

## UN Forum on Business and Human Rights 2019

Opening Plenary

***Statement by the Deputy Director-General for Energy and  
Climate Policy, Business and Human Rights, International  
Employee Rights and Employee Issues at the German Federal  
Foreign Office, Ms. Michaela Spaeth***

Germany would like to congratulate the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the organization of the 8<sup>th</sup> UN Forum on Business and Human Rights.

We would also like to express our continuous support for the work of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights and its many projects, be they of regional or topical nature.

The Forum is the perfect place to exchange experiences and knowledge about the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles in an international setting.

We are looking forward to sharing information about the implementation of our National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights.

I would also like to point to Germany's brief country report that will be available in the documentation part of the Forum and which informs – amongst other things – about our ongoing “monitoring” exercise which assesses the extent to which German companies already carry out Human Rights Due Diligence, with the potential to consider regulatory measures dependent on the results.

So this year's topic “Time to act: Governments as catalysts for business respect for human rights” is timely. The German delegation is composed of several different ministries and we are determined to learn from other states about their implementation of the UN Guiding Principles, and to share our own experience.

We also appreciate the participation of many stakeholders in the Forum, such as NGOs, business associations and academia, and look forward to a fruitful exchange.

Thank you.