

“Discussing case studies – Triggering change.”

Monday, 1 December 2014, 4.30 – 6.00 pm at room XI, Building E

United Nations, Place des Nations, Geneva

Organizers: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, German Forum Human Rights (FMR), GegenStrömung - CounterCurrent, ESCR-Net; in collaboration with the UN Working Group the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights

In this session, we will discuss two cases to explore the potential impacts of the UNGPs, the UN WG on B&HR and further Special Procedures of the HRC. The focus shall lie on an evaluation of past action on the one hand and potential for engagement to bring about positive developments on the other. The event shall help to identify how, in concrete cases, the UNGPs could be applied and add value to an ongoing discussion. While this short event will not allow to go into depth into all situations, we will focus on aspects of applicability of the UNGPs drawing lessons from each of the case studies. In doing so, all three pillars of the UNGPs shall be taken into account: the state obligation to protect, the business responsibility to respect and the access to effective remedy.

The case studies to be discussed will be the **Hidrosogamoso Dam in Colombia** and the **Tampakan gold and copper mine in the Philippines**. In all instances, more than one State is concerned, and the involvement by national enterprises, TNCs and export credit agencies will be highlighted.

Leading questions will be how due diligence expected from corporations and the states' responsibility to protect play out in the cases concerned in regard to the protection of potential victims. The panelists will identify how the sincere application of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights can contribute to a constructive debate and mitigation of conflict. Where damage has already been alleged, options for remedy under the third pillar of the UNGPs could be explored to identify effective ways to redress negative consequences.

Panelists:

Richard Howitt, Member of the European Parliament (Chair)

Phil Bloomer, Executive Director, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (Moderator)

Michael Addo, Chair of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights (Commentator)

Hidrosogamoso Dam-building project:

- Claudia Ortiz, Representative of Movimiento Rios Vivos, Colombia
- Juan Pablo Soler Villamizar, Representative of Movimiento Rios Vivos, Colombia
- Michel de Vivo, Secretary General of the International Commission On Large Dams

Tampakan Copper-Gold Mine:

- Representative of the Philippine delegation to the UN (tbc)
- Representative of the Philippine National Human Rights Institution (tbc)
- Jesus Vicente Garganera, NGO, Philippines
- Rene Pamplona, NGO, Philippines