



European Union

## Fourth Regional Consultation on Business and Human Rights for Latin America and the Caribbean

Looking ahead: Actions to foster *responsible business conduct*.

Santiago de Chile / 3 and 4 September 2019

### CONTEXT

The Regional Consultation on Business and Human Rights for Latin America and the Caribbean provides a platform for dialogue among different stakeholders to exchange best practices, lessons learned in promoting responsible business conduct, including corporate respect for human rights, in the region. This event allows to take stock of the implementation by States and business enterprises in the region, of the [United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) (UNGPs), and international standards, such as [OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises](#) and the [ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy](#) (MNE Declaration), and will incentivize initiatives for their further implementation.

The Fourth Regional Consultation is organized by the [Office for South America of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\)](#) and [the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights](#), with the support of the ILO and the OECD within the framework of a project financed by the European Union on "[Responsible Business Conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)".

This event will bring together representatives of States, companies, trade unions, community groups and civil society, law firms, investors, UN agencies, national human rights institutions, academia and the media, among others. Building on the challenges and good practices highlighted during the previous Forum and [Regional Consultations](#) in the region, as well as the [UN Annual Forums on Business and Human Rights](#), this Fourth Consultation will look in depth into the necessary actions to foster corporate respect for human rights. While important legal and policy developments related to due diligence, forced and child labour, and disclosure of non-financial information among others are evolving globally, and national action plan processes have advanced in the region, the outcomes of concrete actions and efforts are still to be fully realized. The Consultation will focus on the need for States to demonstrate commitments, plans and progress in implementing the State duty to protect human rights, and look at emerging practices of business enterprises in different sectors and across value chains to respect human rights and exercise due diligence to prevent adverse impacts on people and planet. The Consultation will feed into the eighth [UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, to be held from 25 to 28 November 2019](#) in Geneva.

Potential topics and agenda items under the overall theme may include:

- Lessons from current legislative and policy efforts to move forward the business and human rights agenda, such as national action plans on business and human rights, and mandatory requirements or incentives for corporate human rights due diligence;
- Lessons from efforts by States and third actors to act to address gaps in human rights protection and access to remedy in the context of business activities, with a gender perspective and addressing specific groups needs such as indigenous peoples and migrant workers;
- Lessons from business action in situation where the State is failing or absent, including in relation to attacks on human rights defenders and engagement with potentially affected stakeholders;
- Ways to improve policy coherence among government ministries and departments dealing with responsible business conduct;
- How to improving the performance of States in their roles as economic actor (in the context of SOEs, institutional investors/sovereign wealth funds, development finance, trade promotion, public procurement)
- From the perspective of human rights defenders and affected rights holders (including worker representatives, indigenous peoples' representatives, affected community representatives), what changes in government and business practice need to happen? Lessons from business practices on due diligence, including practical implementation of the due diligence processes
- The value of National Contact Points for RBC as non-judicial grievance mechanisms for business and human rights

## FORMAT

The 2-day Consultation will consist of plenary sessions, parallel sessions and snapshot presentations. The parallel sessions will be a combination of side events proposed by stakeholders, capacity-building sessions requested by attendees, and updates on public policy processes, national action plans and follow-up to recommendations of human rights mechanisms.

## PARALLEL SESSIONS

There will be meetings proposed and organized by the participants, which can be oriented to: (i) discuss specific topics of regional relevance; (ii) strengthen participants' capacity through practical tools or methodologies; (iii) update and report on national or domestic processes such as national action plans, multi-stakeholder initiatives, due diligence processes and practices on access to remedies.

It will be the responsibility of the proponents of parallel sessions to take care of all logistics (e.g., identifying panellists, arranging simultaneous interpretation, preparing materials, etc.).

Proposals will be received, reviewed and selected by the organizers. The proposals should involve interactive formats as well as solution-oriented discussions and outcomes. The following criteria and aspect will be emphasized when reviewing proposals:

- Multi-stakeholder collaboration in organization of the session
- Presentation of new commitments or lessons learned from innovative practice
- Gender balance in speaker line-up

Proposals should be emailed by 23 June 2019 to [empresasyddhh.cl@ohchr.org](mailto:empresasyddhh.cl@ohchr.org) and the subject should read "Proposal for a Parallel Event for the Fourth Regional Consultation". The document should not exceed 2 pages.

## **SNAPSHOT**

Over lunch time, “snapshot” presentations of practice examples and experiences, tools, and new research will be featured in order to enable wider exchange of new insights and developments.

Proposals of interested parties should be emailed by 23 June 2019 to [empresasyddhh.cl@ohchr.org](mailto:empresasyddhh.cl@ohchr.org) and the subject should read “ Proposal for a snapshot for the Regional Consultation” , submitting 1-page attachment describing the content of snappy presentations focused on new and forward-looking insights