2013)**

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
A/HRC/FBHR/2013/1	Provisional agenda and annotations
A/HRC/FBHR/2013/2	Background note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/FBHR/2013/3	Concept note by the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises

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