

THE ENVIRONMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ROLE OF PRIVATE ACTORS**SPECIAL PANEL ORGANISED BY THE DANISH INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

23 October 2013, 13:30 pm – 15:30 pm, Moltke's Palæ, Copenhagen

INTRODUCTION

Businesses bring growth, prosperity and services that are necessary for poverty eradication and human development. At the same time, however, their activities potentially also have severe adverse impacts on people and the environment – and the people who are likely to suffer the most from the adverse effects of economic development are often also the ones who are least likely to enjoy its benefits. As such, global environmental challenges are closely linked with human rights questions related to justice and equality.

In 2011, the United Nations Human Rights Council endorsed the UN “Protect, Respect, Remedy Framework”. This is the first time that the role of companies has been comprehensively addressed within the international human rights system. The framework provides a roadmap for states and companies to address the adverse human rights impact of business – including environmental damage.

The Special Panel will present different aspects of endeavours to balance business investments, human rights protection and environmental protection, including the key challenges and opportunities for using the UN framework to promote a sustainable economic development with respect for human rights.

Time	Topic and speaker
13.30	Working with Private Companies, Human Rights and the Environment Mr. Allan Lerberg Jørgensen, Director, Human Rights and Business Department, Danish Institute for Human Rights
13:45	Protecting the Environment and the Role of Private Actors Mr. Jacob Fjalland, Manager, Mekong Programme and Low Carbon Development, WWF Denmark
14:00	Measures taken by Private Actors in order to Respect Human Rights and the Environment Ms. Malin Stavlin, Vice President Business Ethics & Social Responsibility, Vestas Wind Systems
14:15	Balancing the Promotion of Growth, Human Rights and Environmental Protection – the Efforts of Governments, as seen from a Development Perspective Ulrika Åkesson, Senior Programme Manager – Environment and Climate Change, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Embassy of Sweden, Thailand
14.30	Discussion and Presentation of Main Points Mr. Allan Lerberg Jørgensen, Director, Human Rights and Business Department, Danish Institute for Human Rights
15:30	End of Programme