



B-Tech Africa Stakeholder Engagement – Developing the framework for responsible tech in Africa

17th February 2023, 1pm - 5pm EAT

Organizers: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in collaboration with the German Development Cooperation

Venue: PridelInn Azure Hotel, Nairobi

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Event Description: The B-Tech Africa stakeholder engagement is designed to be a forum for discussions on the policies, regulations, and measures required to improve the adoption of responsible and rights-respecting business practices and investing for Africa's technology sector. The focus is bringing together critical digital economy stakeholders - including tech companies, regulators and civil society – aligned to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles (UNGPs) on Business and Human Rights. Notably, the goal is to assess the unique challenges of African economies and outline critical stems that will allow for a deeper understanding of prevalent issues related to existing regulatory and policy constraints and improve company practice. Overall, the aim is to ensure that over time there is a clear path to achieving and implementing the UNGPs across businesses within various sectors and especially within Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), which form the majority of tech businesses on the continent.

Key Objectives

- Highlight the importance of implementing the UNGPs for tech companies in the region.
- Highlight the prevalent human rights risks that challenge regional business development in the tech sector.
- Discuss the unique challenges with implementing and enforcing the UNGPs in the region, including those relating to SMEs.
- Discuss the approaches that can be utilised to ensure adequate uptake of the UNGPs across all sectors
- Discuss accountability measures that can ensure the long-term sustainability of the UNGPs as an effective tool for safeguarding human rights and reducing risks for business within the technology sector.

Key Questions

- What are the key challenges and opportunities when it comes to implementing the UNGPs in the context of the technology sector in Africa?
- What are the impacts of digitization on business respect for human rights in Africa?
- What are the challenges and opportunities facing technology companies in the region, when it comes to rights-respecting practices?
- What are some of the effective approaches being taken by African technology companies, including SMEs towards minimising rights harm from corporate conduct?
- What are the challenges and opportunities faced by governments in the region when it comes to the State duty to protect against human rights abuse by enterprises, specifically as regards the

Programme

Activities	Presenter	Time
Arrival & Registration	N/A	1:00 – 1:20 pm
Welcome Remarks	Ephraim Kenyanito (GIZ)	1:20 – 1:25 pm
Introduction to B-Tech Africa project and the UN Guiding Principles	Abdul Abdulrahim (OHCHR)	1:25 – 1:40 pm
Multi Stakeholder Panel Session Topic: Discussion on the Implementation of UNGPs across various sectors in Africa (experiences, challenges and recommendations)	Catherin Muya (Article 19 Kenya) Claris Kariuki-Mwirigi (Kenya DoJ) Elizabeth Orembo (Research ICT Africa/ KICTANET) Victor Kapiyo (LawMark Partners/ KICTANET) Linet Kwamboka (GPSDD) Evonia Arina (UN Global Compact)	1:40 – 3:10 pm
Q&A Session		3:10 – 3:40 pm
Closing Remarks	Abdul Abdulrahim (OHCHR)	3:40 – 3:45 pm
Drinks & Networking	N/A	3:45 – 5:00 pm