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voice for business



## IOE-KAS business dialogue on human rights and climate change 13 December 17:00-18:30 CET

*Join us for a business dialogue on climate change and human rights –  
register [here](#)*

Awareness of the climate change-human rights nexus is not new and has figured in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) discussions many years, whether “explicitly” in references to human rights (such as in the chapeau of the Paris Agreement) or “implicitly” in ongoing workstreams relating to loss and damage, adaptation and resilience or with regard to the impacts of climate action (or inaction) in one country on another country. These issues have taken root in the UNFCCC, as well as throughout the UN system: other environmental treaties are relevant to human rights, and the SDGs continue to offer a multi-dimensional road map that combines energy access, employment, environmental stewardship, sustainable consumption and production and human rights in an integrated package.

The adoption by the UN Human Rights Council in October 2021 of a [resolution](#) recognizing the universal right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment will certainly add to the debate about what States and business should do to safeguard the environment and advance sustainability while protecting human rights.

Whilst not binding on States, this resolution will go before the full UN General Assembly and could well be the subject of further discussion and elaboration including the creation of ratifiable instruments. Regardless now of what States might do, this resolution will add additional expectations and complexity to continuing business efforts to tackle climate change, while protecting the rights of people. Business looks forward to exploring the implications of this at both the international and national levels with States, UN Agencies, and wider stakeholders. States will need help to balance the realization of this right as it has to with other competing rights. Businesses will have to redouble their effort to consider human rights implications of their businesses.

**In this context IOE and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) have developed a [paper](#) with business views and considerations on this timely discussion.** This paper also builds on the views expressed in an informal consultation IOE organised, with the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, in collaboration with KAS and the Global Business Initiative on Human Rights (GBI).

**IOE, together with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) is organizing a business dialogue for a broad audience of employers’ organisations, companies, policymakers, governments and international organisations on developments in the debate on climate change and human rights.** The dialogue will reflect on recent work of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, the adoption of Resolution A/HRC/48/L.23/Rev.1 and its implications for national policies and business practices. Please find the tentative agenda below.

Consider these guiding questions provided by the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights ahead of the dialogue which can be used to structure and orient your input and feedback:

1. What is the role of States in ensuring/encouraging businesses to take climate change seriously?

2. What kind of policy frameworks are needed and are there existing best practices?
3. What needs to happen in companies to ensure greater integration and links between environmental and human rights practice and due diligence?

We invite you to join us at this consultation and provide your inputs and views on this policy agenda as it is important we have a strong and informed perspective from the private sector.

## **Agenda**

*Moderation – Matthias Thorns, IOE Deputy Secretary-General*

*Welcome remarks – Roberto Suárez Santos, IOE Secretary General*

*Opening remarks – Andrea Ostheimer, Director KAS NY Office*

*Introductory context – Brent Wilton, Director of Tūhana Business & Human Rights Limited and former Global Director Human and workplace rights at The Coca-Cola Company*

*Framing remarks – Fernanda Hopenhaym, United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights*

*Moderated panel discussion with individual questions for speakers*

- Ron Popper, CEO GBI
- Norine Kennedy, Senior VP of Policy and Global Strategy at the United States Council for International Business (USCIB)
- Angela Kariuki, Programme Management Officer, UNEP Law Division
- Kusum Lata, Programme Officer Mitigation division, UNFCCC

*Closing remarks – Matthias Thorns*