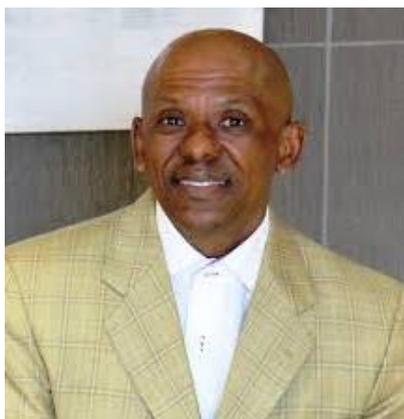


# HUMAN RIGHTS / CSR NEWSLETTER

May 2018



## Editorial

THE START to 2018 has seen no let-up on activities on business and human rights. This newsletter highlights the main developments at the UN and ILO, as well as updates on national legal and regulatory measures and a snapshot of various projects and news reports that concern this fast-moving agenda.



Our general assessment is that the onus is increasingly on the business community - especially the world's most visible brands and retailers - to demonstrate respect for human rights. Conversely, not enough attention is being directed on States to fulfil *their* existing human rights obligations and support *all* businesses operating in global supply chains to meet their responsibility. Companies are actively responding to the many demands on them and business engagement continues to grow as awareness of global standards spreads and experience develops.

However, there are worrying signs that, far from levelling the so-called playing field, States are starting to adopt measures that largely seek to bring foreign-imposed "solutions" to the many business-related human rights challenges around the globe. In addition, there is a risk of incoherent and divergent standards and expectations creeping in that do not support companies to implement the UNGPs by "doing no harm" while also contributing to the SDGs by "doing good."

Just as 2017 focused extensively on access to remedy, this year looks to be the turn of human rights due diligence. The IOE is currently developing a paper on "State policy measures" on this important process. The paper aims to provide members with a variety of points to counter the growing assumption that for States to meet their duty to protect human rights they need to mandate companies to carry out due diligence. It is an important policy debate, which we will continue to actively engage in.

Until next time.

**Mthunzi Mdwaba**

Chair, IOE Policy Working Group on Business & Human Rights / CSR

### In this newsletter

1. Editorial
2. Update on UN Treaty process
3. Other UN / ILO news
- 4-7. National legal / regulatory developments; and a spotlight on benchmarks
- 8-9. Update on investor activities
- 9-11. Snapshot of other projects and news reports
12. Upcoming events in 2018

## UN updates

### UN Treaty process (IGWG chaired by Ecuador)



After providing our **follow-up response** to the draft "elements" paper for a UN Treaty on transnational corporations and other business enterprises in February, the IOE is carefully monitoring Ecuador's plans for the Inter-Governmental Working Group (IGWG) in 2018.

Ecuador will hold **four open and informal consultations** on the IGWG (no more info available yet):

- 1<sup>st</sup> consultation: Thursday, 17 May 2018, 09:00-10:30, Palais des Nations, (Room XVI)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> consultation: Friday, 25 May 2018, 10:00-12:00, Palais des Nations, (Room XXVI)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> consultation: Tuesday, 05 June 2018, 10:00-12:00, Palais des Nations, (Room IX)
- 4<sup>th</sup> consultation: Wednesday, 11 July 2018, 10:00-12:00, Palais des Nations, (Room XII)

#### More useful info:

- We expect a fourth session of the IGWG from 15 to 19 October 2018. Ecuador has the funds for this and the meeting rooms in the Palais des Nations have been booked. The report of the IGWG's third session concluded that the IGWG Chair should (among other things):
  - a. Present a draft legally-binding instrument on the basis of contributions by States and other relevant stakeholders at least four months before the fourth session for substantive negotiations until the fulfilment of the IGWG's mandate.
  - b. Convene a fourth session in 2018 and undertake informal consultations with States and other relevant stakeholders on its programme of work.
- We understand that Ecuador has been advised that it should return to the UN Human Rights Council to discuss the "terms of reference" (TORs) for the IGWG for the next three years (but not the mandate itself). It looks like Ecuador will not do this and it remains to be seen if another State will propose a separate resolution in the June HRC session that addresses the IGWG. Without clear TORs, some States could decide to oppose the programme of work at the IGWG's fourth session in October and trigger a vote in the HRC on whether that session should take place or not.
 
- In March, when the Human Rights Council adopted the IGWG third session report, the IOE urged that the IGWG:
  - i. Not to deviate from the approach of the UNGPs.
  - ii. Focus on clarifying the many questions and re-considering the unhelpful proposals raised by the "elements" paper instead of rushing to develop a draft treaty.
  - iii. Return to the HRC to get clear TORs on its future sessions to make it more transparent.
  - iv. Strengthen its engagement with business on the process and substance.
- It is still not clear what the vast majority of States think about the draft "elements" paper. On top of the limited Government statements made during the third session itself, only five States have subsequently provided **written comments** on the draft elements paper: Argentina, Azerbaijan, Mexico, Qatar, Singapore.
- Click [here](#) to see an IOE summary of important States in the IGWG process.
- In March Ecuador appointed its fourth Ambassador to the UN in Geneva in four years following the departure of Guillaume Long in January. The new Ambassador and Chair of the IGWG is Luis Gallegos, a career diplomat, who is returning to this role after instigating UN resolution 26/9 in 2014 that created IGWG.
 

## UN Forum on Business & Human Rights



- **Date:** 26-28 November 2018
- **Location:** Palais des Nations, Geneva
- **Central theme:** "Business respect for human rights – building on what works."
- **Click [here](#) to read the concept note**
- **Useful info:** A main focus will be on "human rights due diligence" and the IOE plans to pitch session proposals that reflect important, but overlooked, considerations on this.



## OPT Company Database

In January 2018, the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) published a **report** to describe the steps it is taking to produce a database of companies involved in activities connected to Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), including East Jerusalem, that impact adversely on human rights.

Click **here** to read the IOE summary of the UN report and suggested action that IOE members can take if companies in their country could be on the UN list. The IOE has warned that a UN database on business enterprises in any context - not just in relation to settlements in the OPT - creates a UN-endorsed quasi-sanction mechanism and would result in a boycott of such entities.

**Relevant news:** Although not even published, the database is already having an impact on companies. For example, the Danish pension fund, Sampension, has excluded **Motorola** (the US telecommunications company) over its provision of products to Israeli settlements in the OPT.

## ILO update



- **UN Reform:** Discussions are underway on how UN Reform plans may affect the ILO and the UN's broader engagement with the private sector. There are concerns that the UN does not fully appreciate the ILO's tripartite structure and the variety of legitimate business voices, including employer organisations, with whom to engage.
- **Tobacco:** The ILO delayed a decision on whether and how to continue its engagement with tobacco companies, including receiving funds for programmes to eradicate child labour, until the Governing Body's November session.
- **Venezuela:** The Governing Body decided to set up a Commission of Inquiry, the ILO's highest investigative procedure, into complaints concerning ILO Conventions 26 (minimum wage), 87 (freedom of association) & 144 (tripartite consultations). 
- **MNE Declaration:** Employers are concerned about the ILO's push for "national focal points" to promote the MNE Declaration. Of the two created so far (in Portugal & Senegal), the Office did not consult with constituents on the ground and it pressured them to establish these operational tools that are supposed to be tripartite appointed.
- **Global Business Network on Forced Labour & Human Trafficking:** The ILO has organised global consultations to gather input for its new global business network (consisting of the ILO, MNEs & domestic companies, employers' & business organisations) that aims to bring a broad-based response to the distinctive characteristics of forced labour and human trafficking. For more information contact Wade Bromley – [bromley@ilo.org](mailto:bromley@ilo.org)

## National legal / regulatory developments



**European Union:** The European Commission is examining corporate governance rules "to promote corporate governance that is more conducive to sustainable investments." By Quarter 2 in 2019, the Commission will carry out analytical and consultative work with stakeholders to assess:

- The possible need to require corporate boards to disclose a sustainability strategy, including appropriate due diligence throughout the supply chain, and measurable sustainability targets;
- The possible need to clarify the rules according to which directors are expected to act in the company's long-term interest."



**Canada:** In January 2018 the Government established "the Canadian Office of Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise" (CORE) with the authority to investigate alleged corporate harms involving Canadian companies operating abroad, compel witnesses and documentation, mediate disputes, and make recommendations to the Trade Minister for further action where warranted. This initiative is another example of how States are implementing the UNGPs in addition to developing national action plans (NAPs) and introducing national laws with due diligence requirements.

- Click [here](#) to read Fasken's article on the new Ombudsperson and Canada's approach on the international stage.
- Click [here](#) to read Fasken's report on lawsuits Involving Canadian business activities abroad



**Sweden:** In 2017, the Swedish Minister for Trade commissioned the Swedish Agency for Public Management to do a baseline assessment on the UNGPs. The Agency released its [report](#) in March 2018 in which it recommends, among other things, that the government look into binding human rights due diligence requirements for Swedish companies, as well as address access to remedy obstacles faced by victims of corporate abuse.



**France:** Click here to read [various assessments](#) (in English) of the French corporate duty of vigilance law in relation to human rights, health and safety and the environment, by the French-based law firm.



**Australia:** On 8 March 2018, [a Modern Slavery Bill](#) was introduced in Australia's Upper House of the New South Wales Parliament by Christian Democrats MLC Paul Green. The private member's bill followed an announcement in February by the Assistant Minister for Home Affairs, Alex Hawke MP, that a Modern Slavery Bill would be introduced in the Australian Parliament in the first half of 2018. The bill follows the release of the Parliamentary Inquiry's report on modern slavery, "[Hidden in Plain Sight](#)." Currently debate on Australia's proposed Modern Slavery Act has been briefly adjourned, but the two major political parties have provided provisional support for the Bill.

- Click [here](#) to read Littler's article on Australia's proposed Act on Modern Slavery Reporting.



**Hong Kong:** A lawmaker of the Hong Kong Legislative Council announced [plans](#) to table a private member's anti-slavery bill modelled on Britain's Modern Slavery Act in July. Dennis Kwok aims to introduce a law that will stamp out human trafficking and stop illegal profits passing through the financial hub. Since 2016, Hong Kong has been on a US State Department watch list for not meeting minimum standards to eliminate human trafficking. Recommendations in a possible bill include life sentences for traffickers, compelling firms to report whether their supply chains are free from slavery, and gives enforcement officers wider investigation power.

**Additional reading:** Norton Rose Fulbright's [comparative analysis](#) of existing and emerging legislation on modern slavery and human trafficking in the United Kingdom, Australia, Hong Kong and Singapore.



**United Kingdom:** Three years after the introduction of the UK Modern Slavery Act, here are two assessments of how companies are complying with section 54 of the UK Modern Slavery Act (the reporting principles):

- The Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, which manages [a public registry](#) of company statements, estimates that about two-thirds of up to 11,000 firms required to comply with the law have issued statements so far and that when companies do publish statements, most of the reporting is of very low quality. A [news story](#) suggests this could be down to company fears "that competitors will use information about their supply chains to gain an advantage." The report added that the Home Office is reportedly working to raise awareness of the law through a campaign targeting 10,000 businesses.
- Consulting firm Sancroft International [reviewed the disclosures of the top 100 suppliers to the UK government](#) and found:
  - 58 percent of the reports on human trafficking and slavery were compliant with the law.
  - In some cases companies had failed to understand the Act itself, as well as what was meant by due diligence and other terms.
  - Of the six recommended reporting areas, organisational structure and policies were where companies performed best.
  - There was a lack of understanding about the nature of modern slavery, evidenced by some companies neglecting the existence of any modern slavery risk in their business.
  - Companies put greater emphasis on future, and as yet undetermined, progress, than seeking to understand the effectiveness of current policies and processes in place. Only 12 companies referenced having KPIs to quantitatively measure performance.

### Other UK legal / regulatory developments:

- In February, the UK Court of Appeal ruled that two Nigerian communities cannot pursue Royal Dutch Shell in English courts over oil spills in Nigeria's Delta region. The split decision upheld a 2017 High Court ruling last year that English courts do not have jurisdiction over claims against Shell's Nigerian subsidiary Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), which is jointly operated with the Nigerian government. Leigh Day submitted the appeal on behalf of Nigeria's Bille and Ogale communities, in an attempt to hold British multinationals liable at home for their subsidiaries' actions abroad.
  - Click [here](#) to read a news report on the Court of Appeal decision and [here](#) to read Amnesty International's response.
- Click [here](#) to read the UK Government's response to a joint House of Commons / Lords Committee on a report on business and human rights. In it, the Government says:
  - The UK's national action plan should run until at least 2020, after which the Government will decide whether to update the plan or devise a new one. The Scottish Parliament is currently devising its own NAP.
  - It does not agree with suggestions that the reporting requirements under the Modern Slavery Act (section 54) are weak.
  - It does not think that further primary legislation on supply chains is needed.





**USA:** There have been two important court decisions in the USA in recent months concerning extraterritorial jurisdiction:

- **"Jesner v. Arab Bank": In April 2018, the Supreme Court**

- **What?** In April 2018, the US Supreme Court decided that foreign corporations cannot be sued in American courts for human rights abuses committed overseas. In refusing to revive a lawsuit claiming Jordan-based Arab Bank Plc helped finance militant attacks in Israel and the Palestinian territories, the Supreme Court ruled (in a 5-4 decision) that foreign companies cannot be held liable under the 1789 Alien Tort Statute.
- **The case:** Some 6,000 non-US citizen plaintiffs, including survivors and relatives of people killed in attacks accused Arab Bank of being the "paymaster" to militant groups and deliberately financing terrorism, including suicide bombings and other attacks. They said Arab Bank used its New York branch to transfer money that helped Hamas and other Islamist militant groups fund attacks and reward perpetrators' families between 1995-2005.
- **The Court's majority said that:** Congress did not draft the Alien Tort Statute to give foreign victims of atrocities committed abroad a private right of action against foreign corporations – and separation of powers doctrine precludes US courts from creating that right. If Congress and the executive branch want to make US courts a haven for foreign plaintiffs hoping to hold foreign corporations accountable for human rights abuses, it is up to them. It is not up to the courts.
- **Takeaway points from the case:**
  - o The ruling marked the second time in five years the Supreme Court has curbed the ability of plaintiffs to sue corporations in US courts under the Alien Tort Statute for overseas human rights violations. Other foreign-based companies that have faced such suits include Royal Dutch Shell PLC, Nestlé SA and Daimler AG.
  - o The plaintiffs can still sue the Arab Bank under anti-terrorism statutes.
- **Links to web reports:**
  - o Reuters [news story](#), Reuters [commentary](#), and Earth Rights (NGO) [blog](#)



- **"Keo Ratha v. Phatthana Seafood Co., Ltd":**

- **What?** In December 2017, the federal judge in the District Court in Central California **dismissed** a civil lawsuit bought by seven Cambodian nationals against US and Thai seafood companies.
- **The case:** The rural Cambodian villagers alleged that they were victims of peonage, forced labor and human trafficking committed by two Thai corporations that owned the seafood processing plants where the plaintiffs worked and that a California-based company and another Thai firm registered in California knowingly benefited from participation in a venture they knew or should have known was engaged in such abuses. The complaint was filed under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA), which allows victims to file a complaint against a US company if it is involved in or benefitted from human trafficking activity, even though it takes place outside the United States.



- **The Judge ruled that:**
  - o There was no evidence that one Thai seafood processing company had forced the Cambodian nationals to work against their will;
  - o There was no evidence that any goods produced in the second Thai processing plant by the Cambodian plaintiffs had been sold to the United States; and
  - o US courts had no jurisdiction over Thai companies and the US-based and -registered companies could not be held responsible for what occurred in Thai company processing factories.
- **Takeaway points (of many) from the case:**
  - o Plaintiffs bringing TVPRA claims must overcome substantial evidentiary hurdles. The Ratha decision provides guidance on what facts future Courts may look at to determine whether a company did or did not participate in, or knowingly benefit financially from, actionable human rights abuses in the supply chain.
  - o Companies should be careful when they tout the benefits of sourcing products from supply chains that are "vertically integrated".
- **Links to web reports:**
  - o **Freshfields**, **VOA Cambodia**, and **Shrimp Alliance**



## Spotlight on Benchmarks



### Corporate Human Rights Benchmark

Following a comprehensive review of its methodology the Corporate Human Rights Benchmark (**CHRB**) has begun making its assessments of 103 companies in the apparel, agribusiness and extractive sectors for its second rank which is due out in November 2018.

Click [here](#) to read the IOE's update which includes key points, links, dates on the CHRB, as well as IOE action.

### Responsible Mining Index

The first **Responsible Mining Index** was released in March 2018 ranking 30 mining companies from 16 home countries (including publicly-listed, state-owned and private companies) on their policies and practices on economic, environmental, social and governance issues (EESG).



The Index covers most mined commodities, excluding oil and gas, and focuses largely on company-wide behavior (the ranked companies operate more than 700 sites in over 40 producing countries), while also looking at site-level actions at 127 mine sites to provide a snapshot of information disaggregated to the level of individual mining operations.



### Consumer Goods Forum - Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative

In April the Consumer Goods Forum announced its new "Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative" (**SSCI**) that will provide buyers and suppliers with guidance on which third-party auditing and certification schemes cover key sustainability requirements and it will apply robust verification practices. By undergoing benchmarking and achieving SSCI recognition, scheme owners signal a strong commitment to raising the bar while driving harmonisation.

## Update on investor activities and financial institutions

The heads of two major asset management firms have written to CEOs of US publicly-traded companies to urge them to serve society better and focus on long-term sustainable growth.

- In January BlackRock CEO, Larry Fink, wrote in his **annual letter** to company CEOs that they need to positively impact society and that investors have a responsibility to foster long-term value in companies. He wrote: "To prosper over time, every company must not only deliver financial performance, but also show how it makes a positive contribution to society. Companies must benefit all of their stakeholders, including shareholders, employees, customers, and the communities in which they operate."
- In February Vanguard Chair, Bill McNabb, delivered a **letter** to chief executives urging them to focus on long-term growth. The letter from the **CECP** "Strategic Investor Initiative" - which McNabb co-chairs – wrote: "For too long, companies have sacrificed long-term value creation to generate short-term results, which erodes the sustainability strategic investors seek."
  - News stories: **FT** and **UK Business Insider**



**Oxfam analysis:** "Should BlackRock really follow through with policing and punishing companies that perform poorly on social indicators, and if other investors fall in line, we could be witnessing a watershed moment in defining the role of the private sector in addressing social and environmental change."



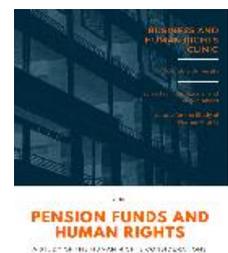
With more assets managed through index funds, many investors may need to exercise their leverage through direct engagement with companies and by voting in AGMs rather than threatening divestment.

## Study on pension funds' human rights considerations

Colombia University released a **Pension Fund & Human Rights** report into how fund managers integrate human rights considerations into the investment decision of pension funds and their infrastructure investments. Key findings include:



- Responsible investment functions of pension funds typically know about human rights standards; yet this knowledge is not mainstreamed throughout the organization.
- Gaps remain in existing risk assessment and monitoring procedures within institutions, and industry-wide best practices are only beginning to emerge.
- Responsible investment teams often have insufficient capacity and would benefit from an expanded team with human rights expertise to conduct in-depth monitoring and assessment of the human rights implications of fund investments.
- Pension funds usually engage with investee companies when there are major or systematic human rights concerns, as opposed to isolated incidents, and will consider divestment only when investee companies refuse to engage.
- Investment managers recognize that good information is a key challenge, and many are open to improved communication channels with NGOs.



## New venture fund

In January, a \$23 million venture fund - called **Working Capital** - was launched to help tackle the threat of forced labour in big businesses. The fund, founded by **Humanity United** and backed by Disney and Walmart, aims to accelerate the development and deployment of innovative, market-based supply chain solutions to help companies respect the rights of vulnerable workers and source responsibly. The fund invests in and partners with early stage companies to leverage new technologies such as blockchain, machine learning, sensors, and interconnected Internet of Things (IoT) solutions to promote supply chain interventions, such as: worker engagement, product traceability, ethical sourcing, risk assessment, and ethical recruitment.



## Project launched to better evaluate business respect for human rights

In February, Shift launched **the Valuing Respect Project** that aims to develop better ways to use information, metrics and indicators to evaluate business respect for human rights. The collaborative three-year project aims to support investors, civil society, business leaders and policy makers to use metrics and indicators in ways that effectively drive business respect for human rights and make a real, positive difference to people's lives. The project is founded in an open process of shared research, dialogue and co-creation.

## New human rights due diligence guidance

International Alert, the non-profit peacekeeping organization, has launched a new **guidance** for extractives industries on human rights due diligence (HRDD) in conflict-affected settings. The guidance:

- Helps extractive sector companies understand any conflicts in their operating context and identify the implications these have for HRDD.
- Provide tools, case studies and recommendations to help companies conducting HRDD in conflict-affected settings.



## Project to track use of migrant workers in Gulf construction

NGOs and academic organisations have launched the **Gulf Construction Tracker**, which details the awarding of construction contracts in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries - Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE - that are likely to involve low-wage migrant workers. The joint project is designed to help businesses, investors, civil society, international institutions, academics, and journalists understand the landscape of companies investing in and employing migrant workers on their projects in the Gulf. The tracker focuses on tourism and hospitality builds, roads and civil infrastructure and construction on oil and gas projects. The joint project is between the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, the NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights and Humanity United.



## GRI undergoing a review of its human rights-related standards

GRI has launched a two-phase project to review its human rights-related Standards. This project aims to: (i) Bring its relevant Standards in line with the UNGPs, OECD Guidelines and other relevant UN and ILO instruments; (ii) Revise the range of human rights-related topics covered in the GRI Standards; and (iii) Review the human rights-related disclosures based on expert feedback.

Phase 1 of the project entails a "concept review and alignment with the UNGPs." Phase 2 entails "Updating of individual human rights topic Standards".

The IOE is a member of the ad-hoc Technical Committee for Phase 1 and will update members on this project in due course.

## Report of 34% rise in attacks against campaigners defending land, environment & labour rights

In March the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre **reported** that they had recorded 388 attacks against human rights defenders in 2017 compared with 290 in 2016 – a 34% rise. The research focused on attacks against activists involved in protests against corporate activities, including 120 alleged murders and hundreds of other cases involving threats, assaults and intimidation. Victims included unionists, protesters, whistleblowers and indigenous communities.



the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) earlier **acknowledged** that attacks on human rights defenders are on the increase and called on relevant government authorities to take action. "Defenders continue to face harassment and fear for their safety when they speak out," the ICMM said in a statement. "This is deeply concerning for companies that are committed to human rights, openness and transparency. While we may not always agree with positions taken by human rights defenders, ICMM recognises freedom of expression and assembly as fundamental human rights."

## UNEP to support environmental defenders

As part of its **Environmental Rights Initiative**, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) announced that it will support the establishment of networks through which environmental defenders will connect, share experiences and information, develop and implement even better strategies to promote environmental protection.





## EU parties launch whistleblower award

European Parliamentary Group (GUE/NGL) will present the inaugural award for "**Journalists, Whistleblowers and Defenders of the Right to Information**" on 29<sup>th</sup> May at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Created in honour of the late Maltese anti-corruption journalist, Daphne Caruana Galizia who was killed by a car bomb in October, the award is for individuals or groups who have been intimidated and/or persecuted for uncovering the truth and exposing it to the public. The award aims to support and disseminate their

work in an effort to safeguard and promote the freedom of press and the right to information. The chosen winner will receive €5,000 for their work.

## Rule of law Index: Fundamental human rights diminishing around the world

More than 70 of 113 countries surveyed for latest **Rule of Law Index** report that their fundamental human rights are being eroded. The Rule of Law Index measures rule of law adherence in 113 countries and jurisdictions worldwide based on more than 110,000 household and 3,000 expert surveys. Featuring primary data, the Index measures countries' rule of law performance across eight factors: Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, Fundamental Rights, Order and Security, Regulatory Enforcement, Civil Justice, and Criminal Justice. Countries in Western Europe and North America continue to top the WJP Rule of Law Index, followed by countries in the East Asia and Pacific region. On average, the South Asia region scored lowest.



## First OECD NCP case filed against MSI

In January, an Indonesian community rights group **filed** an OECD complaint against the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) with the Swiss National Contact Point (NCP) for breaches of the OECD Guidelines. It is the first NCP complaint against a multi-stakeholder initiative. Transformation for Justice alleges that RSPO failed to address complaints by residents in West Kalimantan, whose land was taken by the palm oil giant Sime Darby. RSPO is legally constituted in Switzerland.

## \$2.3m settlement reached through the Bangladesh Accord

In January, UNI Global Union and IndustriALL **announced** a US \$2.3 million settlement with an unnamed multinational apparel brand to address workplace hazards in Bangladesh. The settlement, reached through the Bangladesh Accord for Fire and Building Safety, offers reportedly the largest payment ever made by a brand to fix workplace dangers in its supply chain.



## Important 2018 events



### **28 May-8 June (Geneva): International Labour Conference**

#### **Conference committee topics**

- General discussion on effective ILO development cooperation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Violence and harassment against women and men in the world of work
- Recurrent discussion on strategic objective of social dialogue & tripartism (follow-up to ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization)
- Abrogation of Conventions Nos 21, 50, 64, 65, 86 & 104 & withdrawal of Recommendations 7, 61 & 62

### **20-21 June (Paris): OECD Forum on Responsible Business Conduct**

- Click [here](#) to see programme outline

### **13-14 September (Atlanta): IOE-USCIB-USCC "10<sup>th</sup> Atlanta Business & Human Rights Conference" - hosted by Coca-Cola**

- IOE, USCIB and USCC convene a two-day conference on "collaboration through partnerships to address business & human rights trends & developments"
- Contact: Peter Hall - [hall@ioe-emp.com](mailto:hall@ioe-emp.com)

### **8-9 October (Madrid): IOE Global Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals**

- Contact: Pierre Vincensini - [vincensini@ioe-emp.com](mailto:vincensini@ioe-emp.com)

### **15-19 October (Geneva): Fourth Session of the UN Inter-Governmental Working Group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises (UN Treaty Process)**

### **26-28 November (Geneva): UN Forum on Business & Human Rights**

- Central theme: "Business respect for human rights – building on what works"
- Click [here](#) to see a concept note and call for proposals

### **10 December: 2018 Human Rights Day & 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of UDHR**