

Transcription of United States' NAP Statement 2016 UN BHR Forum

Mr. Addo, thank you for your leadership and that of your colleagues on the UN Working Group, including with respect to the guidance in the development of national action plans. This has been a very interesting dialogue and we've certainly heard some statements from fellow delegates that indicate a number of common experiences and common themes in the development and implementation of national action plans. I want to make four quick points concerning the U.S. National Action Plan on Responsible Business Conduct.

First of all, we've been involved in this process since late 2014, and we are close to completing the process and fulfilling the commitment made by the President, pending further interagency review. Second, I want to thank all of our external stakeholders who contributed so greatly to this process, particularly in the first several months, during which we held four public consultations and heard a great deal of important and relevant information from stakeholders, including business, labor, civil society, academics, and so forth.

Third, a number of colleagues in the room have mentioned lessons learned. One thing, to be quite frank, that *we've* learned in this process is the degree of internal engagement across all of government. There are a number of different departments and agencies represented here at the Business and Human Rights Forum, including the Departments of State and Labor, General Services Administration, Department of Homeland Security, and Overseas Private Investment Corporation. There are at least a dozen others who have been involved in one way or another in the development of the National Action Plan, and frankly that's been a process through which we've needed – in some ways – to socialize some of our colleagues who are less familiar with the UN Guiding Principles, less familiar with the OECD Guidelines, less familiar with the ILO Multinational Enterprises Declaration, and other instruments relevant to this process. The NAP has been valuable in terms of engaging those colleagues throughout the process, under the auspices and coordination of the National Security Council within the White House.

Finally, in terms of the ongoing work, I want to emphasize that while this National Action Plan process has moved forward, all of us across government, including the Departments of State and Labor and the others I've mentioned, have continued to be engaged in a robust fashion in a number of multilateral fora, including the OECD, the G7 and G20, the International Labor Organization, and at home, with respect to policies, projects, research and reporting, and other initiatives in ways quite relevant to the elements and the content of the forthcoming National Action Plan.

The work continues, and we look forward to remaining in touch and working closely with you and other members of the UN Working Group in the coming months and to learning from our fellow delegates' experiences. Thank you very much.