



IPIECA, the global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues, welcomes the creation of the new UN Working Group on business and human rights. We are committed to engaging in productive multi-stakeholder dialogues related to business and human rights and appreciate the opportunity to provide suggestions on the group's thematic priorities and activities.

IPIECA encourages the Working Group to take a phased approach to the execution of its work, and to make practical use of the Guiding Principles:

- Advance basic understanding of the Framework and Guiding Principles more broadly and to all States concerning the duty to protect, and to all industries concerning the responsibility to respect.
- Convene and help facilitate international support to strengthen core public institutions at the national, regional, and local levels.
- Treat the Guiding Principles as an engagement mechanism to encourage and generate learnings, innovation, and technical know-how across a broad spectrum of stakeholders on managing complex business and human rights issues.
- Identify reoccurring human rights issues that businesses encounter, particularly in complex operating environments, and support a dialogue process of practical alternatives.

IPIECA acknowledges the importance of preserving the momentum and consensus that has emerged around the UN Protect, Respect and Remedy Framework in recent years. To this end, we hope that rather than attempting to elaborate precise sector or implementation requirements based on the Guiding Principles, the Working Group will use its mandate to foster a culture of cooperative effort around the implementation of the Framework.

We look forward to exploring opportunities for collaboration with the Working Group as its priorities and plans take shape. We wish the members success in their new roles.