



Introduction to the access to remedy pillar

Parallel session

27 November

09:30-11:00

Organized by the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights.

Brief description: The session organized by the UN Working Group on business and Human Rights will introduce the Third Pillar of the UNGPs, providing brief information on state-based judicial and non-judicial mechanisms as well as non-state based grievance mechanisms.

Key objectives: The aim of the session is to introduce the third pillar to beginners in the BHR field.

Speakers:¹

- **Moderator: Jennifer ZERK.** Legal Consultant, OHCHR Accountability & Remedy Project.
- **Joseph WILDE-RAMSING, Ph.D.** Senior Researcher, SOMO & Coordinator, OECD Watch.
- **Richard MEERAN.** Partner, Leigh Day.
- **Bonita MEYERSFELD.** Director of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies and Associate professor at Wits Law School.

¹ Further information on speakers provided in Annex

ANNEX. SPEAKERS SHORT BIOS.

Dr Jennifer Zerk.

Independent consultant, legal consultant to the OHCHR Accountability and Remedy Project, Jennifer Zerk Consulting.

Dr Jennifer Zerk is a writer, researcher, teacher and analyst specialising in business and human rights. She has written extensively on international and domestic law issues related to the human rights impacts of business and her book “Multinationals and Corporate Social Responsibility” is widely regarded as a key text in the field. She has advised on a number of significant law reform and policy initiatives including, currently, as lead legal consultant on the Accountability and Remedy Project of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Richard Meeran

Head of International and Group Claims, Leigh Day.

Richard Meeran has been a Partner at London-based public interest law firm, Leigh Day, since 1991. Over the past 25 years he has pioneered human rights litigation against multinationals, which has led, through a series of cases, to the transformation of UK law on parent company duty of care and forum non conveniens and greater access to justice for victims.

Joseph Wilde-Ramsing

Senior Researcher and Coordinator, Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO) and OECD Watch.

Joseph holds degrees in political science and Spanish from universities in the USA and a doctorate degree in energy governance from Twente University (Netherlands). At SOMO since 2005, Joseph researches the impacts of corporations in the energy, extractives and public services sectors. With OECD Watch he advocates for effective corporate accountability rules and mechanisms and works with communities and victims of corporate abuse to hold corporations accountable and seek remedy.

Bonita Meyersfeld

Associate Professor and Director, Centre for Applied Legal Studies (CALS), University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

Bonita Meyersfeld is a human rights lawyer and academic. Bonita teaches, publishes and practices in the areas of international law, business and human rights, women’s rights and international criminal law. She is the director of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies and an associate professor at Wits Law School. She is an editor and chair of the board of the South African Journal on Human Rights and the founding member and chair of the board of Lawyers against Abuse. Bonita obtained her LLB (cum laude) from Wits and her masters and doctorate in law from Yale Law School.