

## UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights

### Consultation with States on the gender dimensions of the UNGPs

Palais Wilson, first floor conference room

Wednesday 6 February, 15:00-16:00

#### Introduction

In 2017, the Working Group on Business and Human Rights launched a project to assist States and business enterprises with practical recommendations for what it means to protect, respect and remedy the rights of women in a business context in line with the UNGPs. This Working Group will present the results of this project in its report to the Human Rights Council at its 42<sup>nd</sup> session in June 2019. The report will contain guidance to both States and businesses enterprises in relation to all three pillars of the UNGPs.

As part of the consultative process to prepare this report, the Working Group issued a survey/[open call for input](#), to which 29 States have responded to date. The Working Group has also undertaken a series of regional multi-stakeholder consultations (with two additional consultations planned for this year),<sup>1</sup> as well as thematic sessions during the [7<sup>th</sup> UN Forum on Business and Human Rights](#).<sup>2</sup>

#### Aims and objectives of the 6 February consultation

The Working Group would like to offer States an opportunity to provide additional input and share experiences on how to mainstream a gender perspective and pay attention to women's rights in implementing the UNGPs through national actional plans (NAPs) or otherwise. We are also interested in knowing more about policies and measures adopted by States in implementing the SDGs to achieve gender equality.

The Working Group would like to hear additional views, experiences and good practices of States relating to the questions listed in the [survey](#), including on issues such as:

- Gender equality and women empowerment policies (including as part of SDG 5);
- Role of state-owned enterprises and state agencies, as well as of public procurement, in protecting rights of women;
- Ensuring gender-sensitive privatization of public services;
- Incentives for business enterprises to achieve gender equality throughout their operations;
- Protecting women's rights in conflict and post-conflict contexts;
- Gender dimensions of risks and vulnerabilities for specific groups (migrants; indigenous peoples; human rights defenders);

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<sup>1</sup> Multi-stakeholder global consultation in Geneva, November 2017; Asia regional gender consultation in New Delhi, February 2018; Asian Pacific regional gender consultation in Suva, April 2018; Africa regional gender consultation in Nairobi, October 2019, Australia gender consultation in Sydney, November 2018; expert gender consultation in Geneva, January-February 2019; Latin America and Caribbean gender consultation in Mexico City, February 2019.

<sup>2</sup> During the 2018 UN Forum, the Working Group organized an interactive roundtable on "Developing a gender lens to business and human rights", focusing on five thematic areas: (i) Sexual harassment and sexual violence against women, (ii) Gender sensitive human rights due diligence, (iii) Economic inclusion and empowerment of women, (iv) Impact of trade, investment and tax regimes on women, and (v) Women's experiences of accessing effective remedies and defending rights. See: <https://sched.co/GZ7A> & <https://sched.co/GZ7M>

- Vertical and horizontal policy coherence to achieve gender equality;
- Gender-sensitive trade and investment policies;
- Access to effective remedies (both judicial and non-judicial) for women impacted by business-related human rights abuses; and
- Overcoming special barriers faced by women in accessing remedies.