

Human Rights, Sustainability Reporting and Responsible Business Conduct – What does business need to know?

A workshop for companies, employers' and business organisations Kumasi, Ghana

18-19 September 2017

Business and human rights, sustainability reporting and responsible business conduct more generally are high on many agendas and growing in importance for business. Companies are being confronted with these themes from various angles: human rights and responsible business conduct are attracting increased media coverage; consumer organisations are becoming more vocal in their demands for information on production conditions and routes to market; non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and trade unions are approaching companies with requests for information on human rights impacts on the societies in which these businesses operate.

Society has made a new priority of transparency and credibility in business activity. Investors also link their investment decisions to the human rights performance of companies. Increasingly suppliers to large corporations have to comply with their corporate customers' human rights, social and environmental standards and codes of conduct. **Respecting human rights and reporting transparently about it is becoming a precondition of staying in business.** Responsible business conduct and sustainability reporting have also become an area for policy-making at national, regional and international level.

With the endorsement of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPR) by the UN Human Rights Council in June 2011, there is now a general consensus on the respective roles and responsibilities of governments and companies with regard to business and human rights. Business organisations, such as the IOE, as well as NGOs and trade unions are supporting the UNGPR. Moreover, governments around the world have launched, or are in the process of launching, national action plans (NAPs) for the implementation of the UNGPR, which have also been integrated into many initiatives and frameworks for responsible business conduct such as ISO 26000 and the OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises. **To know the UN Guiding Principles and understand the responsibilities of business, including ways to increase transparency, is a prerequisite of meeting the demands of consumers and corporate customers, investors, governments and society at large.**

What is the aim of the workshop?

- to provide information on national, regional and global trends and developments regarding business & human rights, sustainability reporting and responsible business conduct.





International Organisation of Employers
Organisation Internationale des Employeurs
Organización Internacional de Empleadores
The Global Voice of Business

- to raise awareness of the content of the main international instruments, initiatives and policies and their impact on companies, such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, GRI, UN Global Compact, ISO 26000, ILO MNE Declaration and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.
- to provide companies with guidance on how to implement the UN Guiding Principles “step by step” and starting sustainability reporting.
- to assist employers’ organisations in developing a policy strategy and service offer in the area of human rights, sustainability reporting and responsible business conduct.
- to know where and how to get support.

What is the target audience for the workshop?

Representatives of companies, particularly SMEs, as well as representative organisations of employers and business.

What is the structure of the workshop?

The workshop will include a mix of presentations, panel discussions, group exercises and exchanges of experiences.

Speakers include senior representatives from GEA, IOE, GRI, and Centro Vincular.

Time & Place

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Golden Tulip Hotel, Kumasi, Ghana



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