

WORKSHOP FOR BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

UN GUIDING PRINCIPLES REPORTING FRAMEWORK: PUTTING THE UN GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS INTO PRACTICE

DATE: 12 NOVEMBER 2015 (THURSDAY), 9.30–17.00

VENUE: KONFEDERACJA LEWIATAN, UL. ZBYSZKA CYBULSKIEGO 3, 00-727 WARSZAWA

ORGANIZERS



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The aim of the workshop is to enable companies to improve their human rights reporting and risk management processes by:

- improving participants understanding of the implications for business of the Human Rights and Business agenda,
- familiarizing business enterprises operating in Poland with the **UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights** (UNGPs), which constitute the authoritative global standard in this field, endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council in June 2011, and
- familiarizing business enterprises with a practical tool – **the UN Guiding Principles Reporting Framework** (UNGP RF) - the first comprehensive guidance for companies to report on human rights issues in line with their responsibility to respect human rights as set out in the in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

The workshop will put the corporate responsibility to respect human rights into everyday language so that at the end of the day participants are confident that they know what questions they need to ask and provide answers to in order to “know and show” that their company respects human rights. It will equip and empower them to use the Reporting Framework to deepen internal conversations, identify gaps in performance and drive improvements in practice, as well as to build constructive and meaningful conversations with their investors, civil society stakeholders and those groups directly affected by their operations.

The workshop will be highly participatory (max. 25 participants), actively engaging participants and working with case studies and real and hypothetical examples of companies’ human rights reporting, in order to help participants fully understand the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the Reporting Framework and the opportunities they offer for advancing business respect for human rights in Poland.

Training provided by Beata Faracik, Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business and Julie Schindall, Shift, will be enriched with contributions by Dr Adam Bodnar, Polish Human Rights Defender, Kamil Wyszowski, Representative & Director General Global Compact Poland and Dan Bross, Microsoft’s Senior Director of Corporate Citizenship and Executive Director of the Microsoft Technology and Human Rights Center.

PARTICIPANTS:

The workshop will be useful primarily for directors and managers in charge of sustainability and CSR agenda, compliance, disclosure and risk assessment at the Polish companies and companies operating in the Polish market.

FEE:

The workshop is free of charge for participants.

CONTACT:

To find out more about the event and to register interest, please contact:

Beata Faracik, Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business,

E: beata.faracik@pihrb.org; M: +48 503 111 721

DRAFT AGENDA

BLOCK I - OPENING SESSION

1. Welcome and introductions.

BLOCK II – UN GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND BACKGROUND TO THE REPORTING

2. General introduction to the development, content and uptake of the UNGPs and the corporate responsibility to respect human rights. Key concepts.
3. Background on general developments related to human rights reporting - the EU Non-financial Reporting Directive and other regulations, investor pressure, civil society expectations - with a focus on the European region, and in particular Poland.
4. The relationship between UN Global Compact, UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and UN Guiding Principles Reporting Framework. Presentation of the Global Compact Poland Business and Human Rights Programme.

BLOCK III – UN GUIDING PRINCIPLES REPORTING FRAMEWORK

5. Process to develop the UN Guiding Principles Reporting Framework - consultation, research, oversight, uptake. Brief questions and clarifications.
6. The UN Guiding Principles Reporting Framework as a tool to advance business respect for human rights
 - Key features of the Reporting Framework
 - The Reporting Framework as a tool to improve business performance
 - The Reporting Framework as a reference point for governments and a means of helping companies implement the EU Directive and other reporting expectations.
 - Interactive discussion: questions, challenges, opportunities
7. Sharing experience: Microsoft
8. Case studies

BLOCK IV

9. Summary of ideas and participant take-aways

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Polski Instytut
Praw Człowieka
i Biznesu

The Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business (PIHRB), founded in 2014 as an independent, non-profit foundation, offers expertise in human rights and business, labour law and relations, social unrest management, stakeholder engagement and corporate social responsibility (CSR), as well as educational and awareness raising programmes. Our aim is to advance Human Rights and Business agenda and promote implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) in Poland through research and activities that influence the everyday practices of market actors. PIHRB also contributes to policy and legislation development with the aim of creating legal framework supportive of the improvement of the respect for human rights and sustainable development principles in the business context. PIHRB is a member of the CSR Committee, an advisory body to the Minister of Economy, and contributes to the discussions both at the national and international level (e.g. European Parliament). PIHRB also coordinates CSR Watch Coalition Poland bringing together major NGOs active in the CSR/corporate accountability field, the aim of which is to promote responsible and sustainable business conduct, as well as responsible consumer behaviour. More information about PIHRB is available at <http://www.pihrb.org>

Shift

Putting Principles into Practice

Shift is the leading center of expertise on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UN Guiding Principles, or UNGPs). Founded in 2011, Shift's team of experts works globally with businesses, governments, civil society, and international organizations to embed the Guiding Principles into practice. In July 2011, the UN Human Rights Council unanimously endorsed the Guiding Principles. This marked the successful conclusion of the mandate of the former Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Business and Human Rights, Professor John Ruggie. The Shift team was centrally involved in shaping and writing the Guiding Principles, and Prof. Ruggie is Chair of Shift's Board of Trustees. Shift experts also formed the core of the Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative at Harvard Kennedy School in 2009-2011. To assist business enterprises in meeting the challenges of the human rights due diligence as described in the UNGPs, Shift, together with consulting company Mazars, has developed the UN Guiding Principles Reporting Framework <http://www.ungpreporting.org/>, which has been recognized by leading business corporations, international organizations and the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights as an excellent tool not just for human rights reporting, but also for internal human rights risk management by companies. More information about Shift is available at: <http://www.shiftproject.org/page/who-we-are>