



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

Issue 28 - November 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 February 2013, please send your announcement about an event, publication or initiative taking place after 6 February to Eniko Horvath: [horvath \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:horvath@business-humanrights.org). Please keep the contribution under 200 words. The deadline for contributions is 25 January.

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International

1. Mazars & Shift to develop global human rights standards for auditing companies

[Mazars](#) (an international organization providing audit, advisory, accounting, tax and legal services), and [Shift](#) (an independent non-profit centre for business and human rights practice) are proud to announce the launch of their collaboration to develop global standards for auditing companies in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The standards will encompass all elements of companies' responsibility to respect human rights under the UN Guiding Principles. Moreover, they will be grounded in extensive multi-stakeholder consultations, focused primarily in the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) region. To this end,

Mazars and Shift will work in close liaison with the [Human Rights Resource Centre for ASEAN](#). They will also welcome inputs from all interested stakeholders globally.

Mazars and Shift look forward to working in close consultation with stakeholders during the course of this project. A project website will be set up on the website of the Human Rights Resource Centre for ASEAN (www.hrrca.org) in the coming weeks, with further details about the process, oversight and consultative structures to follow.

→ For further information, please contact: Anna Triponel, Shift, [anna.triponel \(at\) shiftproject.org](mailto:anna.triponel@shiftproject.org), or Bahtiar Manurung, Mazars Indonesia, [bahtiar \(at\) mazars.co.id](mailto:bahtiar@mazars.co.id).

2. Human rights due diligence project report launch - Geneva, 3 Dec

The [International Corporate Accountability Roundtable](#), the [European Coalition for Corporate Justice](#) and the [Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability](#), are pleased to announce the launch, on 3 December, of our "Human Rights Due Diligence Report", the common approaches and available options resulting from the "Human Rights Due Diligence Project."

Over the past year, our group of Experts (Mark Taylor, Professor Olivier de Schutter, Robert Thompson and Professor Anita Ramasastry) has examined the issue of how States meet their duty to protect through using their regulatory authority to encourage or mandate human rights due diligence behaviour by corporations. Their examination was informed by private consultations with over 50 lawyers, practitioners, and representatives of civil society from each continent. The report will offer the interpretation of common approaches and available options for States to meet this duty. We will launch our report at a side event of the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, with a Keynote Address from Member of European Parliament Mr. Richard Howitt. Please join us at the Palais des Nations on 3 December for the report launch and a reception to follow at Bar Escargot.

To RSVP, please email Katie Shay at [katie \(at\) accountabilityroundtable.org](mailto:katie@accountabilityroundtable.org). Responses are appreciated before 28 November. More information about the Human Rights Due Diligence Project can be found here: <http://accountabilityroundtable.org/campaigns/human-rights-due-diligence/>

→ Contributed by Katie Shay, ICAR, [katie \(at\) accountabilityroundtable.org](mailto:katie@accountabilityroundtable.org).

3. Launch of report on the corporate responsibility to respect human rights - Geneva, 5 Dec

The [Institute for Human Rights and Business](#) (IHRB) and the [Global Business Initiative on Human Rights](#) (GBI) are pleased to announce the launch of our “State of Play” Report on Human Rights in Business Relationships on 5 December.

Over the past year IHRB and GBI have examined the human rights practices of 14 global companies in relation to the corporate responsibility to respect in six types of [business relationships](#): joint ventures; mergers, acquisitions & disposals; suppliers & service providers; direct customers; licensing & franchising; investor-state agreements. The joint initiative follows on from IHRB's 2010 [“State of Play” Report of Human Rights Due Diligence](#).

IHRB and GBI will be launching the report and discussing it with a multistakeholder panel at a side event of the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights on 5 December from 8-9:45am.

→ For further information and to rsvp please email Haley St Denis, Institute for Human Rights and Business, [haley.st.dennis \(at\) ihrb.org](mailto:haley.st.dennis@ihrb.org).

4. Programme to promote implementation of UN Guiding Principles in Bangladesh, Nicaragua, Zimbabwe

The [Danish Institute for Human Rights](#) (DIHR) and [Social Accountability International](#) (SAI) will carry out the “Pillars in Practice” programme to build the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Bangladesh, Nicaragua and Zimbabwe. The main goal of the programme is to establish the training capacity of CSO partners in each of the three countries to sustainably promote and assist in the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights by local and multinational companies, government agencies and other local CSOs.

The programme will target three industrial sectors over 18 months: agriculture in Nicaragua, garment manufacturing in Bangladesh and mining in Zimbabwe. Activities will be implemented in collaboration with local organizations: PASE - Professionals for Corporate and Social Auditing (Nicaragua), the CSR Centre (Bangladesh) and ZELA - Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (Zimbabwe).

Partners will customise SAI's and [Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation's](#) (ICCO) Handbook – “U.N. Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights: A Six-Step Approach to Supply Chain Implementation” and DIHR's Human Rights and Business Country Portal Briefings on Bangladesh, Nicaragua and Zimbabwe, to co-train CSO staff as trainers for companies, peer organizations and government representatives.

→ For further information, visit “Pillars in Practice” on Facebook or contact Paloma Muñoz Quick, Advisor, Danish Institute for Human Rights, [pamu \(at\) humanrights.dk](mailto:pamu@humanrights.dk).

5. Forthcoming guide for civil society organizations on how to use UN Guiding Principles - December

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play an indispensable role confronting companies with their responsibility to respect human rights and ensuring they are held to accountable to this responsibility. To assist CSOs in performing this role, [SOMO](#), [CEDHA](#) and [Cividep](#) have developed a guide to be published in December. The objective and purpose of this guide is to help CSOs understand how they can use the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in their research, campaigns, engagement and advocacy. It is hoped that, as a result of the guide, CSOs will be able to help make the Guiding Principles meaningful for rights holders likely to be negatively affected by corporate activities.

Background: In June 2011, the UN Human Rights Council adopted the “Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations ‘Protect, Respect and Remedy’ Framework”. Although the Guiding Principles may be criticised for their non-binding nature, the second pillar of the framework and Guiding Principles set an authoritative standard for business worldwide to respect internationally recognised human rights – a standard many businesses worldwide do not yet comply with.

If you would like more information about this guidebook, or would like to receive your own copy, please send an e-mail to: [info \(at\) sono.nl](mailto:info@sono.nl).

→ Contributed by Mariëtte van Huijstee, SOMO, [m.van.huijstee \(at\) sono.nl](mailto:m.van.huijstee@sono.nl).

6. Panel at UN Forum on Business and Human Rights on access to judicial remedies - Geneva, 4 Dec

At the first Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights, [FIDH](#) and [Conectas](#) will be facilitating a panel focused

on access to judicial remedies, a core pillar in the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The Guiding Principles require States to consider ways to reduce relevant legal, practical and other barriers that could obstruct access to judicial remedies; there is limited guidance available on how to alleviate such barriers.

The issue of access to judicial remedy has received little attention in the debates on the implementation of the UN Framework. Attention has been largely focused on the role of States in developing policies to promote corporate respect for human rights, and on developing guidance for business enterprises on the implementation of the corporate responsibility to respect. The debate on access to remedies tends to concern mostly non-judicial remedies.

The panel will seek to outline the main obstacles faced by victims of corporate-related human rights abuses in accessing judicial remedies, and put forward proposals to overcome these obstacles. The panel will also seek to make concrete recommendations to the Working Group on Business and Human Rights. Victims of human rights violations by corporations will also participate. The panel will take place on 4 December at 16:15.

→ *Contributed by Pia Navazo, FIDH, [pnavazo \(at\) fidh.org](mailto:pnavazo@fidh.org).*

7. UN Working Group launches business survey on human rights

Business representatives are invited to participate in a survey on the topic of business and human rights, aimed specifically at companies. The survey is a project of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, in partnership with the [Global Business Initiative on Human Rights](#), the [International Chamber of Commerce](#), the [International Organisation of Employers](#) and the Corporations and Human Rights Project. The survey is open until Friday 16 November and can be accessed [here](#).

The purpose of the survey is to assess business perceptions of where companies currently stand with regard to potential social and human rights impacts. We are keen for a diverse range of companies to participate in the survey in terms of size, sector and geography. It is designed to be accessible to those new to the debate and those with established strategies on social impacts/human rights.

At the end of the survey participants will have the opportunity to receive a summary of their responses and the aggregate trends of the survey will be used to produce a short report, which will be made available at the forthcoming Forum on Business and Human Rights, 4-5 December in Geneva. For further information, please contact: [survey \(at\) global-business-initiative.org](mailto:survey@global-business-initiative.org).

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

8. Three forthcoming reports by EJOLT

[EJOLT](#) (Environmental Justice Organisations, Liabilities and Trade) is releasing three reports in the next few weeks: on the carbon market, mining conflicts, and leaving oil in the soil. The reports will be accessible [here](#).

The first report “CDM in Africa” has already caused a stir with [four companies responding](#) to the original allegations made by the researchers from the Center for Civil Society in South Africa. In the report the authors respond and offer policy proposals and case documentation about the role of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in Africa. Instead of providing an appropriate flow of climate finance for projects related to greenhouse gas mitigation, the report says CDM has benefited large corporations and the governments they influence and often control. The report suggests the need for an urgent policy review of the entire CDM’s operation.

In “Mining conflicts around the world: Common grounds from an environmental justice perspective”, 24 case studies from 18 different countries are described by local activists and scholars. 17 of the cases focus on conflicts related to metal mining, four address uranium mining, one refers to coal mining and one to sand mining. Conclusions are made on the possibility for fruitful collaboration between environmental justice defenders and academic and technical experts.

The third report, “To Yasunize is a Verb: Initiatives to leave fossil fuels in the soil”, outlines true solutions to climate chaos that have been brought forward by environmental justice activists in the South and around the world – by leaving fossil fuels under the ground. The report highlight grassroots struggles around the world of communities creating new frontiers of resistance against the opening of fossil fuel frontiers.

→ *Contributed by Leah Temper, EJOLT, [leah.temper \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:leah.temper@gmail.com)*

9. Meeting on implementation of OECD-UN due diligence recommendations - Paris, 28-30 Nov

Between 28-30 November, the OECD will be hosting the 4th multi-stakeholder meeting on due diligence implementation in the supply chains of gold, tin, tantalum and tungsten to understand how responsible sourcing practices have evolved since the adoption of the OECD Due Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas in May 2011. The 3-day meeting will bring together OECD and partner countries, international organizations, UN experts, civil society, industry/trade associations and companies throughout the minerals supply chain to learn lessons from the one-year pilot implementation of the Supplement on Tin, Tantalum and Tungsten, share experience on measures taken to implement due diligence, understand challenges and practical solutions to overcome them, as well as take stock of concrete examples of collaborative initiatives designed to enable responsible mineral trading.

The meeting will offer the opportunity to discuss how to move forward with the implementation of the Supplement on Gold. For more information on OECD work on responsible supply chains of minerals from conflict-affected and high-risk areas, please visit www.oecd.org/daf/investment/mining.

→ *Contributed by Dr Lahra Liberti, OECD, Lahra.Liberti (at) oecd.org.*

10. Panel for civil society breakout session at UN Forum - Geneva, 5 Dec

The “Challenges in Implementation” civil society breakout session at the first annual United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights will take place 5 December from 10:00-11:30am (according to the Forum’s [preliminary programme](#)). The session’s full title is “*Challenges in Implementation - In Role Of Civil Society toward advancing the Guiding Principles and identifying opportunities for affected stakeholders*”. The panelists for the session will be:

- **Juana Kweitel** (national of Argentina), Program Director of the Brazilian human rights organization Conectas Human Rights
- **Sergey Solyanik** (national of Kazakhstan), Kazakhstan-based Consultant for Crude Accountability, an environmental and social justice organization focused on the Caspian
- **Debbie Stothard** (national of Malaysia), Malaysia-based Coordinator of the Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma (Altsean-Burma)
- **Wellington Chibebe** (national of Zimbabwe), Deputy General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation, former Secretary General of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions

We would like to thank all those who responded to [our invitation for ideas for the “Challenges in Implementation” civil society breakout session](#). We received many suggestions for topics and panelists, which were very helpful in composing the panel.

→ *Contributed by Mariëtte van Huijstee, SOMO, m.van.huijstee (at) somo.nl and Chris Avery, Director, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, avery (at) business-humanrights.org*

11. Quarterly Bulletin on Business & Children - December issue

In December Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will publish its third Quarterly Bulletin on Business & Children. The bulletin highlights recent developments and helps organizations working in this field to spread the word about their forthcoming activities/reports. To sign up for the bulletin or to contribute an entry (under 200 words about an activity taking place after 3 December), contact Annabel Short, [short \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:short (at) business-humanrights.org). The deadline for contributions is 23 November.

Previous issues are available [here](#). Regular news updates are available on our [Business & Children Portal](#).

→ *Contributed by Annabel Short, Programme Director, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, short (at) business-humanrights.org.*

12. Upgraded portals on UN Guiding Principles, UN Working Group on business & human rights

In the coming months, the Resource Centre will launch two high-profile online portals, one on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and one on the UN Working Group on business & human rights. These will be more extensive and user-friendly upgrades of our existing mini-portals on the [UN Guiding Principles](#) and [UN Working Group](#). We welcome your suggestions of materials now to feature on the existing mini-portals, or in future for the upgraded portals, including tools for implementation of the Guiding Principles, commentaries or

reports referring to the Guiding Principles or Working Group, case examples, etc. We will be adding materials in many languages, including Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish -- so please send us relevant materials in any language. We also keep a list of language versions of the Guiding Principles [here](#). Our contact address for sending materials: bengtsson@business-humanrights.org.

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

13. Upcoming 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

14. Survey & report on role of African National Human Rights Institutions on business and human rights

[NANHRI](#), the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions, has selected the [Danish Institute for Human Rights](#) (DIHR) to conduct a mapping survey on the role and activities of African National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) on business and human rights.

At NANHRI's 2011 Regional Workshop on Business and Human Rights, African NHRIs adopted the Yaoundé Declaration which called for a baseline study, amongst priority actions for NHRIs in the region. The baseline study will focus on NHRIs' activities and needs concerning human rights education, capacity building and strategic planning, and the three thematic areas of labour rights and working conditions; land-related human rights; and environment-related human rights. Case studies will highlight best practices and challenges facing NHRIs in the region.

The survey is due to be completed by the end of 2012 and the baseline report published in January 2013.

→ *For further information, contact Claire Methven O'Brien, Danish Institute for Human Rights, [cob \(at\) humanrights.dk](mailto:cob@humanrights.dk); Thorbjørn Lundsgaard, [thlu \(at\) humanrights.dk](mailto:thlu@humanrights.dk); or (en français) Lea Brecht, [lebr \(at\) humanrights.dk](mailto:lebr@humanrights.dk).*

15. Roundtable for African business leaders - Nairobi, 8 Nov

The [Global Business Initiative on Human Rights](#) and the UN Global Compact Local Network in Kenya, in partnership with the [Kenya Association of Manufacturers](#), [Kenya Private Sector Alliance](#) and [Kenya National Commission on Human Rights](#), will hold a "Roundtable for African Business Leaders: Implementing Corporate Respect for Human Rights" on Thursday 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. Over 130 attendees are expected, the majority of them from business, but also with representatives from academia and other human rights actors.

Its objectives:

- Demystify the agenda - to clarify the link between human rights and business
- Discuss the business case for using human rights as a way to understand and implement corporate responsibilities
- Exchange good practices, dilemmas and challenges for corporations in implementing the corporate responsibility to respect human rights
- Identify the possible contribution of the business community to the human rights and business agenda
- Develop ways forward – brainstorm a road-map for exploring human rights and business in East Africa and across the continent

→ *Contributed by Katryn Wright, Global Business Initiative on Human Rights, [katryn.wright \(at\) global-business-initiative.org](mailto:katryn.wright@global-business-initiative.org), and Geoffrey Korir, Kenya Association of Manufacturers, [geoffrey.korir \(at\) kam.co.ke](mailto:geoffrey.korir@kam.co.ke).*

16. Dem. Rep. of Congo: Report on gold mining, meeting on Mining Code reform

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

Report on gold mining: On 15 November, [Southern Africa Resource Watch \(SARW\)](#) will publish its report, titled "De l'or de conflit à l'or criminel" ("From conflict gold to criminal gold"). This report has been prepared by an international consultant, with the assistance of 11 researchers. The report covers four provinces in eastern DRC: Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu and Orientale, and primarily deals with problems linked to artisanal gold mining.

Tripartite meeting on Mining Code reform: Work on revision of the Mining Code has already been undertaken by various stakeholders, namely the government, mining companies and civil society. Each stakeholder group has proposed its own amendments. The government is due to organise a tripartite meeting to bring together the three sets of proposed amendments, and consolidate and harmonise them, with a view to have a single text to be adopted by the Cabinet and then presented to Parliament. The meeting will take place in late November in Kinshasa.

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

17. Dialogue: Reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation - Cape Town, 12-13 Nov

On 12-13 November, [Natural Justice: Lawyers for communities and the environment](#) in collaboration with the [Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa \(OSISA\)](#) and the [Heinrich Böll Foundation](#) will host a rights-based REDD+ Dialogue at Heinrich Böll Foundation Offices, Gardens, in Cape Town.

The dialogue will begin by examining the broader green economy within Africa and then focus upon rights-based approaches to REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation – a mitigation option in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), with a focus on agribusiness. The current status of REDD+ negotiations within the UNFCCC will be presented. The REDD+ safeguards and the various standards under development to enable their implementation will be discussed from a rights perspective. The synergies between the UNFCCC and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will be examined and [community protocols](#), a community response to the CBD included in the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit sharing, will be introduced.

The dialogue will bring together key REDD+ stakeholders in the region including representatives from national readiness programmes, and members from civil society engaged in REDD+ within the Central and Southern African Development Community.

→ *For further information on the dialogue and its outcomes please contact Cath Traynor, Natural Justice, [cath \(at\) naturaljustice.org](mailto:cath@naturaljustice.org).*

Americas

18. Conference on accountability of mining sector in Colombia & Latin America - London, 12 Nov

[ABColumbia](#) is organising a one-day conference in London, "Mining in Colombia and Latin America: will the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights improve accountability?", on 12 November.

The extractive sector represents an increasingly significant part of the economies of many Latin American countries. Colombia's National Development Plan 2010-2014 identifies the mining and energy sector as one of the "backbones of the Colombian economy" with the aim of doubling exports by 2021. Consequently, issues of natural resource governance are at the centre of development, environmental and human rights debates. Areas of concern are irreversible damage to areas of high ecological and cultural value, and violation of the human rights of communities.

Coinciding with the launch of the UK's initial strategy on the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, this conference will bring together a number of experts from a range of disciplines and key public bodies, as well as indigenous and community leaders from Latin America, and representatives from the legal sector and mining industries. The conference will discuss accountable governance, sustainable development, the UN Guiding Principles and mechanisms to ensure effective due diligence and accountability in the Latin American context. The final agenda will be confirmed shortly.

For further information see: <http://www.abcolombia.org.uk/subpage.asp?subid=475&mainid=23>

→ Contributed by, Laura Ouseley, ABColombia, louseley (at) abcolombia.org.uk, tel. +44 (0)207 870 2217.

19. International forum: “Water as an Engine of Development” - Argentina, 14-15 Nov

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

The [Centre for Studies in Environmental Law and Policy](#) (CEDEPA), Faculty of Law, University of Palermo, and the [Kondrad Adenauer Foundation](#) invite you to participate in the international forum, "Water as an Engine of Development", to be held 14-15 November at the University (address: Mario Bravo 1259, Buenos Aires, Argentina). During the event, Argentine and international experts will address the following topics: (i) implications of mining activities on management and use of water; (ii) management of shared water resources – experiences from the European Union and Latin America; (iii) industrial water use – challenges of rehabilitating highly contaminated watersheds; and (iv) conflict and cooperation in managing water resources in Europe.

Participation in the forum is free and requires pre-registration. More information and preliminary programme: www.palermo.edu/cedepa

→ Contributed by Florencia Saulino, Centro de Estudios en Derecho y Política Ambiental, Universidad de Palermo, fsauli (at) palermo.edu.

20. Report on companies’ impacts on human rights in the industrial area of Puchuncaví-Quintero, Chile

The [Human Rights Center of the Diego Portales University](#), Chile, will launch the 10th edition of its annual human rights report on 12 November. This year, the report includes a chapter on business and human rights. The authors analyse the enjoyment of the right to an adequate environment, education, and housing in the industrial area of Puchuncaví-Quintero. In this densely populated area, permits have been granted to a copper smelter, several thermoelectric power stations, a port, and other business. In this context, the Human Rights Center assesses the compliance of the State with its human rights obligations, and the compliance of companies with their human rights responsibilities, with a particular focus on state-owned enterprises.

The report will be available via this link on 12 November: <http://www.derechoshumanos.udp.cl/archivo/informe-anual/>. It will also be announced on Twitter: [@ddhh_udp](#).

→ For further information contact: Judith Schönsteiner PhD, Director of the Human Rights Center, Universidad Diego Portales, judith.schonsteiner (at) udp.cl. Press contact: Susana Kuncar, susana.kuncar (at) udp.cl.

21. Resource Centre recruitment of regional researcher based in Brazil

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will soon be launching a recruitment for our first Portuguese-speaking researcher, based in Brazil, covering Brazil, Portugal and Portuguese-speaking Africa. Applicants must have fluent Portuguese and excellent English language skills, the right to work in Brazil, and previous NGO work experience. The job announcement will soon be available via our [homepage](#).

→ Contributed by Daniel Vince-Archer, Office Administrator & Outreach Coordinator, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, vince-archer (at) business-humanrights.org.

Asia/Pacific

22. Training on transforming the UN Guiding Principles into business practice - Bangalore, 27-28 Nov

[Social Accountability International](#) (SAI) & the [Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation](#) (ICCO) are convening a two-day training event in Bangalore on 27-28 November to help businesses implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights through their operations and supply chains.

In June 2011, the UN Human Rights Council adopted the UN Guiding Principles. The challenge now is in their implementation. In response to this challenge SAI started a new training course centred on its recent Handbook & Toolkit. This exercise-driven two-day course will help companies utilise the Handbook and put the Guiding Principles into practice. The training also addresses questions concerning the scope of the Guiding Principles, and difficulties and challenges with their implementation.

The course will introduce a six-step method on how to implement a supply chain management system that

integrates human rights: 1) Committing to a human rights policy; 2) Assessing human rights impact; 3) Integrating human rights in policies, procedures and responsibilities; 4) Tracking human rights implementation; 5) Communicating human rights impact; and 6) Remediating adverse human rights impacts.

All attendees will receive a complimentary copy of the Handbook & Toolkit as well as a certificate of attendance. You can register at www.sa-intl.org/UNGuidingPrinciplescourse.

→ For further information and inquiries, contact Stephanie Wilson, Social Accountability Intl., [swilson \(at\) sa-intl.org](mailto:swilson@sa-intl.org).

23. Electronics sector multistakeholder roundtable on workplace standards - Chennai, 30 Nov

[Cividep-India](#) & [Social Accountability International](#) (SAI) invite stakeholders from the electronics sector to participate in the first “Electronics Sector Multistakeholder Roundtable” in Chennai, India on 30 November. Stakeholders include brand companies, manufacturers, trade unions, civil society organizations, e-recyclers and international organizations.

The one-day session is an effort to foster social dialogue and discussion on the challenges in implementation of workplace standards in this sector. Cividep-India and SAI will both lead sessions during the roundtable. There is no fee to attend, but travel and accommodation costs have to be funded by the participant or respective organization. Venue: Hotel Radha Regent, 171 Jawaharlal Nehru Salai, Arumbakkam, Chennai. Please find further details [here](#).

To enroll, ensure you have pop-ups enabled on your computer and go to: <http://socialfingerprint.absorbtraining.com>. Enter Username or Enrollment Key: CividepRT, Password: Temporary (Please note: Enrollment Keys, Usernames and Passwords are case sensitive). Participants will automatically be enrolled in the course and will receive an email confirmation straight away.

→ Contributed by Laura Ceresna, Cividep, [laura \(at\) cividep.org](mailto:laura@cividep.org).

24. Report on working & living conditions in Special Economic Zones in India & Indonesia - November

[Cividep India](#) in collaboration with [Indonesia for Global Justice](#) (IGJ) will publish a report in November on Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in India and Indonesia, the regulations that govern them and incentives offered to investors. The report will evaluate working conditions in Flextronics India and Indonesia, Epson Indonesia and Nokia India as well as its supplier Foxconn India, all operating in SEZs.

Governments argue that SEZs will create new employment opportunities and promote development, but more employment opportunities alone are not indicators of development. The quality of employment in terms of better working conditions and adequate compensation is equally important. SEZs have in fact had negative impacts on working and living conditions due to the high use of contract labour and the low wages paid to workers that are insufficient to meet their living expenses. The use of repressive measures against labour and restrictions on labour unions by companies are clear violations of labour laws in both countries.

→ Contributed by Laura Ceresna-Chaturvedi, Cividep India, [laura \(at\) cividep.org](mailto:laura@cividep.org).

25. Workshop on land and property rights - Gujarat, 4-6 Dec

In recent years, land-related issues have emerged at the top of the social, political and economic development agenda. Between 4-6 December a three-day workshop on theoretical aspects and practical implications of property rights for rural transformation is being organised at the [Institute of Rural Management, Anand](#), jointly with [ARCH, Gujarat](#), and [Liberty Institute, New Delhi](#), with the support of [Friedrich Naumann Foundation](#).

The workshop will deal with topics such as the political evolution of property rights, their constitutional significance, the changing nature of land conflicts including those involving companies, the significance of property for economic wellbeing, political empowerment and democratic participation. The Forest Rights Act provides a practical illustration of the changing contours of the discourse. Both national and international legal instruments around property will be discussed.

Objectives:

- 1) To deliberate on the significance of property rights as a pro-poor instrument
- 2) To create a network of scholars and practitioners around property and land rights

3) To gain ground level understanding of the progress in forest rights implementation

Please visit www.FRA.RighttoProperty.org for background on a new initiative which allows rural remote communities to document and map their own land.

For more information, please visit,

https://www.irma.ac.in/newsroom/announcement_detail.php?director_id=9. To request for the nomination form to participate in the workshop, please write to mdp (at) irma.ac.in.

→ *Contributed by Barun S. Mitra,, Liberty Institute, New Delhi, barun (at) libertyinstitute.org.in.*

26. Resource Centre recruiting 2 positions in Asia

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will soon appoint:

- our first Southeast Asia Researcher & Representative, based in Bangkok; and
- our first Asia-Pacific Regional Director, who will manage our work in the region, and support our regional researchers based in Bangkok, Delhi and Hong Kong. This post will be based in one of the following cities: Bangkok, Delhi, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Mumbai or Singapore.

The application period for these posts closed on 29 October. We will announce these appointments in our [Weekly Update](#).

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

Europe/Central Asia

27. FairPensions training on using your pension fund to campaign for social justice - London, 17 Nov

[FairPensions](#) is running a day-long training on 17 November for people who want to use the power of their pension fund to campaign for social and environmental justice. If you belong to a workplace pension scheme this training is open to you.

Pension funds have huge economic clout and can rapidly bring concerns to the attention of top decision-makers in the business world. Whether it's low pay, child labour, trade union rights or working conditions, our pension funds have the power and responsibility to challenge corporate injustice.

Trainees will leave the workshop with practical skills and tools for shareholder activism. You will also receive simple written materials and guides to responsible investment. FairPensions is building a UK-wide network of Responsible Investment Champions. After the training you will join that growing network.

Details of the event: Saturday, 17th November 2012 (10am - 4.30pm); UNISON Centre, 130 Euston Road, London NW1 2AY. The training is free but places are strictly limited. Please RSVP to [natalie.langford \(at\) fairpensions.org.uk](mailto:natalie.langford@fairpensions.org.uk) and make sure you include the name of your workplace. Further details here: <http://www.fairpensions.org.uk/wric>.

→ *Contributed by Matthew Butcher, Media and Communications Officer, FairPensions, matthew.butcher (at) fairpensions.org.uk.*

28. Forthcoming report on sustainability reporting of 19 major European energy companies - November

The [Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations \(SOMO\)](#), in collaboration with the [European Federation of Public Service Unions \(EPSU\)](#), conducted in-depth research on the sustainability reporting of 19 major European energy companies on 10 GRI indicators. (The [Global Reporting Initiative \(GRI\)](#) is an important sustainability reporting tool that encourages companies to disclose relevant information about the social and environmental impacts of their operations.) SOMO and EPSU will publish the results of this research in a report in mid-November.

SOMO found widespread discrepancies between the "application level" score the companies receive for their reporting, and the actual information provided in their sustainability reports. SOMO also found discrepancies in reports that had been externally "checked" and "assured" by a professional third-party auditor or the GRI itself. Based on the findings, the report draws a number of conclusions and provides recommendations to a range of stakeholders, including company management, European policy makers, investors, auditors, unions, and NGOs,

for how to improve voluntary reporting frameworks such as the GRI as well as the need for a more binding framework for reporting and disclosure on non-financial aspects of corporate operations.

→ *Contributed by Joseph Wilde-Ramsing, SOMO, [j.wilde \(at\) somo.nl](mailto:j.wilde@somo.nl).*

Conference on accountability of mining sector in Colombia & Latin America - London, 12 Nov

See item 17 above. We include reference to this event here in the Europe/Central Asia section because the event will be held in London.

Middle East/North Africa

29. A new programme on tax justice issues in Israel

Following the publication of the report "Israel's Missing Billions - aggressive tax planning and corporate social responsibility", in 2011, the [Center for Corporate Social Responsibility, at the Academic Center of Law and Business \(Israeli Institute of CSR\)](#) was invited to Essex (UK), in order to present the report in an annual workshop of the international NGO [Tax Justice Network](#) (TJN). The connection with TJN has led the Institute to decide that within a year it will initiate a strand of TJN in Israel. As part of this plan, in November 2012 the Institute will start working on a programme related to various tax justice issues. The Institute will collaborate with the Legal Clinic for Corporate Social Responsibility in a study on "Country by Country reporting" in Israel. The study will examine the transparency of the largest Israeli corporations in relation to tax matters and the implications of this for social responsibility. Based on this study the Institute will draft a bill on this subject and send it to the Israeli Parliament. The Institute is also planning to launch a website on which various articles, news and op-eds related to tax justice issues in Israel will be posted.

→ *Contributed by Moran Harari ([moran \(at\) taxjustice.net](mailto:moran@taxjustice.net)), Institute of Corporate Social Responsibility at the Academic Centre of Law & Business in Ramat-Gan, Israel.*

30. Event on business, women's and children's rights - Amman, 8 Nov

The International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions - Working Group on Business and Human Rights is holding an event on "Business, Women's and Children's Rights" at the Jordan Chamber of Industry in Amman Jordan on Thursday, 8 November.

This multi-stakeholder side event is designed to strengthen national human rights institutions' (NHRIs') regional capacity and engagement with business, civil society and others relating to women's and children's rights affected by corporate activity. The side event theme responds directly to a number of the issues of most widespread concern among respondents of a recent NHRI baseline survey, namely discrimination, workers' rights and child labour.

All documents relating to the event will be posted at:

<http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/Themes/BusinessHR/Pages/Home.aspx>

In the meantime, further information is available [here](#).

→ *Contributed by Leah Winsor, [Canadian Human Rights Commission/Commission des droits de la personne](#), [leah.winsor \(at\) chrc-ccdp.gc.ca](mailto:leah.winsor@chrc-ccdp.gc.ca).*

Español

31. Conferencia sobre la minería en Colombia y América Latina - Londres, 12 de noviembre

El sector extractivo representa cada vez más una parte importante de las economías exportadoras de materias primas de muchos países de América Latina. El Plan Nacional de Desarrollo de Colombia 2010-2014 identifica el sector de la minería y la energía como uno de las "locomotoras de la economía colombiana", con el objetivo de duplicar las exportaciones antes de 2021. Por consiguiente, las cuestiones de la gobernanza de los recursos naturales están en el centro de los debates de desarrollo, del medio ambiente y de los derechos humanos. De preocupación es el daño irreversible a las áreas de alto valor ecológico y cultural, y la violación de los derechos humanos de las comunidades.

Para coincidir con el lanzamiento de la estrategia inicial del Reino Unido sobre la aplicación de los Principios Rectores de la ONU sobre las Empresas y los Derechos Humanos, esta conferencia reunirá a una serie de

expertos de diversas disciplinas y organizaciones, así como líderes indígenas y comunitarios de América Latina, y representantes del sector jurídico y de la minería. La conferencia discutirá la gobernación responsable, el desarrollo sostenible, los Principios Rectores de la ONU y los mecanismos para asegurar la eficaz diligencia y responsabilidad en el contexto latinoamericano. El programa definitivo se confirmará próximamente.

Más informaciones: <http://www.abcolombia.org.uk/subpage.asp?subid=475&mainid=23>

→ *Contribución de: Laura Ouseley, ABColombia, louseley (at) abcolombia.org.uk.*

32. Foro Internacional “El Agua como Motor del Desarrollo” - Argentina, 14 y 15 de noviembre

[El Centro de Estudios en Derecho y Política Ambiental \(CEDEPA\)](#) de la Facultad de Derecho de la Universidad de Palermo y la [Fundación Konrad Adenauer](#) invitan a participar del Foro Internacional “El Agua como Motor del Desarrollo” que tendrá lugar los días 14 y 15 de noviembre de 2012 en la sede de la Universidad (Mario Bravo 1259, Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Argentina). Durante el evento, expertos argentinos e internacionales abordarán los siguientes temas: (i) Implicancias de la actividad minera para la gestión y uso del agua; (ii) Gestión de recursos hídricos compartidos. Experiencias de la Unión Europea y de América Latina; (iii) El uso industrial del agua. Desafíos de la recuperación de cuencas altamente contaminadas; y (iv) Conflicto y cooperación en la gestión de recursos hídricos en Europa.

La participación en el foro es gratuita y requiere inscripción previa. Más información y programa preliminar en: www.palermo.edu/cedepa

→ *Contribución de: Florencia Saulino, Centro de Estudios en Derecho y Política Ambiental, Universidad de Palermo, fsauli (at) palermo.edu.*

33. Análisis sobre derechos humanos en complejo industrial Puchuncaví-Quintero, Chile

El 12 de noviembre de 2012, [el Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Universidad Diego Portales](#) lanzará su Xº Informe Anual sobre Derechos Humanos en Chile. Incluye este año un capítulo sobre empresas y derechos humanos, analizando la situación del derecho a un medioambiente sano, a la salud, educación y vivienda en el área industrial Puchuncaví-Quintero, donde opera una fundición de cobre, varias termoeléctricas, un puerto, y otras industrias. El Centro evalúa el cumplimiento con las obligaciones estatales y las responsabilidades empresariales, haciendo hincapié especialmente en las responsabilidades de las empresas estatales. A partir del 12 de noviembre de 2012, el informe estará disponible en la página: <http://www.derechoshumanos.udp.cl/archivo/informe-anual/>

Informaremos también a través de nuestra cuenta de twitter, @ddhh_udp.

→ *Contacto: Dra. Judith Schönsteiner, Directora del Centro de Derechos Humanos, Universidad Diego Portales, judith.schonsteiner (at) udp.cl. Contacto de Prensa: Susana Kuncar, susana.kuncar (at) udp.cl.*

Français

34. Rép. dém. du Congo: Rapport sur l'exploitation de l'or, réunion sur la révision du Code minier

Publication d'un rapport sur l'exploitation de l'or: [Southern Africa Resource Watch \(SARW\)](#) va publier le 15 novembre son rapport intitulé « De l'or de conflit à l'or criminel ». Ce rapport a été réalisé par un consultant international assisté de onze enquêteurs. Le rapport concerne quatre provinces de l'est de la RDC, le Maniema, le Nord-Kivu, le Sud-Kivu et la Province Orientale, et porte principalement sur les problèmes liés à l'exploitation artisanale de l'or.

Tenue de la réunion tripartite sur la révision du Code minier: Les travaux de révision du Code minier ont été déjà réalisés par les différentes parties prenantes respectives, à savoir, le Gouvernement, les entreprises minières et la société civile. Chaque partie prenante possède ses propositions d'amendements. Le Gouvernement devra alors convoquer une réunion tripartite au cours de laquelle les trois propositions d'amendements seront mises ensemble, consolidées et harmonisées en vue d'avoir un seul texte à présenter au Parlement après son adoption par le Conseil des Ministres. La réunion sera convoquée fin novembre 2012 à Kinshasa.

→ *Contribution de Georges Mukuli, Southern Africa Resource Watch, GeorgesM (at) sarwatch.org.*

35. Etude & rapport - le rôle des institutions nationales africaines des droits de l'homme dans le domaine des entreprises & des droits de l'homme

[Traduction non officielle par le Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises et les Droits de l'Homme. Pour l'original en anglais, voir la section « Africa » ci-dessus.]

Le Réseau des institutions nationales africaines des droits de l'homme ([Network of African National Human Rights Institutions](#)), a choisi le Danish Institute for Human Rights (Institut danois pour les droits de l'homme) pour effectuer un sondage qui identifiera les rôles et les actions des institutions nationales pour les droits de l'homme (les INDH) dans le domaine des entreprises et des droits de l'homme.

A l'atelier régional du RINADH en 2011 sur les entreprises et les droits de l'homme, les INDH africaines ont adopté la déclaration de Yaoundé, dans laquelle elles ont requis un rapport de référence, parmi les actions prioritaires des INDH de la région. Le rapport de référence ciblera les actions et les besoins des INDH dans les domaines de l'éducation aux droits de l'homme, du renforcement des capacités et de l'élaboration des plans stratégiques, et sur trois thèmes : les droits et les conditions du travail ; les droits de l'homme relatifs au foncier ; et les droits de l'homme relatifs à l'environnement. Des études de cas souligneront les bonnes pratiques et les défis auxquels les INDH de la région font face.

Le sondage devra être terminé d'ici la fin 2012, et le rapport de référence devra être publié en janvier 2013.

→ Pour plus d'informations, veuillez contacter *Lea Brecht*, Danish Institute for Human Rights, [lebr \(at\) humanrights.dk](mailto:lebr@humanrights.dk).

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