

World Vision Submission to the UN Working Group on Human Rights transnational Corporations and Business Enterprises

Attn: wg-business@ohchr.org
Cc: humanrights@dfat.gov.au

World Vision recommends that the Working Group consider the following points as they promote and disseminate the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

- Prioritise State response and compulsory requirements of business. Including:
 - Ensuring that States conduct legislative reform to ensure corporate and government accountability (both in operations and procurement policies) for the protection of fundamental human rights throughout all operations (both domestically and internationally) in accordance with UN/international standards
 - Encouraging corporate law reform to expressly require business enterprises to respect human rights (in particular children's rights/labour rights/child protection), and to communicate how they mitigate risk of abuses and address and remedy of incidences of abuse
 - The revision of domestic judicial mechanisms to meet international standards to allow for access to justice for victims and remedies for breaches of human rights
 - Ensuring business compliance to uphold human rights standards in all operations, whether at home or internationally, of those of their suppliers and contractors (including sub-contractors)
 - Encouraging State promotion of voluntary mechanisms as well as consideration of legislative reform for businesses and corporations to uphold and report on human rights (especially children's rights/labour rights – both domestically and internationally) within their annual reports. The Working Group could assist in indentifying high risk areas, in which communication of actions are required, including, businesses operating in fragile or conflict states, and industries with high risk of human rights abuses, or businesses operating in or having supply chains linked to "hotspot" areas for forced or child labour (such as states with weak rule of law, or developing countries)
 - Ensuring that implementation of Guiding Principle 12 recognises trafficking and slavery offences (as per international definition, not just domestic trafficking legislative definitions which may not include labour exploitation as an offence).
 - States to uphold human rights standards for their business partners and suppliers.
 - Developing State-led guidelines and requirements for business.
 - Business responsibility to ensuring policy commitments, due diligence procedures and remediation processes for human rights impacts and abuses.
- Encourage, and as appropriate oversee, a multi-stakeholder approach to ensuring the implementation of, and adherence to minimum international standards by States and business, that include representative views of all stakeholders and rightsholders.