



Follow-Up Statement:
United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights
4-5 December 2012, Geneva

As the oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues, IPIECA has been actively working on human rights across the industry for a decade. Our achievements include a [library of good practice guidance](#) on business and human rights for the oil and gas industry.

In response to the Human Rights Council's endorsement of the UN Guiding Principles (GPs), IPIECA launched a three-year initiative on business and human rights. The project provides a forum for peer learning so that companies can share practical experiences to address common challenges, and engage in constructive dialogue with civil society and other external stakeholders on issues of mutual interest.

The initiative also produces authoritative guidance on implementation of the GPs tailored for the oil and gas industry. The first publications, launched at the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights Annual Forum, were developed through a collaborative process drawing from the collective experience of IPIECA members:

- **Human Rights Due Diligence Process: Practical Implementation Guide** clarifies and describes the due diligence process for managing potential human rights issues and impacts across the lifecycle of an oil and gas operation.
- **Good Practice Survey: Operational Level Grievance Mechanisms** draws together key insights on designing and implementing community grievance mechanisms. The Survey will inform a series of pilot projects sponsored by member companies to test different approaches to implementation on the ground.
- **Human Rights Training Tool** (third edition) provides awareness training on human rights issues in the workplace relevant to employees, suppliers/contractors, provision of security, and community engagement.

IPIECA takes a practical, experience-based approach to the implementation of the GPs and our ongoing work is informed by external expertise. We also have welcomed the opportunity to contribute to initiatives such the Oil & Gas Sector Advisory Group for the development of sector guidance under the European Commission's Corporate Social Responsibility policy.

IPIECA supports a balanced approach to implementation of the GPs. We place due emphasis on the State Duty to Protect, as well as the Corporate Responsibility to Respect, to reinforce the differentiated, but complementary responsibilities of states and business and create a level playing field for national and international companies. We also encourage the UN Human Rights Council and UN Working Group to take further measures to help host governments develop their capacity to exercise their Duty to Protect. Some of the measures may include (i) creating effective legislature and independent judicial branches; (ii) encouraging governments to recognizing and implement international human rights conventions; (iii) raising awareness among public servants on human rights issues. With our operational experience of business and human rights challenges and opportunities, IPIECA remains accessible to provide technical knowledge and participate in consultations on the State Duty to Protect.

In the final session at the UN Annual Forum, it was noted that some of the best uptake of the GPs so far has been by collective entities, including industry associations. As IPIECA, we appreciate the acknowledgement of the role industry groups play in guiding their members, and we look forward to future opportunities to represent the corporate pillar in robust multi-stakeholder dialogues.

For further information, please contact roper.cleland@ipecica.org or visit www.ipecica.org/human-rights.