



On the Horizon ▪ A l'Horizon ▪ En el Horizonte
A practical bulletin on what is ahead in the field of business & human rights

Issue 27 - September 2012

This bulletin is prepared by [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](http://www.business-humanrights.org) for those working in this field. It presents contributions from a number of experts & organizations, and is designed to keep all of us informed of future initiatives.

If you would like to contribute to our next bulletin planned for early November 2012, please send your announcement about an event, publication or initiative taking place after 7 November to Danielle McMullan: [mcmullan \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:mcmullan@business-humanrights.org). Please keep the contribution under 200 words. The deadline for contributions is 24 October.

International	2
1. Shift: Reports on embedding human rights; conflict management; labour rights in supply chain	2
2. Invitation to contribute suggestions for breakout session at UN Forum - Geneva, 4-5 Dec	2
3. Invitation to participate in consultation on draft of updated Equator Principles - closes 12 Oct.....	3
4. Regional briefings - Business & Human Rights Resource Centre	3
Africa.....	3
5. Kenya National Commission on Human Rights to inspect extractive industry, hold stakeholder forum	3
6. Training workshop on business & human rights for African NGOs - London, 8-11 Oct.....	4
7. Forum on business & human rights - Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, November.....	4
8. Strategic reflection on social & economic impact of natural resource exploitation in Sierra Leone	4
9. Roundtable on human rights for African business leaders - Nairobi, 8 Nov.....	5
10. Revision of Mining Code in Dem. Rep. of Congo - planned actions by civil society	5
11. Workshop on Voluntary Principles Implementation Guidance Tools - Johannesburg, 9-11 Oct	5
12. Dakar International CSR Forum - 2-3 Nov	6
13. New South Africa-based regional researcher - Business & Human Rights Resource Centre	6
Americas.....	6
14. Call to join civilian observation mission in San Jose del Progreso - Mexico, 19-22 Nov	6
15. Specialisation course on Corporate Social Responsibility - Colombia, Sep 2012-Aug 2013.....	7
16. Webinar for investors on US rules re conflict minerals, payments for natural resources - 10 Sep	7
17. Invitation: "Business & Human Rights in the Middle East & North Africa" - New York, 11 Oct.....	7
Asia/Pacific.....	8
18. Event on responsible investment in Myanmar - New York, 21 Sep	8
19. Efforts to secure respect for language rights in Sri Lanka.....	8
20. Study on reporting practices of Chinese extractive companies - autumn 2012	8
21. Photo campaign in India to highlight obstacles for girls in accessing education, escaping child labour.....	9
22. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre to recruit two posts in Asia	9
Europe/Central Asia	9
23. European Regional Workshop on Business and Human Rights - Berlin, 5-7 Sep.....	9
24. Round Table on "Private Military and Security Companies" - Sanremo, 6-8 Sep.....	10
25. Call for papers for research workshop on business & human rights - abstracts due 24 Sep	10
26. Online consultation on draft guide on human rights for SMEs open until 26 Sep	10
27. Forest governance event - Brussels, 9 Oct	10

28. Workshop on implications of UN Guiding Principles - London, 12 Oct	11
29. Suzanne McCarthy to begin work as new Chair of Ethical Trading Initiative	11
30. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre recruiting Legal Researcher	11
Middle East/North Africa	12
31. Jordan Environment Society to raise awareness about pollution by companies - 22 Sep.....	12
Español	12
32. Convocatoria Misión Civil de Observación en San José del Progreso”- México, 19-22 de noviembre	12
33. Especialización en Responsabilidad Social Empresarial – Colombia, septiembre 2012-agosto 2013	12
Français	13
34. Atelier entreprises & droits de l’homme pour les ONG africaines - Londres, 8-11 oct.....	13
35. Forum « entreprises et droits humains » - Ouagadougou, novembre.....	13
36. Révision du Code minier en RDC - actions prévues par la société civile	13
37. 4ème édition du Forum international de Dakar sur la RSE - 2-3 novembre	14

International

1. Shift: Reports on embedding human rights; conflict management; labour rights in supply chain

[Shift](#), the independent non-profit center dedicated to supporting implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, will publish in September the report of its first Business Learning workshop. The workshop addressed the issue of embedding respect for human rights within a company, including the role of leadership; the location of the human rights function; communicating the relevance of human rights internally; and balancing clarity and flexibility in policies and processes.

Shift will also publish, together with the CSR Initiative at Harvard Kennedy School and the Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining at the University of Queensland, a report on the relationship between corporate culture and conflict management in the extractive industries. The report, based on 2011 research in Peru, highlights a range of factors relevant to any extractive company seeking to ensure more effective mitigation of conflict in its relationships with communities.

Shift will shortly begin a project in collaboration with the [Global Social Compliance Program](#), funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to identify, analyse and disseminate innovative models that brand and retail companies can adopt to help scale and accelerate improvements in labour rights observance in their supply chains. The project will result in a public report, including case studies, in spring 2013.

→ *Contributed by Caroline Rees, President, Shift, [caroline.rees \(at\) shiftproject.org](mailto:caroline.rees@shiftproject.org)*

2. Invitation to contribute suggestions for breakout session at UN Forum - Geneva, 4-5 Dec

We (Mariëtte van Huijstee and Chris Avery) have been asked by the United Nations to help plan a civil society breakout session at the first annual UN Forum on Business and Human Rights (4-5 Dec 2012, Geneva). This session will focus on: “The top challenges to the role and capacity of civil society to advance implementation of the Guiding Principles”.

Our initial thought is to ask the civil society panellists to focus on four points:

1. Challenges facing affected communities in advancing implementation of the Guiding Principles
2. Challenges facing human rights defenders in advancing implementation of the Guiding Principles
3. Challenges facing trade unions in advancing implementation of the Guiding Principles
4. Special challenges in securing access to effective remedies

We invite you to send us – as soon as possible – any comments you have on this proposed agenda, as well as any suggestions you have for potential panellists we should consider putting forward. We are looking for geographical and gender balance in the panel. There may be funding available to cover the travel costs of panellists who otherwise could not attend.

Please send your suggestions to both:

- Mariëtte van Huijstee, SOMO: [m.van.huijstee \(at\) sono.nl](mailto:m.van.huijstee@sono.nl)
- Christopher Avery, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre: [avery \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:avery@business-humanrights.org)

→ *Contributed by Mariëtte van Huijstee, SOMO, and Chris Avery, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre*

3. Invitation to participate in consultation on draft of updated Equator Principles - closes 12 Oct

The [Equator Principles \(EP\) Association](#) released the draft of the updated Equator Principles (EP III) on 13 August for stakeholder consultation and public comment. The consultation period will continue until Friday 12 October.

The consultation and comment period will give all interested parties and stakeholders (including EP Association members, other financial institutions, clients, industry bodies and associations, NGOs, consultants, law firms and regulatory bodies) an opportunity to review the EP III draft and provide comments. The EP Association is committed to openness, transparency and responsiveness and will consider all stakeholder feedback.

The EP Association would like to invite all stakeholders to participate in a webinar or face-to-face meeting to discuss the EP III draft.

Webinars

- 5 September at 14:00 London Time - Multi-Stakeholder Webinar for the Regions Europe/Africa/Americas
- 7 September at 14:00 Beijing Time - Multi-Stakeholder Webinar for the Regions Asia/Pacific
- 20 September at 14:00 London Time - Industry/Client Webinar for the Regions Europe/Africa/Americas
- 28 September at 14:00 London Time - NGO Webinar for the Regions Europe/Africa/Americas

Meetings

- 11 September - Industry/Client Meeting in Toronto, Canada
- 13 September - Industry/Client Meeting in São Paulo, Brazil
- 14 September - Multi-Stakeholder Meeting in São Paulo, Brazil
- 24 September - Industry/Client Meeting in London, UK
- 25 September - NGO Meeting in London, UK

Please register your interest in joining a webinar and/or meeting by emailing [ep3 \(at\) equator-principles.com](mailto:ep3@equator-principles.com). For more information please see <http://www.equator-principles.com/index.php/ep3>

→ *Contributed by Jo Clark, Equator Principles Secretariat, The Equator Principles Association, [jo.clark \(at\) equator-principles.com](mailto:jo.clark@equator-principles.com)*

4. Regional briefings - Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

In the coming months, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will produce briefings on business & human rights in Eastern Africa, East Asia, Eastern Europe & Central Asia and Francophone Africa. Our previous regional briefings on Anglophone Africa and South Asia [are available here](#).

→ *Contributed by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre staff, [contact \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:contact@business-humanrights.org)*

Africa

5. Kenya National Commission on Human Rights to inspect extractive industry, hold stakeholder forum

The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Department of the [Kenya National Commission on Human Rights](#) (KNCHR) has been monitoring human rights compliance in the rapidly developing extractive and infrastructure industry in Kenya. Between 17 and 21 September the Commission will conduct inspections in Kitui Mui Coal Basin and Turkana Oil site. Inspections of the Lamu-Port-South Sudan Ethiopia Transport Corridor (LAPSSET) and the Oil and Gas drilling site in Lamu County are currently being undertaken. The objective of this activity is to engage and support the project implementers on their human rights responsibility in the projects.

The Commission has also been convening consultation forums for stakeholders aimed at initiating conversations on the extractive industry in Kenya. The next forum will take place 15-17 October in Nairobi. Its purpose is to discuss human rights due diligence for the extractive industry with a view of building capacity among civil society and streamlining their participation in extractive industry due diligence.

→ *Contributed by June Nyauchi, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, [jnyauchi \(at\) knchr.org](mailto:jnyauchi@knchr.org)*

6. Training workshop on business & human rights for African NGOs - London, 8-11 Oct

On 8-11 October, [Global Rights: Partners for Justice](#) will host a regional training workshop on business and human rights in London. The workshop will build and strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) from resource-rich countries in Africa to better strategise around their human rights advocacy work with governments and companies, in order to advance the protection of and respect for human rights. It will also help CSOs gain access to effective remedies for human rights violations involving companies.

Workshop participants will be trained on the practical application of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, responsible business contracts and due diligence. Carefully selected experts on each topic will facilitate the respective sessions.

The workshop, directed by Flavia Milano, director of Global Rights' Natural Resources and Human Rights Initiative, is part of Global Rights' efforts to give CSOs a proactive role in the business and human rights framework.

The event is made possible by Ford Foundation.

→ *Contributed by Flavia Milano, Global Rights. For more information contact [FlaviaM \(at\) globalrights.org](mailto:FlaviaM@globalrights.org), or [Sonnica Chavez, *SonnicaC \(at\) globalrights.org*](mailto:SonnicaC@globalrights.org)*

7. Forum on business & human rights - Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, November

[Unofficial translation by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre from French original]

The Centre d'Information et de Formation en matière de Droits Humains en Afrique (Centre for Information & Training on Human Rights in Africa, CIFDHA) of Burkina Faso is currently organising a forum on the theme of "Business & Human Rights", which will be held in November 2012 in Ouagadougou. A training session held as part of CIFDHA's "Summer University" was an important step in the preparation of the Forum. This session, on the theme of "[Corporate social responsibility in Africa: What are the human rights issues?](#)", brought together young human rights activists from West and Central Africa from 23 to 28 July in Ouagadougou. It was organised in partnership with the Centre de Conseils et d'appui pour les jeunes en matière des droits de l'Homme (Centre for Youth Support & Counselling on Human Rights).

For further information, contact Lydia Ouédraogo, Director of CIFDHA, [olydia2002 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:olydia2002@gmail.com).

→ *Contributed by Lydia Ouédraogo, CIFDHA*

8. Strategic reflection on social & economic impact of natural resource exploitation in Sierra Leone

The civil society platform on [Natural Resource Governance and Economic Justice](#) steered by [Network Movement for Justice and Development](#) is taking its entire membership on a week-long strategic reflection session in September on the spate of natural resource exploitation vis-à-vis socioeconomic welfare, security and human rights violations experienced by communities and citizens generally. The session aims at:

- Sharing experiences and lessons, and identifying critical issues associated with natural resources exploitation and management from international/continental, sub-regional, national and sub-national perspectives.
- Developing a strategic roadmap/direction for civil society engagement relating to the exploitation and management of natural resources in Sierra Leone.
- Formulating a coordination and management mechanism that will facilitate the effective implementation of the strategic plan and functioning of the platform.
- Providing to the government a model Community Development Agreement and a Framework for the governance of natural resources in Sierra Leone.

All sectors including solid minerals, forestry, fisheries, land, water resources and bicarbonate will be planned for. More information will be available at the end of September at www.nmjd.org.

→ Contributed by Abu A. Brima, Network Movement for Justice and Development, [abrima \(at\) nmjd.org](mailto:abrima@nmjd.org)

9. Roundtable on human rights for African business leaders - Nairobi, 8 Nov

The [Global Business Initiative on Human Rights](#), in partnership with organizations in Kenya, will hold the “Roundtable for African Business Leaders: Implementing Corporate Respect for Human Rights” on 8 November. This one-day roundtable will be an exchange among senior business leaders in relation to a rapidly developing area of corporate responsibility – human rights in a business context. The session will bring together experiences of global businesses plus key experts, to explore the relevance, challenges and ways forward for human rights and business in an African context. Participation in the event is by invitation only, with the majority of attendees from business.

→ Contributed by Katryn Wright, Global Business Initiative, [katryn.wright \(at\) global-business-initiative.org](mailto:katryn.wright@global-business-initiative.org)

10. Revision of Mining Code in Dem. Rep. of Congo - planned actions by civil society

[Unofficial translation by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre from French original]

[Southern Africa Resource Watch](#) (SARW) and other Congolese civil society organizations plan to conduct advocacy in favour of amendments they have proposed to the Mining Code. These amendments include the end of conflicting legal and tax regimes applicable to the Congolese mining sector, and of major tax holidays for mining investors in DRC; and legal adoption of principles of transparency in management of the Congolese mining sector. To this end, tripartite meetings between senior officials of the Ministry of Mines and representatives of the Congolese Business Federation (FEC) and of civil society are planned in the coming months. In addition, in the coming months civil society representatives will meet the leaders of the Senate and the National Assembly, as well as the chairs of the natural resource commissions of both houses of the legislature.

For further details on these different advocacy activities, contact Georges Mukuli Bokonde, Head of DRC Office, Southern Africa Resource Watch (SARW): [GeorgesM \(at\) sarwatch.org](mailto:GeorgesM@sarwatch.org).

→ Contributed by Georges Mukuli Bokonde, Southern Africa Resource Watch, [GeorgesM \(at\) sarwatch.org](mailto:GeorgesM@sarwatch.org)

11. Workshop on Voluntary Principles Implementation Guidance Tools - Johannesburg, 9-11 Oct

[IPIECA](#) (International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association) and [ICMM](#) (International Council on Mining and Metals) are pleased to announce a workshop on the Voluntary Principles Implementation Guidance Tools.

The Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPs) were developed in 2000 by governments, companies in the extractive and energy sectors, and non-governmental organizations to offer guidance to companies in maintaining the safety and security of their operations, while ensuring respect for human rights and humanitarian law. The [Implementation Guidance Tools \(IGT\)](#) publication was launched in 2011 to help to break down the implementation of the VPs into concrete steps.

This practical and interactive workshop is designed to help bring the VPs to life through learning how to use hands-on tools found in the IGT and is open to all extractive industry companies.

The one-day workshop, the second in the series, will be hosted by AngloGold Ashanti.

For more information please visit: <http://www.ipieca.org/event/20120810/implementation-guidance-tools-security-and-human-rights-workshop>

→ Contributed by Claire White, Senior Program Officer, Community/Reporting & Assurance, International Council on Mining and Metals, [claire.white \(at\) icmm.com](mailto:claire.white@icmm.com)

12. Dakar International CSR Forum - 2-3 Nov

[Unofficial translation by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre from French original]

[RSE Sénégal](#), in partnership with the Canadian Embassy in Senegal, Cheikh Anta Diop University-Dakar and the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM), is organising the 4th Dakar International CSR Forum, 2-3 November. Its theme this year is: "Next steps after Rio+20: The Quality of Partnerships for Institutionalisation of Organisational Social Responsibility in West Africa". The programme features the official publication of the "Charte RSE&DD" (CSR & Sustainable Development Charter) for Senegalese business; panels on strategies for CSR development in West Africa; and the first CIM Gold Symposium, "Doing Business in the Mining Sector in West Africa", organised by CIM, which will train potential partners for mining companies, including local suppliers and other small & medium-sized enterprises. Also of note: a discussion on "Interaction with communities" relating to the mining sector. In addition to Senegalese actors working on implementation of organisational social responsibility, the Forum will include participation from international delegates, e.g., from Canada, France, Germany and other countries in West Africa.

For further details on the Forum, contact Philippe Barry, RSE Sénégal, [rsesenegal \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:rsesenegal@gmail.com), or visit www.forumrsesenegal.org

→ *Contributed by Philippe Barry, RSE Sénégal, [rsesenegal \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:rsesenegal@gmail.com)*

13. New South Africa-based regional researcher - Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

We are sorry that Abiola Okpechi has stepped down from her post as our Anglophone Southern & Western Africa Researcher after five years of excellent work, but pleased to announce that Nokukhanya (Khanya) Mncwabe has been appointed to succeed Abiola. Khanya, based in Cape Town, will begin work in October. Khanya previously worked as Senior Researcher (Transitional Justice Programme) at Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV), and as Southern Africa Regional Coordinator of the African Transitional Justice Research Network.

→ *Contributed by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre staff, [contact \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:contact@business-humanrights.org)*

Americas

14. Call to join civilian observation mission in San Jose del Progreso - Mexico, 19-22 Nov

[Unofficial translation by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre from Spanish original]

Since 2007, the Co-ordinator of the United Peoples of the Valley of Ocotlán (CPUVO for its Spanish acronym) in Oaxaca, Mexico, has been conducting a legal and peaceful defence of the community's territory against the Canadian company that obtained municipal and community permits to explore and exploit minerals in 2006, without the local population's consent. Fortuna Silver Mines has generated a climate of social and political tension in the municipality. Starting in early 2012, a series of aggressions towards CPUVO supporters intensified and has included the killing of two human rights advocates and attacks that have left five seriously injured. Facing this context, the Oaxaca Collective in Defence of Territories calls national and international human rights bodies to a civilian observation mission, "Justice for the San Jose del Progreso Community", that will take place from 19 to 22 November, to document and draw attention to the human rights abuses against the citizens of San Jose del Progreso.

For further information: [colectivoaxaca \(at\) yahoo.com.mx](mailto:colectivoaxaca@yahoo.com.mx), www.endefensadelosterritorios.org, +52 (01 951) 513 6023.

→ *Contributed by Oaxaca Collective in Defense of Territories, [colectivoaxaca \(at\) yahoo.com.mx](mailto:colectivoaxaca@yahoo.com.mx)*

[Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited Fortuna Silver Mines to respond to these allegations in February 2012. [Here are the articles and the company's response.](#)]

15. Specialisation course on Corporate Social Responsibility - Colombia, Sep 2012-Aug 2013

[Unofficial translation by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre from Spanish original]

This course aims to supplement professional training in all disciplines by providing practical and theoretical tools to analyse private and public corporations' social responsibility in any sector of the economy. It does so not only from the perspective of the rule of law but also through management of risks and benefits to companies when behaving in a socially responsible manner, in terms of competitiveness and contributions to development. This specialisation is undertaken in collaboration with Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (USA). Columbia University will award a diploma of "Specialist in Corporate Social Responsibility". The syllabus includes a review of the main axes that guide CSR today, as defined by international bodies, such as the UN Global Compact and other leading institutions involved in the implementation of CSR. With this purpose, the framework of the main module will address issues related to environmentally responsible practices in company management and current legislation; labour practices; human rights; and corporate governance, among others. Further information: Juanita Valdivieso, Especialización en Responsabilidad Social Empresarial, Universidad Externado, email: [Esprsocial \(at\) uexternado.edu.co](mailto:Esprsocial(at)uexternado.edu.co), tel: +57 3419900 Ext: 1252, 1220,1256

→ *Contributed by Juanita Valdivieso, Universidad Externado de Colombia: [esprsocial \(at\) uexternado.edu.co](mailto:esprsocial(at)uexternado.edu.co)*

16. Webinar for investors on US rules re conflict minerals, payments for natural resources - 10 Sep

[US SIF: The Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investment](#) is organising a webinar, "Conflict Minerals and Payments for Resource Extraction: A look at two proposed SEC disclosure rules", on 10 September, 1-2 PM Eastern time (USA). The webinar will provide background on the rules on conflict minerals disclosure adopted by the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) at its 22 August meeting, and an analysis of what these rules mean for investors and other professionals engaged in sustainable and responsible investing.

Speakers:

- Shelly Han - Policy Advisor for Economics, Environment, Technology and Trade, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission)
- Isabel Munilla - Director, Publish What You Pay United States
- Paul Bugala - Senior Sustainability Analyst, Calvert Investments
- Patricia Jurewicz - Director, Responsible Sourcing Network (a project of As You Sow)
- Lauren Compere - Managing Director & Director of Shareholder Engagement, Boston Common Asset Management

For further information, [click here](#) or contact Alya Kayal at [akayal \(at\) ussif.org](mailto:akayal(at)ussif.org).

→ *Contributed by Alya Kayal, Director of Policy and Programs, US SIF*

17. Invitation: "Business & Human Rights in the Middle East & North Africa" - New York, 11 Oct

This ground-breaking event, part of our Mary Robinson Speaker Series, will help shine a light on ways in which companies in the Middle East & North Africa are impacting human rights and the environment – negatively and positively.

Featured speakers:

- **Mohamed Nagi**, Director, [Habi Center for Environmental Rights](#) (Cairo)
- **Sarah Leah Whitson**, Executive Director, Middle East & North Africa Division, [Human Rights Watch](#)
- Introduced by: **Mary Robinson**, President, [Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice](#) – former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and President of Ireland

With remarks also by:

- **Sa'eda Al-Kilani**, Middle East & North Africa Researcher, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (Amman)
- **Rania Fazah**, Middle East Researcher, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (Beirut)

Admission is free, but reservations are required to attend, so please RSVP as soon as possible to Irene Pietropaoli to ensure you have a space: [Pietropaoli \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:Pietropaoli@business-humanrights.org) or call +1 212 564 9160.

→ *Contributed by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre staff, contact (at) business-humanrights.org*

Event on responsible investment in Myanmar - New York, 21 Sep

See item 18 below. We include reference to this event here in the Americas section because the event will be held in New York.

Asia/Pacific

18. Event on responsible investment in Myanmar - New York, 21 Sep

The [Institute for Human Rights and Business](http://www.ihrb.org) (IHRB) is hosting an event on responsible investment in Myanmar on 21 September in New York City.

The opportunity for new trade and investment in Myanmar is matched with the need for responsible action framed by international standards such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. This interactive discussion will include updates from the IHRB on recent missions to the country and the establishment of a new responsible investment resource centre in Yangon. Particular attention will be given to the likely implications of US government reporting requirements for companies investing in Myanmar.

Speakers will include:

- Professor Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Prize Winner and former Chief Economist for The World Bank
- Ed Potter, Director of Workplace Rights for The Coca-Cola Company and US Employer Delegate to the International Labour Organization
- Dan Baer, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights & Labor
- Mark Nordstrom, Senior Labor & Employment Counsel, General Electric

Due to the high levels of interest in this event, participation is by invitation only. To reserve a place and receive a full agenda please RSVP to Kelly Davina Scott at [kelly.scott \(at\) ihrb.org](mailto:kelly.scott@ihrb.org) by 12 September.

→ *Contributed by Kelly Davina Scott, Institute for Human Rights and Business, [kelly.scott \(at\) ihrb.org](mailto:kelly.scott@ihrb.org)*

19. Efforts to secure respect for language rights in Sri Lanka

Language rights are among the fundamental issues underlying the 30-year ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. In order to raise awareness and effect change on the ground on constitutionally enshrined language rights, the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) in Sri Lanka launched a programme on Promoting Language Rights of Minorities in 2011. Apart from creating community awareness through "Language Societies" and enforcement of the Official Languages Act through legal action, the programme impresses on local businesses the need for communicating product/service information in both Sinhala and Tamil, the two official languages. This is especially the case in the pharmaceutical industry. Based on a complaint filed by CPA on the non-availability on packaging of essential information in the two official languages, the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka called for expert opinion on how to redress this, including the provision of a guideline on translations, to be submitted to the Ministry of Health by 30 September, in time for inclusion in Sri Lanka's updated National Health Policy.

→ *Contributed by Lionel Guruge, Outreach Unit of the Centre for Policy Alternatives, Colombo, [lionel \(at\) cpalanka.org](mailto:lionel@cpalanka.org)*

20. Study on reporting practices of Chinese extractive companies - autumn 2012

[Global Witness](http://www.globalwitness.org) and the Chinese sustainability consultancy [SynTao](http://www.syn tao.com) are conducting a study on the reporting practices of large Chinese resource extractive companies that have operations abroad and that are listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange. The study reflects emerging international practice for companies engaged in the commercial development of oil, natural gas and minerals to publish the payments they make to governments and the related regulatory measures of international stock exchanges. The final report is to be published in autumn 2012.

→ *Contributed by Lizzie Parsons, Global Witness. Please contact [lparsons \(at\) globalwitness.org](mailto:lparsons@globalwitness.org) for more details*

21. Photo campaign in India to highlight obstacles for girls in accessing education, escaping child labour

CRY, [Child Rights and You](#), announces the launch of CLICK RIGHTS: for the Girl Child – a 40-day national citizen photojournalism campaign aimed at pictorially highlighting the issues faced by the Girl Child in accessing her right to education. The Click Rights campaign is an opportunity for people to show their support for the rights of the Girl Child leading up to the International Day of the Girl, celebrated on 11 October. CRY invites citizens from all walks of life to click photographs of girl children who are not in school in their neighbourhoods, around their workplaces, and in and around the city at large.

The theme of the campaign is "Ichha – a Desire to Learn", which represents the countless girls who are denied their rights and aspirations, particularly their desire to learn. The campaign kick-starts on 28 August with an online photography campaign, followed by an on-the-ground exhibition of short-listed pictures in five cities – Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Bangalore and Chennai.

The prevalence of gender inequality in India has led to many poverty-stricken parents choosing to educate their sons instead of their daughters. Girls are instead married off at an early age or sent to work as a means to augment the meager family income.

The campaign is being simultaneously launched across the country and is supported by MTV ACT (<http://mtv.in.com/act>) which will be partnering with CRY in raising awareness through coverage of the on-the-ground activities organised around the exhibitions.

Pictures can then be uploaded on to the campaign's website (<http://www.cry.org/ichha>) until 5 October. Selected photographs will be displayed at on-the-ground exhibitions in the five cities across India on 6-7 October.

→ *Contributed by Inka Dama, CRY, [inka.dama \(at\) crymail.org](mailto:inka.dama@crymail.org)*

22. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre to recruit two posts in Asia

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will soon be launching recruitment of:

- our first Southeast Asia Researcher, a half-time post based in Bangkok (applicants must already have the right to work in Thailand)
- our first Asia-Pacific Regional Director, a 4-day or 5-day per week post based in one of the following cities: Bangkok, Delhi, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Mumbai or Singapore (applicants must already have the right to work in one of those cities). This Regional Director will manage the Resource Centre's work in Asia and the Pacific, and support the Centre's regional researchers based in Delhi, Hong Kong, and soon also Bangkok.

These job announcements will soon be available via [our homepage](#).

→ *Contributed by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre staff, [contact \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:contact@business-humanrights.org)*

Europe/Central Asia

23. European Regional Workshop on Business and Human Rights - Berlin, 5-7 Sep

The European Region of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) will hold its Regional Workshop on Business and Human Rights: Mandate and potential role of NHRIs in Berlin, 5-7 September.

The Workshop will involve more than 20 NHRIs from the European Region as well as from Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Americas. NHRIs will engage in dialogue, peer learning and discussion with invited stakeholders from government, regional institutions, business and civil society on key challenges, opportunities and dilemmas in promoting implementation of the UN "Protect, Respect and Remedy" framework and UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights – nationally inside states of the European region, transnationally and beyond. Outcomes of the Workshop will include development of a European Region of NHRIs Action Plan on Business and Human Rights.

→ *Contributed by Claire Methven O'Brien, Danish Institute for Human Rights, [cob \(at\) dcism.dk](mailto:cob@dcism.dk) For further information and the workshop programme, please see www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/en/home.html*

24. Round Table on "Private Military and Security Companies" - Sanremo, 6-8 Sep

For more than thirty years now, the annual Sanremo Round Table has been an important occasion for the international community to come together to discuss current developments of relevance to international humanitarian law. With the participation of experts and key personalities from diplomatic, military, humanitarian and academic circles, the Round Table aims to address the most pressing issues related to the promotion and development of international humanitarian law through informal dialogue and constructive debate.

The 35th Round Table on current issues of International Humanitarian Law, organized by the [International Institute of Humanitarian Law](#) in co-operation with the [International Committee of the Red Cross](#), will take place in Sanremo from 6 to 8 September and will focus on questions of international humanitarian law raised by the increased presence and activities of private military and security companies in various contexts.

All those interested in attending the Round Table are kindly asked to register by contacting the secretariat directly at: [sanremo \(at\) iihl.org](mailto:sanremo@iihl.org); [panizzi \(at\) iihl.org](mailto:panizzi@iihl.org); tel. +39 0184 541848 int. 205; fax +39 0184541600. For a draft agenda of the round table, please click [here](#).

→ *Contributed by Gian Luca Beruto, International Institute of Humanitarian Law, [gianluca \(at\) iihl.org](mailto:gianluca@iihl.org)*

25. Call for papers for research workshop on business & human rights - abstracts due 24 Sep

A student-led research workshop titled "500 days after Ruggie: Achievements, challenges and opportunities in Business and Human Rights" will take place at the London School of Economics and Political Science on 23 November.

We welcome submissions (from any discipline) that examine recent challenges and opportunities in the field of Business and Human Rights.

Please see the [call for papers](#) for more information.

→ *Contributed by Irene Pietropaoli and Damiano de Felice: [bandhrworkshop2012 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:bandhrworkshop2012@gmail.com)*

26. Online consultation on draft guide on human rights for SMEs open until 26 Sep

The online consultation on [the draft guide for small and medium-sized enterprises \(SMEs\) on human rights](#) is now open until 26 September. This draft guide has been produced in the course of a European project "Capacity building for SMEs in the field of human rights", financed by the European Commission. It is one of the priority actions of the [European Commission's strategy on corporate social responsibility for 2011-2014](#). The draft guide does not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Commission.

The aim of this guide is to provide practical advice to SMEs on how to meet the expectations of the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#).

Comments on this draft guide are welcome. In particular, comments are invited for the following questions:

- Is the guide consistent with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? If not, how should it be made more consistent?
- Is the guide practically useful for SMEs? Do you have any suggestions for how to make it more practically useful?

Comments should be sent by 26 September to Sune Skadegaard Thorsen by e-mail: [sst \(at\) global-csr.com](mailto:sst@global-csr.com)

Unless explicitly requested by the sender, all comments received will be published on this webpage after 26 September.

→ *Contributed by Sune Skadegaard Thorsen, Global CSR, [sst \(at\) global-csr.com](mailto:sst@global-csr.com)*

27. Forest governance event - Brussels, 9 Oct

On 9 October [FERN](#), [Client Earth](#) and [Forest Peoples Programme](#) will host "[Guardians of the forests?](#) – 10 years of EU innovation and action in worldwide forest governance" at the European Parliament in Brussels. The session will explore a decade of learning from the EU's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) programme. Participants will look at the successes and challenges of FLEGT as:

- an innovative approach to bilateral trade agreements
- a tool for improving forest governance
- a participatory approach to ensuring communities' rights are recognised and upheld

Hosted by MEPs Yannick Jadot (Greens, France) and Fiona Hall (Liberal Democrat, UK), this conference comes just months before the EU Timber Regulation (akin to the USA's Lacey Act) comes into force, with implications for the future success of FLEGT.

→ *Contributed by Gianni Valentini, FERN. To register for this event and for more information, contact Gianni Valentini: Gianni (at) fern.org*

28. Workshop on implications of UN Guiding Principles - London, 12 Oct

The [Business in the Community](#) (BITC) International team is delighted to invite you to a workshop for businesses to explore the implications for their sectors of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The Guiding Principles are informing national and international initiatives such as the European Commission's new corporate responsibility policy and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. It is therefore vital for BITC members to consider what this means for them.

Date: 12 October

Time: 10:00 to 16:30

London Venue: DLA Piper, 3 Noble Street, London EC2V 7EE

Cost: No charge for BITC members / £199 plus VAT for non-members of BITC

If you would like to register for the event, please contact Julia Aramendi, International Research Assistant, +44 (0)20 7566 8678, [Julia.aramendi \(at\) bitc.org.uk](mailto:Julia.aramendi@bitc.org.uk)

More information: http://www.bitc.org.uk/events/human_rights_.html

→ *Contributed by Julia Aramendi, BITC, Julia.aramendi (at) bitc.org.uk*

29. Suzanne McCarthy to begin work as new Chair of Ethical Trading Initiative

The [Ethical Trading Initiative](#) (ETI) has appointed Suzanne McCarthy as its new Chair. Suzanne is the UK's Immigration Services Commissioner, and her office plays a critical role in the UK's immigration landscape. The protection of consumer interests has been a consistent thread throughout Suzanne's career. Notably, she was the first CEO of the UK's Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Suzanne will start in the post in September.

ETI is an alliance of companies, trade unions and voluntary organizations. It works in partnership to improve the lives of poor and vulnerable workers across the globe. For more information, visit www.ethicaltrade.org.

→ *Contributed by Esme Gibbins, ETI, esme.gibbins (at) eti.org.uk*

30. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre recruiting Legal Researcher

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will soon be appointing a multilingual Legal Researcher based in London to succeed our colleague Marta Kasztelan who is moving to Southeast Asia.

The closing date for applications is 11 September.

Applicants must have:

- excellent English language skills plus strong Spanish or French language skills;
- legal training or legal education;
- previous work or volunteer experience in a non-profit organization addressing human rights, labour rights, development, environment, social justice, or other social issues; and
- the right to work in UK.

The job announcement and all other materials (including application form) are available [here](#).

→ *Contributed by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre staff, contact (at) business-humanrights.org*

Training workshop on business & human rights for African NGOs - London, 8-11 Oct

See item 6 above. We include reference to this workshop here in the Europe section because the event will be held in London.

Middle East/North Africa

31. Jordan Environment Society to raise awareness about pollution by companies - 22 Sep

[Jordan Environment Society](#) (JES) intends to launch a series of cleaning activities in the kingdom as part of the global "Clean up the World Campaign". The campaign will be conducted on 22 September by school students, volunteers and JES members. The ambitious campaign, which intends to promote environmental awareness among all sectors of society and help to create individual and national commitments in dealing with issues of the environment, will also focus on environmental pollution by private companies affecting health.

JES has a main objective of protecting the environment and promoting community action at the local level. It conducts several programmes and activities with regard to the main environmental issues that face the kingdom in the public and private sectors. Activities are conducted either as annual events or upon request.

→ *Contributed by Bara' Attily, Activity Coordinator, Jordan Environment Society. For any questions, please contact [teshrin \(at\) yahoo.com](mailto:teshrin@yahoo.com)*

Invitation: "Business & Human Rights in the Middle East & North Africa" – New York, 11 Oct

See item 17 above. We include reference to this event here in the Middle East/North Africa section because the event is focused on issues in the region.

Español

32. Convocatoria Misión Civil de Observación en San José del Progreso"- México, 19-22 de noviembre

Desde 2007 la Coordinadora de Pueblos Unidos del Valle de Ocotlán (CPUVO) en Oaxaca, México, ha iniciado una defensa legal, pacífica y legítima de su territorio contra la empresa minera canadiense Fortuna Silver Mines, quien obtuvo los permisos municipales y ejidales de exploración y explotación de minerales en 2006, sin el consentimiento de la población. La empresa minera se ha caracterizado por generar un clima de tensión social y política en el municipio. Desde inicios de 2012, se han incrementado una serie de agresiones hacia los/as simpatizantes de la CPUVO, incluyendo el asesinato de dos defensores/as de derechos humanos y ataques que han dejado heridos de gravedad a otros cinco. Ante este contexto, el Colectivo Oaxaqueño en Defensa de los Territorios convoca a organismos de derechos humanos nacionales e internacionales a la Misión Civil de Observación "Justicia Para la Comunidad de San José del Progreso" a realizarse del 19 al 22 de noviembre de 2012, para documentar y visibilizar las violaciones a los derechos humanos en contra de ciudadanos/as de San José del Progreso. Mayores Informes: [colectivoaxaca \(at\) yahoo.com.mx](mailto:colectivoaxaca@yahoo.com.mx), www.endefensadelosterritorios.org, +52 (01 951) 513 6023.

→ *Contribución de: Colectivo Oaxaqueño en Defensa de los Territorios", [colectivoaxaca \(at\) yahoo.com.mx](mailto:colectivoaxaca@yahoo.com.mx)*

[El Centro de Información sobre Empresas y Derechos Humanos invitó a Fortuna Silver Mines a responder a estas alegaciones en febrero del 2012. [Acá se puede acceder a los artículos y a la respuesta de la empresa.](#)]

33. Especialización en Responsabilidad Social Empresarial – Colombia, septiembre 2012-agosto 2013

El programa tiene como propósito dar continuidad a la formación de profesionales de todas las disciplinas otorgando herramientas teóricas y prácticas que les permitan adquirir capacidades para analizar la responsabilidad social de las empresas privadas y públicas y en cualquier sector de la economía; no solamente desde la perspectiva del cumplimiento de la ley, sino del manejo de los riesgos y los beneficios que les reporta un comportamiento socialmente responsable en términos de competitividad y de contribución al desarrollo. Esta Especialización se desarrolla en convenio con Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs. Columbia University otorgará el título de "Especialista en Responsabilidad Social Empresarial". Dentro del plan de estudios está la revisión y comprensión de los principales ejes que hoy la orientan, los cuales se han definido en el seno los organismos internacionales tales como el Pacto Global y otras instituciones que lideran su implementación. Con este propósito, en el marco del módulo nuclear se abordarán temas relativos a las prácticas ambientalmente responsables en la gestión de las empresas y la normatividad vigente; las prácticas

laborales; los derechos humanos; y el gobierno corporativo, entre otros. Mayor información: Juanita Valdivieso, Especialización en Responsabilidad Social Empresarial, Universidad Externado: [Esprsocial \(at\) uexternado.edu.co](mailto:Esprsocial(at)uexternado.edu.co). Tel: +57 3419900 Ext: 1252, 1220,1256

→ *Contribution de: Juanita Valdivieso, Universidad Externado de Colombia: [esprsocial \(at\) uexternado.edu.co](mailto:esprsocial(at)uexternado.edu.co)*

Français

34. Atelier entreprises & droits de l'homme pour les ONG africaines - Londres, 8-11 oct

Du 8 au 11 octobre, [Global Rights: Partners for Justice](#) organise un atelier régional de formation au sujet des entreprises et des droits de l'homme, à Londres. Cet atelier visera de renforcer les capacités des organisations de la société civile (OSC) provenant de pays africains riches en ressources naturelles. La formation les permettra de mieux élaborer des stratégies de plaidoyer pour les droits de l'homme auprès des états et des entreprises. Le but ultime étant de faire avancer la protection et le respect des droits de l'homme.

Les participants seront formés au sujet de la mise en œuvre pratique des Principes Directeurs de l'ONU relatifs aux entreprises et aux droits de l'homme ; les Principes volontaires sur la sécurité et les droits de l'homme ; les bonnes pratiques relatifs aux contrats ; la diligence raisonnable ; l'accès aux recours efficaces en cas des violations des droits de l'homme. Des experts sur chaque thème faciliteront les séances.

L'atelier, qui est dirigé par Flavia Milano, directrice de l'Initiative sur les ressources naturelles et les droits de l'homme, fait partie des efforts de Global Rights pour assurer que les OSC puissent jouer un rôle proactif dans le cadre des entreprises et des droits de l'homme.

L'atelier est présenté grâce au soutien de la Fondation Ford.

→ *Contribution de Flavia Milano, Global Rights. Pour plus d'informations, contactez Flavia Milano, [FlaviaM \(at\) globalrights.org](mailto:FlaviaM(at)globalrights.org), ou Sonia Chavez, [SoniaC \(at\) globalrights.org](mailto:SoniaC(at)globalrights.org).*

35. Forum « entreprises et droits humains » - Ouagadougou, novembre

Le Centre d'Information et de Formation en matière de Droits Humains en Afrique (CIFDHA), Burkina Faso, prépare actuellement un forum sur le thème « Entreprises et droits humains » qui se tiendra au courant du mois de novembre 2012 à Ouagadougou. Une étape préparatoire importante du Forum a été franchie avec l'organisation d'une session de formation des « Universités d'été » du CIFDHA, sur le thème [« La responsabilité sociale des entreprises en Afrique: Quels enjeux en matière des droits humains? »](#), en partenariat avec le Centre de Conseils et d'appui pour les jeunes en matière des droits de l'Homme. Cette session a réuni des jeunes militants des droits humains de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre du 23 au 28 juillet à Ouagadougou.

Pour plus d'informations, contactez Lydia Ouédraogo, Présidente du CIFDHA, [olydia2002 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:olydia2002(at)gmail.com)

→ *Contribution de Lydia Ouédraogo, CIFDHA*

36. Révision du Code minier en RDC - actions prévues par la société civile

[Southern Africa Resource Watch \(SARW\)](#) et d'autres organisations de la société civile congolaise entendent mener une action de plaidoyer afin que leurs propositions d'amendements au Code minier soient prises en compte. Il s'agit notamment de la suppression du dualisme juridique et fiscal dans le secteur minier congolais, la suppression de la large exonération dont bénéficient les investisseurs miniers en RDC, la légalisation des principes de la transparence dans la gestion du secteur minier congolais. Pour ce faire, des rencontres tripartites entre les cadres du Ministère des Mines, les représentants de la Fédération des Entreprises du Congo (FEC) et ceux de la société civile sont prévues dans les prochains mois. De même, la société civile rencontrera dans les prochains mois les présidents du Sénat et de l'Assemblée nationale ainsi que les présidents des commissions sur les ressources naturelles de ces 2 chambres.

Pour plus de détails sur ces différentes activités de plaidoyer, contactez Georges Mukuli Bokonde, Chef du Bureau en RDC de Southern Africa Resource Watch (SARW) : [GeorgesM \(at\) sarwatch.org](mailto:GeorgesM(at)sarwatch.org)

→ *Contribution de Georges Mukuli Bokonde, SARW*

37. 4ème édition du Forum international de Dakar sur la RSE - 2-3 novembre

RSE Sénégal, en partenariat avec l'Ambassade du Canada au Sénégal, l'Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar et l'Institut canadien des Mines, de la Métallurgie et du Pétrole (ICM/CIM), organise du 2 au 3 novembre la 4ème édition du Forum international de Dakar sur la RSE dont le thème central est: "Prochaines étapes après Rio+20 : Qualité du Partenariat pour l'institutionnalisation de la RSO en Afrique de l'Ouest". Le programme comprend des temps forts dont la publication officielle de la Charte RSE&DD (développement durable) des entreprises du Sénégal ; les panels de discussion sur les stratégies de développement de la RSE en Afrique de l'Ouest ; et la 1ère édition du CIM Gold Symposium "Faire des Affaires dans le secteur des Mines en Afrique de l'Ouest" organisé par l'ICM, qui permettra de former les partenaires des compagnies minières, y compris les fournisseurs et d'autres petites et moyennes entreprises locales. A noter aussi la discussion autour du thème : "Interaction avec les communautés" (dans le cadre des mines). Outre la participation des acteurs du Sénégal engagés dans le processus de déploiement de la responsabilité sociale des organisations (RSO), le Forum enregistrera une participation de délégués internationaux (Canada, France, Allemagne...) et de pays de la sous-région.

Pour plus de détails sur le Forum, contactez Philippe Barry, RSE Sénégal, [rsesenegal \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:rsesenegal@gmail.com), ou consulter le site internet www.forumrsesenegal.org

→ *Contribution de Philippe Barry, RSE Sénégal*

On the Horizon is published by the team at [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](#):

- Sa'eda Al-Kilani (Middle East Researcher & Representative)
- Christopher Avery (Director)
- Lowell Chow (East Asia Researcher & Representative, based in Hong Kong)
- Aliou Diouf (Francophone Africa Researcher & Representative, based in Dakar)
- Rania Fazah (Middle East Researcher & Representative)
- Eniko Horvath (Researcher / Europe Researcher & Representative)
- Marta Kasztelan (Project Researcher)
- Harpreet Kaur (South Asia Researcher & Representative, based in Delhi)
- Joseph Kibugu (Eastern Africa Researcher & Representative, based in Nairobi)
- Mauricio Lazala (Deputy Director)
- Danielle McMullan (Researcher)
- Nokukhanya Mncwabe (Anglophone Southern & Western Africa Researcher & Representative, starting Oct 2012)
- Irene Pietropaoli (Researcher)
- Gregory Tzeutschler Regaignon (Research Director)
- Amanda Romero Medina (Latin America/Caribbean Researcher & Representative, based in Bogotá)
- Lakshmi Samarakoon (Finance Officer)
- Annabel Short (Programme Director)
- Ella Skybenko (Eastern Europe/Central Asia Researcher & Representative, based in Kyiv)
- Patricia Surak (Development Director)
- Sif Thorgeirsson (Manager, Corporate Legal Accountability Project)

- Fatou Ba, Legal Research Intern