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**EU workshop on Business and Human Rights   
UNGPs six years later : appraise the progress & fill the gaps**

**4 of September 2017**

Location : Fondation universitaire, Rue d'Egmont 11, 1000 Brussels – Room A



**Concept note**

In 2011, the UN Human Rights Council endorsed the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). The adoption of the Guiding Principles have led to its diffusion and implementation processes at the international and domestic levels. Nonetheless, several actors have pointed out in this years significant gaps regarding the implementation of the UNGPs and in particular with respect to the third pillar on access to remedy.

In the context of the 6th anniversary from the adoption of the Guiding Principles, this workshop aims at assessing its progress as well as discussing and stimulating debate on the current state of play in the field of business and human rights

There will be a one-day public conference looking at key and emerging trends on the three pillars of the UNGPs, State Duty to Protect, Corporate Responsibility to Respect and Access to Remedy. Discussions will bring together the perspective of rights holders and institutions in charge with the implementation of the UNGPs and will be facilitated by an academic discussant. Through concrete cases of human rights violations by business actors, speakers will also illustrate the obstacles and perspectives from the ground.

Such format is intended to feed understanding on the current state of the art of each of the three pillars and on ways to move the debate forward. The Workshop also represents an opportunity to put the UNGPs in perspective with other complementary initiatives, and to study mechanisms to strengthen the international normative framework on corporate accountability at the European and international levels, such as the ongoing process at the UN towards and International Treaty on Transnational companies and human rights.

The workshop will join together participants from European institutions, FIDH member and partner organisations, as well as representatives from the public and private sector.

**Draft Program**

**11:30 - 12:00 : Welcome and Context session : Perspectives from the ground**

Opening speech: **Antoine Bernard, FIDH General Director**

* **Christian Schliemann**, Legal adviser for the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR)
* **Pauline Overeem**, Senior researcher at Center for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO)

**12:00 –13:30 : First Panel Session : Access to Remedy**

* **Roel Nieuwenkamp,** Chair of the OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct
* **Jonas Grimheden**, Senior Policy Manager at European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
* **Joseph Wilde-Ramsing**, Coordinator of the OECD Watch network and Researcher at Center for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO)
* **Gabriela Quijano,** Legal adviser at Amnesty International

Discussant: **Filip Gregor**, Head of the Responsible Companies Section at Frank Bold, and member of the steering committee of the European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ)

Moderator : FIDH

13:30 – 14 : Lunch

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**14:30 - 16:00: Second Panel Session : The State Duty to Protect**

* **Geneviève Jean**-V**an Rossum,** Special representative for bioethics and corporate social responsibility at the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
* **Kees Van Baar,** Human Rights Ambassador of the Netherlands
* **EU Representative,** tbc
* **Marilyn Crosser,** member of the steering committee of the European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ), and Director of CORE
* **Daniel Blackburn**, Director of International Centre for Trade Union Rights (ICTUR)

Discussant : **Olivier De Schutter**, Member of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)

Moderator : FIDH

**16:15 – 17:45 : Third Panel Session : the Corporate Responsibility to Respect Human Rights**

* **Bertrand Swiderski**, Sustainable development Director at Carrefour
* **Peter Hall**, Adviser at International Organisation of Employers (IOE)
* **Julie Schindall**, Shift Project
* **Mauricio Lazala**, Deputy Director of Business & Human Rights Resource Center (BHRRC)

Discussant : **David Bilchitz**, Professor at Johannesburg University

Moderator : FIDH

**17:45 – 18:00 : Conclusions**

* **Debbie Stothard,** Altsean Burma and FIDH Secretary General

18:00 : Drinks