

**Third Annual UN Forum on Business and Human Rights****Concept Note for Panel on “Human Rights Implications of Indirect Sourcing Practices in Global Supply Chain”**

**Date:** Monday 2 December 2014  
**Venue:** Room IX  
**Time:** 11.45 – 13.45

**Session Description and Purpose:**

This panel explores the human rights implications of indirect sourcing practices. Indirect sourcing refers to the reliance on subcontractors and agents in a manner that is not transparent to buyers or regulators. The panel will assess current sourcing practices in different industries (garments, shipping etc.) discuss how these practices create systemic human rights risks, and examine ways to address these challenges.

The objective of the side event is to encourage a debate over how indirect sourcing models play out in different industries and what can be done to address the human rights risks that are raised by current sourcing models.

**Target Audience:**

The panel will be aimed at a diverse audience. We hope to encourage engagement from corporate representatives in different industries who manage or are responsible for addressing risks in global supply chains. We will also aim to engage with policy-makers who define the regulatory frameworks of production in global supply chains. And we also will encourage input from supply chain experts in civil society and academia to inform our thinking of this solutions-oriented discussion.

**Speakers:**

All panelists have a strong background in human rights and global supply chains in different industries -

- Marcela Manubens, Global Vice President for Social Impact at Unilever
- Auret van Heerden, Founder, Equiception
- Dorothee Baumann-Pauly, Research Director, NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights
- Tatiana Stotz, Programme Manager, IMPA ACT

**Structure:**

This side panel discussion will be moderated by Sarah Labowitz, the Co-Director of the Stern Center for Business and Human Rights. Speakers will be introduced and the moderator will then facilitate a discussion among the panel participants as well as between the panel and the audience over questions related to the systematic human rights challenges in global supply chains in different industries. The session will be participatory and interactive.

**Organization:**

The Center for Business and Human Rights at NYU Stern School of Business is the principal organizer of this side panel discussion. The Center was launched in March 2013 with a strong belief in the power of business to create positive change in society. In that spirit, the Center's mission is to challenge and empower companies and future business leaders to make practical progress on human rights. In April 2014, the Center published its first major report on the connection between business practices and working conditions in Bangladesh's garment supply chain. The report has become a useful resource for companies, labor and civil society groups, academics, and governments.

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