

"Export Credit and the UNGPs: Challenges and Proposals"

Wednesday, 3 December 2014, 2.30 - 4.00 pm at room XXII, Building E
United Nations, Place des Nations, Geneva

Organizers: The Danish Export Credit Agency, Justiça nos Trilhos, ECA-Watch and GLOBAL CSR.

The UN Guiding Principles (GPs) identify the state-business nexus as an important area where heightened due diligence is expected. They call on states 'to protect against human rights abuses by business enterprises that receive substantial support and services from State agencies such as export credit agencies.' The GPs advise states to 'encourage and, where appropriate, require human rights due diligence by government agencies and the business enterprises that receive their support.'

In his opening address to the first UN Forum on Business and Human Rights in 2012, Mr. Ruggie identified export credit as an area where states are taking steps to prevent corporate-related human rights harm abroad. Mr. Ruggie highlighted export credit agencies' requirement that companies conduct human rights due diligence as a condition for public support.

The objective of the session is to explore state policy and practice regarding export credit and human rights, to assess ECA uptake and application of the GPs and to identify recommendations for continued improvement. This analysis is especially timely, as export credit agencies will consider modifying their approach to human rights due diligence in 2015 through the auspices of the OECD. An enhancement in this area would establish a valuable precedent regarding human rights due diligence for other state agents and agencies.

The sponsoring organizations will present a publication evaluating human rights practice by export credit agencies and their clients, making use of case studies involving exports that have received ECA support since the development of the GPs.

Panelists:

Moderation: Sune Skadegaard Thorsen, CEO, GLOBAL CSR

Export credit and human rights: the legal and policy context

Heike Drillisch, ECA-Watch (GegenStrömung - CounterCurrent)

Case study: Vale and Export Development Canada

Danilo Chammas, Justiça nos Trilhos

Karyn Keenan, ECA-Watch (Halifax Initiative)

ECA perspectives on implementing the UNGPs

Claus Primdal Sørensen, EKF (Danish Export Credit Agency)