

AGENDA

Consultation on the “Gender Lens to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights”¹

Conference Centre Varembé, Geneva, Switzerland
31 January – 1 February 2019

¹ The UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights (WG) is currently developing guidance on applying a gender lens to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). The guidance will form part of the WG’s June 2019 report to the Human Rights Council.

DAY 1: THURSDAY — 31 — JANUARY

- 9:15 – 9:30 **Welcome Coffee / Registration**
- Venue: Conference Centre Varembeé (CCV), Rue de Varembeé 13
- 9:30 – 10:00 Opening Remarks**
- Barbara Fontana, Head of Human Rights Section, Swiss Mission
 - Felix Kirchmeier, Manager of Policy Studies, Geneva Academy
- 10:00 – 11:00 Introduction to the project so far and format of the WG’s 2019 report to the Human Rights Council: Rationale, methodology, scope and structure of the guidance**
- Surya Deva, Chairperson, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights
- 11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee Break**
- 11:30 – 13:00 Women, business and human rights: Identifying key challenges and developing a gender-sensitive and gender-responsive framework**
- Moderation:** Harpreet Kaur
- Kick off remarks: Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky, UN Independent Expert on the effect of foreign debt
- 13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch Break**
- 14:00 – 16:00 Discussion regarding guidance on Pillar I: Recommendations to states based on challenges and best practices**
- Moderation:** Surya Deva
- Discriminatory laws, policies, norms and practices
 - Gender equality and women’s empowerment policies (SDG 5)
 - Role of state-owned enterprises and state agencies
 - Privatization of public services and public private partnerships
 - Public procurement
 - Women’s rights in conflict-affected areas
 - Vertical and horizontal policy coherence: data collection, monitoring and coordination
 - Gender-sensitive/responsive trade and investment policies and institutions
- 16:00 – 16:30 **Coffee Break**

16:30 – 17:30 **Presentation of Geneva Academy Paper: *Gender Responsive Due Diligence for Business Actors: Human Rights-Based Approaches***

- Joanna Bourke Martignoni and Elisabeth Umlaz

19:00 – 21:30 **Dinner - Restaurant Hotel Warwick, Rue de Lausanne 14, Geneva**

DAY 2: FRIDAY – 1 – FEBRUARY

8:45 – 9:00 **Welcome Coffee**

9:00 – 11:00 **Discussion regarding guidance on Pillar II: Recommendations to businesses based on challenges and best practices**

Moderation: Surya Deva

- Dealing with diversity in size, sector, operational context, ownership and structure of business enterprises
- Integrating gender in corporate policy commitments
- Gender-sensitive/responsive human rights due diligence
- Gender-sensitive/responsive remediation
- Responding to discriminatory laws, policies, norms and practices
- Dealing with gender equality issues in conflict-affected areas
- Prioritization of preventing and mitigating adverse impacts
- Engagement with gender equality initiatives (e.g., SDG 5, Women Empowerment Principles, OECD Due Diligence Guidance, ILO standards, voluntary codes, and responsible investment frameworks)

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee Break**

11:30 – 13:30 **Discussion regarding guidance on Pillar III: Recommendations to states and businesses based on challenges and best practices**

Moderation: Surya Deva

- Women and access to effective remedies
- Overcoming additional barriers faced by women
- Gender-sensitive/responsive adjudication of disputes by courts
- Gender-sensitive/responsive handling of complaints by non-judicial mechanisms
- Establishing gender-sensitive/responsive operational-level grievance mechanisms
- Protecting women human rights defenders

13:30 – 14:30 **Lunch Break**

14:30 – 15:30 **Consolidation of discussion and steps ahead**

Moderation: Felix Kirchmeier

15:30 – 16:00 **Closing of the Conference**

END OF CONFERENCE