



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



Side-event on National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights

19-21h, Thursday 20 November 2014

Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel, room tbc.

Context

In 2011, John Ruggie's Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights were unanimously endorsed in the UN Human Rights Council. The UNGPs established an international standard on the respective responsibilities of governments and corporations in protecting and respecting human rights. However, as highlighted by the UN Human Rights Council in 2014, "further efforts [are necessary] to bridge governance gaps at the national, regional and international levels". At the same time, the Human Rights Council identified national action plans on business and human rights as an important tool for promoting the comprehensive and effective implementation of the Guiding Principles and ***encouraged all states to develop a national action plan (NAP) to promote implementation of the UNGPs.***

Yet, to date only four states, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Denmark and Finland, have adopted NAPs and a relatively small group of other states, including Switzerland, Germany, the USA, Chile, Columbia, Brazil, Tanzania and Ireland, have committed to do so.

Objectives

The goal of this side event is to exchange views and experiences on NAPs between representatives from the Asian and European regions. Discussion should lead to new insights for participants on opportunities and challenges presented by the development of NAPs. Exchange of experiences between participants should also result in practical guidance on different approaches to the process of developing a NAP across diverse national environments.

Speakers

- Ambassador Kees van Baar, Human Rights Ambassador of the Netherlands
The Dutch National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights – process and lessons learned
- Mr Andrea Rossi, Deputy Head of Division, Human Rights Policy Instruments and Bilateral Cooperation, EU External Action Service
EU actions to support NAPs and implementation of the UN Guiding Principles
- Ambassador Rosario Gonzales Manalo, Representative of the Philippines to the AICHR [tbc]
[ASEAN perspectives on National Action Plans]
- Mr Rafendi Djamin, Representative of Indonesia to the AICHR [tbc]
[Perspective from the Indonesian context/government]

The event will be moderated by Claire Methven O'Brien, Strategic Adviser, Danish Institute for Human Rights and Main Rapporteur, 14th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights.

Dinner

A buffet dinner and refreshments will be provided for all participants.

Registration

ASEM Seminar participants may register for this side-event at any time before 20 November, via email (grace.foo@asef.org) or in person with the organisers of the Seminar.