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## PRESENTATION EVENT

### *“Shaping the future of Business and Human Rights”*

## FUTURE IOE CENTER ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT

14:00-15:30 (CEST, UTC+2) ON 12 DECEMBER 2022 | VIRTUAL

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French, Spanish and English interpretation available

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### Background

Enterprises are under growing pressure to run their businesses in alignment with internationally recognised principles and standards on human rights. New mandatory human rights due diligence regulations and associated impacts are adding an additional layer of complexity over the already extensive requirements for companies. Against this backdrop, **companies of all sizes** face **important challenges**, especially micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and those with operations and/or business partners in countries with complex social/environmental challenges and State weaknesses.

One of the main obstacles for companies is obtaining **quality information**. There is a lack of reliable and up-to-date information and guidance from a business perspective on how to concretely integrate BHR requirements and safeguards on weak enterprise risk management, especially for business partners in complex environments; and how to anticipate human rights risk factors in difficult operational contexts.

### Presentation of the project

Against this backdrop, the **International Organisation of Employers (IOE)** is designing the creation of a **centre on Human Rights and Responsible Business Conduct** to promote respect for human rights in the framework of business activities globally. As a part of this, IOE is actively seeking **partnerships** to level the playing field, substantially inform and further incorporate employer and business membership organisations, small business associations and companies, including MSMEs, about Business and Human Rights (BHR).

The IOE centre aims at

- Strengthen the capacities of the **business sector** to integrate human rights as part of strategic decision-making processes
- Provide effective guidance to improve companies' preventive approach to managing human rights risks along value chains.

The centre is intended to benefit more than **150 EBMOs and hundreds of thousands of enterprises globally**. A particular focus shall be put on MSME support as this group faces specific implementation challenges. After identifying how to best strengthen the capacities of companies to integrate human rights due diligence as part of strategic decision-making processes and management based on information provided by the IOE

centre, companies will also receive support from their national employer organisations. This shall improve companies' preventive approach and management of human rights risks along value chains, potentially improving the lives of millions of rights holders. **Practical tools, information on existing BHR regulation, sample cases and general guidance** shall be provided to raise awareness and to support human rights due diligence and RBC of EBMO member companies at regional and local levels. **Partnerships** with other relevant actors will allow to build on existing knowledge and to bring best practices via the IOE centre globally.

**To present the project further**, IOE is pleased to invite you to its online launch event under the theme of "Shaping the future of Business and Human Rights" on 12 December 2022 from 14:00 to 15:30 CEST. Please register via [this link](#).

## Agenda

14:00 – 14:10	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr Roberto Suárez Santos</b>, IOE Secretary-General</li> </ul>
14:10 – 14:25	<b>Keynote Speech</b>
(5 min each)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr Gilbert F. Hounbo</b>, ILO Director-General (recorded statement)</li> <li>• <b>Mr Volker Türk</b>, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (recorded statement)</li> <li>• <b>Dr Anna Lührmann</b>, Minister of State for Europe and Climate at the German Federal Foreign Office</li> </ul>
14:25 – 14:40	<b>Presentation of the IOE Centre of Excellence on RBC and BHR</b>
(7 min each)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr Matthias Thorns</b>, IOE Deputy Secretary-General</li> <li>• <b>Mr Dante Pesce</b>, IOE Senior Strategic Adviser on Responsible Business Conduct and Human Rights and former member of UN Working Group on business and human rights</li> </ul>
14:40 – 15:20	<b>From regional to global: Shaping the Future of Business and Human Rights</b>
(6 min each)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms Renate Hornung-Draus</b>, Managing Director, Economic and International Affairs, BDA (Germany)</li> <li>• <b>Mr Alberto Echavarría</b>, Legal and Social Affairs Vice-President, ANDI (Colombia)</li> <li>• <b>Mr Hariyadi B. Sukamdani</b>, Chairman, APINDO (Indonesia)</li> <li>• <b>Ms Laila Slassi</b>, Member of the Bureau of the Responsible Business and Citizenship Commission, CGEM (Morocco)</li> </ul>
	<b>Companies' perspective</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multinational company (<b>TBC</b>)</li> <li>• <b>Mr Niels Van den Beucken</b>, CEO, Arte</li> </ul>
14:50 – 15:00	<b>Closing remarks</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr Matthias Thorns</b>, IOE Deputy Secretary-General</li> </ul>