



6 May 2022

Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business
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Sygn.: PIHRB / 2022 / 24 / UNGC

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT

Period covered: May 2020 – May 2022

Dear Sirs,

Acting on behalf of the Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business, I am pleased to express continuous support of the Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business for the UN Global Compact and its ten principles.

With this commitment, we renew our intent to advance these principles within our sphere of influence and will make a clear statement of this commitment to our stakeholders and the general public. We also pledge to continue our participation in the activities of the UN Global Compact where appropriate and feasible, through e.g. awareness raising and capacity building efforts; sharing our human rights and labour rights expertise with other organizations; and other initiatives like partnership projects both in the country and in the EU as well as Eastern Europe and Central Asia region.

Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business (PIHRB): Basic information

The Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business (PIHRB) is an independent, non-profit and impartial centre of expertise on human rights and business. We work with government, business, civil society and trade unions to create welcoming and collaborative spaces for dialogue, learning and creative approaches that help companies do business with respect for human rights and further sustainable development.

Our aim is to advance Human Rights and Business/UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) implementation in Poland and beyond, by contributing through research and activities that influence the everyday practice of all market actors, policy and legislation development as well as educational activities, to improved respect for human rights and sustainable development principles in business context. PIHRB brings together a group of experts with advanced academic expertise and on-the-ground operational experience of working with human rights & business issues from variety of perspectives (public sector, trade unions, CSOs & academia as well as experience of advising business), who are recognized for their expertise in Poland and abroad.

PIHRB is convinced that only enhanced and open cooperation and interaction of all actors can result in most effective and fair solutions for all, and thus we:

- Raise awareness and improve **business** competencies in the area of human rights to help them understand what human rights are and how to respect them in everyday conduct (e.g.



presentations at business-oriented events, generic and tailored trainings and workshops on human rights in the business context, research, publications).

- Build capacity of **NGOs and Trade Unions** to enhance effectiveness of their action in the area of human rights and business (e.g. workshops, research, mailing list, publications, coordination of the CSR Watch Coalition). PIHRB has also co-initiated creation of the CSR Watch Coalition Poland, to create a representative partner for government in the area of human rights and business, as well as cooperates with international NGOs platforms like European Coalition for Corporate Justice and OECD Watch.
- Provide support to the **public administration** in efforts leading to introduction of legislation and policies promoting and supporting responsible business conduct (e.g. contributing to the consultations, research, member of the Group on SD & CSR, conducting social audits of manufacturing companies on behalf of (foreign) export credit agencies to help them assess the investment risk and leverage impact on the supply chain of their credit-recipients).
- Undertake **education and awareness raising activities** aimed at all stakeholder groups as well as youth, and to this end cooperate also with recognized academic institutions.

This Communication aims to present a general overview of key activities and projects undertaken by PIHRB in the past two years with an aim to advance respect for human rights in business and support the ten principles and mission of the UN Global Compact.

MONITORING and ADVOCACY

Since the beginning, UNGPs implementation is at the core of our attention, and thus **in the reporting period we continued to monitor the implementation of the first Polish National Action Plan for the Implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights 2017-2020** (adopted in May 2017 by the Polish government), **and later the second NAP for the years 2021-2024**. To that end we have used the requests for public information procedure to obtain information about the progress in implementation and plans for the future NAP. Therefore, we have put a lot of time and effort into the dialogue with the administration both before formal consultations started and also as part of the formal consultation exchange, and into activities that were to help develop a more progressive NAP than the previous one. These activities included sending letters with recommendations to selected ministries, developing the position and commentary of Polish NGOs (forming the CSR Watch Poland coalition) on the draft NAP 2021-2024 proposal, conducting consultation processes (deliberaterie) on two issues related to the NAP (topic 1, topic 2) and online poll (summary of results), the results of which were also communicated to the government administration. Additionally, article covering i.a. assessment of the 1st NAP implementation and the development process and content of the 2nd NAP has been included in the UNGPs 10th anniversary report published by the UNGC Network Poland (Raport Biznes i prawa czlowieka.pdf (ungc.org.pl) - page 43). More detailed information is available here and here.

Section on Human Rights in Sport founded in 2019 continued its research and advocacy work concerning improvement of the working conditions and respect for human rights of players, who's situation during pandemic became much more volatile. Apart from raising concerns, pointing to legislative and protection gaps and proposing solutions in formal communication with the relevant ministries, as well as proposing actions that should be included in the 2nd NAP, we have also contributed to workshop organized by Sport Institute for trainers equipping them with human rights knowledge and tools that can be used to enhance respect for their and players rights.

We continue to chair (since 2018) on pro-bono basis the **Working Group on Workers operating within Committee on Sustainable Development and CSR, an auxiliary body to the Minister of Funds and Regional Development** and contribute to the work of a **member of the Working Group on the**



Development of Non-Financial Reporting (prior to that we contributed to the work of its predecessors i.e. the Minister of Investment and Economic Development and Minister of Economy (2014-2015); with Ministry of Economy (2014-2015)). The WG has developed a draft definition of forced labour, which was approved by the aforementioned Committee and shared by the Minister of Innovation and Development with the Minister of Justice with recommendation that the legislation process is undertaken to respond to problems raised by the judges, police and prosecutors (2019). Additionally the WG has developed a toolkit for business on how to prevent forced labour in the supply chain, which provides not only guidance but also a set of very concrete, ready to “take & use” tools (2020) and promoted it via set of workshops organized in collaboration with various stakeholders under the auspices of PIHRB, ministry and WG itself.

Finally, as an **Electronics Watch Monitoring Partner** we continue to monitor respect for workers’ rights in electronics’ factories in Poland.

To enhance the impact of our advocacy activities we are active in the regional/global thematic networks and coalitions, with European Coalition for Corporate Justice and OECD Watch, being the key ones. To support their functioning we either engage in the specific thematic work (e.g. as a member of the WG on mHRDD) or contribute through engagement in the governance structures (e.g. as a member of the OECD Watch Coordination Committee).

AWARENESS RAISING & EDUCATION

Despite the continuous efforts of all the actors of NGO community, the level of awareness of human rights and business issues is still below the threshold that would allow fast and visible changes in the society. Though there are some progressive actions taken both by business and by public administration, there still remains an unproportionally big area of commercial, political and social life calling for grassroots involvement.

The centerpiece of our activities in late 2020 and 2021 was “Human Rights and Business – social dialogue post Covid-19” project. This diverse initiative was carried out on many levels: social and administrative (by piloting a new model of dialogue in three Polish cities: Częstochowa, Poznań & Przemyśl), advocacy (conducting a nationwide survey and developing recommendations for the government's National Human Rights Action Plan – more on the topic, below) and academic (through partnership with the University of Iceland and a seminar on youth participation). As part of the project we have organized two social campaigns aimed at raising awareness of workers rights and another one aimed at encouraging individual engagement in public consultations concerning BHR issues (and beyond).

One of the key outcomes of the project was the a new model of social dialogue, termed “deliberateria”, which – in order to enable others to use it as a tool – has been also described in detail (including methodology) in a dedicated publication.

In 2021, with financial support by ECCJ and Laudes, we have also embarked on an ambitious journey to prepare and publish – as part of “The Art of Human Rights” - the BHR fact sheets aimed at explaining in simple way what are individual human rights about traditionally and how they should be understood (and respected) in the business context. From feedback that we receive, it stems that they are slowly being picked up both by business but also academics, who refer their students to them. By May 2022 we have already prepared and published 36 of them. Each BHR Fact sheet dedicated to individual human rights comprises a comprehensive written fact sheet accompanied by a short, custom-made video and graphic, accessible on our website. The resource is available to anyone interested free of charge. We have also developed a Russian and English versions that will be made available to public in the course of 2022.

Following adoption in March 2021 by the European Parliament, by a majority vote, of the legislative initiative concerning mandatory human rights due diligence (mHRDD), in which it called on the European Commission to develop relevant strong directive, PIHRB carried out a number of awareness raising and advocacy activities in support of a strong EU law:



- we supported the #HoldBizAccountable campaign carried out at the EU level by the NGO and trade union communities;
- we encouraged Polish Members of the European Parliament to support the above mentioned EP initiative in the vote,
- together with the EP Office in Poland we organized the first seminar in Poland on mHRDD initiating a debate on due diligence and corporate responsibility, which was attended among others by Lara Wolters, MEP and a representative of the European Commission, Zofia Kerecsen.
- together with other NGOs, in a letter to EU Commissioners (letter to Commissioner J. Wojciechowski) and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, we expressed our firm opposition to further violations of human rights by dishonest businesses and the postponement of legislation, and called for the adoption of strong regulations.
- we have expressed our expectations to the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers as to their position on the file in the form of a petition and a campaign "Any time. Everywhere", that was widely promoted in the social media. It was also featured during the Watch Docs IFF organized by Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights. It's been our second appearance on WD IFF, after we contributed to an online debate on "Who governs the conversation about ecology?" in December 2020. '

After the proposal of the CSDDD was published by the European Commission in February 2022, we have also engaged actively in the analysis as well as advocacy activities aimed at strengthening the current draft, which has a major weakness inscribed as it departs from UNGPs on some core aspects of the HRDD. Those activities will be continued in 2022.

We did also organize a number of one-off events focused on particular issues that we wanted to bring to the attention of broader public, as well as contributed as expert speakers to a number of other events, for example:

- webinar on "Business conduct at times of war" organized in collaboration with the Y.Mudryi National Law University from Kharkiv, Ukraine in March 2022;
- In 2021 we have contributed to the OUT SUMMIT session on "The Advocate Model – how the corporate sector can advance LGBTIQ inclusion when it conflicts with local law or culture";
- In summer 2020 (2 July 2020) we organised a webinar with the Ombudsman, a representative of the relevant ministry and the Vice President of PIHRB entitled "Together against human rights violations. The National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights - what next?", focused on the effectiveness of the implementation of the first National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights and issues that should be included in the 2nd NAP for 2021-2024, and presenting research based recommendations presented in the "Baseline analysis of the current situation in Poland regarding access to remedies for business-related abuses." (PIHRB Report Series 1/2020).
- In June 2020, we have contributed as co-organizer and expert speaker to a seminar organized by Instytut Wydawniczy in collaboration with IGO, Le Monde Diplomatique edycja polska and Electronics Watch, focusing on Sustainable Public Procurement as an aspect of the CSR of the universities („Zrównoważone zamówienia publiczne jako element społecznej odpowiedzialności uniwersytetów).

CAPACITY BUILDING

Our capacity building work focused on both developing and promoting tools aimed to support business in its HRDD related efforts.



We continued launched in June 2020 initiative D&I Roundtable – a collaborative initiative inspired by Divercity+ and PIHRB and joined by a group of companies willing to improve their D&I practices. The cooperation, apart from knowledge and best-practices sharing, resulted in developing a publication: Diversity and Inclusive Culture Step by Step. A Practical Guide for Organisations, which was launched at a seminar in June 2021, organised in collaboration with the Royal Netherlands Embassy, Divercity+ and D&I Roundtable. The guide - which will also be available in Russian and English in 2022 - includes references to, among others, the practices of the participating companies. It is an important and inspiring read at a time when polarisation and exclusion seem to be gaining momentum.

Additionally, the first half of 2021 was dominated by a series of capacity building seminars carried out in collaboration with Shift within the "Valuing Respect Project" by Shift. The first 1.5 hour webinar "How do companies measure respect", provided an overview of the variety of tools and was followed by the in-depth workshops dedicated to particular tools which allow companies e.g. to estimate the risk of rights violations related to the business model or look at the quality of leadership and management. Selected recordings of the webinars are available on our YT channel.

We have also dedicated time to promote the HRDD tools developed to help companies address forced labour risks in their value chains. The core element of it was a half day workshop based on the guidance developed earlier by the WG on Workers led by PIHRB. The workshop "Identification and prevention of forced labour - tools for companies" was organised in cooperation with Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy and the Working Group on Workers. The recording is available on YouTube (Warsaw, 28.10.2020).

Capacity building and educational activities were also oriented at international organizations. In late 2020 OSCE has contracted PIHRB expert to co-develop and adjust trainings for OSCE staff on countering human trafficking and forced labour through responsible public procurement and run pilot trainings, as well as to develop new training module for senior staff.

During the reported period, PIHRB had also opportunity to support companies on commercial basis, in understanding the Polish operational context with respect to human rights risks, as well as in developing their own path to due diligence and taking the first step on that path - adopting a human rights policy, e.g. we have successfully supported through a series of workshops and guided learning leading Warsaw Stock Exchange listed company in developing its first Human Rights Policy and setting up first steps on the HRDD path.

As an Electronics Watch Monitoring Partner we are also engaging in building capacity of the trade unions.

Finally, we have carried out several – paid and unpaid - online workshops for NGOs and other actors focused on the recent legislative developments at the EU level, with an aim to enable them more conscious engagement in the public discussion and more effective engagement in various advocacy initiatives touching on it.

RESEARCH

Pandemic had no negative impact on our research activity, which in majority of cases was commissioned by external actors such as European Parliament, UNDP Istanbul or other think tanks and CSOs.

In 2020 PIHRB expert, Beata Faracik together with prof. Markus Krajewski of FAU university, was commissioned to undertake research and develop research based analysis on the „Substantive Elements of Potential Legislation on Human Rights Due Diligence”, which formed part of a broader research package Human Rights Due Diligence Legislation – Options for the EU” presented at the European Parliament in June 2020.

This was followed in summer of 2021 by research commissioned by UNDP Istanbul, for which the Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business coordinated a team of experts, including its own, to prepare a "Scoping study on the Status of the Implementation of the UNGPs on Business and Human Rights in Eastern



Europe and Central Asia". The conclusions of this cross-cutting document covering 18 countries and based on desk research as well as ca. 40 interviews were presented by the team already in November 2021 at the first expert session of the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights in Eastern Europe & Central Asia.

Additionally, in cooperation with the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights PIHRB has organized consultations for the region of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia devoted to the issue of investment treaties and their impact on respect for human rights. The report from the consultation, together with reports from other regions of the world, is available on the website of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

PIHRB expert was leading and editing the WG on workers developed Toolkit on how to identify and prevent forced labour (autumn 2020) as well as was commissioned to contribute with research to two publications of The European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI): i.e. „Normative Framework Guide – Responsibility of Businesses Concerning Human Rights, Labour Exploitation and Human Trafficking” and „Navigating through your supply chain. Toolkit for prevention of labour exploitation and trafficking.

Last not least, in 2020, research was undertaken for Make ICT Fair project, that resulted in developing briefs and presentations at sustainable public procurement events, but also in a dedicated publication by Faracik B. & Wrede J., Zamówienia Publiczne I sprawiedliwa elektronika. Poradnik dla uczelni wyższych (Public procurement and fair electronics. Guide for the higher education institutions.).

Current research projects include analysis of the challenges of the implementation of the forthcoming legislation concerning mHRDD in Polish legal system and practice of the administration and business, as well as engagement in pro-bono research legal network aimed to develop Model Contract Clauses to provide companies with a good and UNGP compliant model clauses that can be used in order to secure possibility of the value chain verification and increase level of respect for human rights. Several other minor research projects are also underway – all of relevance to the UNGPs and thus first two UNGC principles implementation.

The conclusions and recommendations drawn from our research but also broader expertise on what should be changed to make the business world more people-friendly had an opportunity to resound not only in Poland but also in other EU countries, Ukraine, Mexico or Korea. We presented them, *inter alia*:

- at the session of three European Parliament committees (DROI, JURI, INTA) devoted to human rights due diligence regulations, where a joint analysis of the PIHRB and the University of Erlangen entitled "Human Rights Due Diligence Legislation - Options for the EU. Substantive Elements of Potential Legislation on Human Rights Due Diligence" was presented (Brussels, 22.06.2020);
- during the Conference Roundtable at the 6th Global Business and Human Rights Conference, (Monterey, Mexico, 4.09.2020);
- at the 4th Kharkiv International Legal Forum - Business and Human Rights Forum organized by Y. Mudryi University of Kharkiv (PIHRB being one of the partners), (Kharkiv, Ukraine, 23-24 September 2020), which has already gained the status of a regional event (see below);
- at the World Human Rights Cities Forum 2020 in Gwangju Metropolitan City, South Korea where we presented together with Divercity+ a paper entitled "Redefined VUCA as the urban response to the post-COVID paradigm" (Gwangju, South Korea, 8.10.2020);
- at the 1st Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, organized by UNDP and OHCHR (Istanbul/Kiev, 23-25.11.2020), where the voices of our experts resonated both in the panel on gender and the panel on counteracting forced labour and human trafficking in CEE;



- at the session on Human Rights in Business in Central and Eastern Europe at the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights. The session was co-organized with UN OHCHR and Y. Mudryi University in Kharkiv (UN, Geneva, 18.11.2020).
- during a conference organised by the Polish OECD National Contact Point for Responsible Business on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of providing access to remedies by the OECD NCP Network (Warsaw, 3 December 2020);
- at the Vth International Legal Forum in Kharkiv (September 2021);
- at the first expert session during the 2nd UN Forum on Business and Human Rights in Eastern Europe & Central Asia organized by UNDP Istanbul and OHCHR;
- at a CEE-dedicated session during the 10th UN Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva, moderated by Beata Faracik.

We were also involved in discussions on ESG and actions that companies should take both in terms of non-financial reporting and the one started by the taxonomy during the debate Rzeczpospolita: "On the eve of a revolution - whether and how Polish business is preparing for changes in reporting regulations", and in other general public facing forums. Finally, we have also dedicated our attention to students - for the second (2020) and third (2021) time, the PIHRB was a patron of the ELSA Poland Right2Be Forum and engaged in the organisation of the debate on the influence of lawyers on the development of responsible business.

We regularly publish reports, policy papers, as well as articles aimed for general public with an aim to make this complex area more accessible to all. Some of PIHRB's experts articles and other papers include:

- "Business Conduct in Times of War. Report from the webinar", The Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University and PIHRB, March 2022
- Faracik, B., Szlendak M. „Drugi Krajowy Plan Działań na rzecz wdrożenia Wytycznych ONZ dotyczących biznesu i praw człowieka”, w M. Kilanowski (red.), „Biznes i prawa człowieka – 10 lat wdrażania Wytycznych ONZ dotyczących biznesu i praw człowieka”, UN Global Compact Network Poland, December 2021, p. 42-50.
- Faracik, B. „Krok po kroku”, w: M. Kilanowski (red.) „Biznes i prawa człowieka – 10 lat wdrażania Wytycznych ONZ dotyczących biznesu i praw człowieka”, UN Global Compact Network Poland, December 2021, p. 92-94.
- Faracik, B., Komentarz „Odpowiedzialność 2021-2022”, „Odpowiedzialny biznes – Kompendium CSR”, 25. Eds., December 2021, p. 4.
- The report from the consultation "Summary of the discussions from the consultation on Human Rights-Compatible International Investment Agreements. Report from for Central and Eastern Europe and the Central Asia region", Polski Instytut Praw Człowieka i Biznesu, Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University, 21 April 2021
- Faracik B., “Czy szacunek można zmierzyć? Narzędzia wspierające firmy we wdrażaniu należytej staranności w obszarze praw człowieka”, Personel & Zarządzanie nr 9/2021. (Is it possible to measure the respect? The tools supporting companies in implementation of the due diligence in the area of human rights” published in Personnel & Management professional journal for HR specialists).
- Co-author of the chapter on HRDD/Human rights in multi-author toolkit “Przewodnik CSR po bezpiecznym i zrównoważonym środowisku pracy” (CSR Guidebook on safe and sustainable work environment), Working Group on Workers, The Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy, March 2021



- Faracik B., „Korporacje nie mogą bezkarnie szkodzić ludziom i planecie” (Corporations cannot harm people and planet), [w]: Biznes odpowiedzialny w Polsce. Raport Rzeczypospolitej (Responsible business in Poland. Rzeczpospolita Report), 26 marca 2021 r., p. S11 ([PDF](#))
- Faracik B. & Irena Dawid-Olczyk, „Współczesne niewolnictwo. Jak zidentyfikować pracę przymusową i jej zapobiec?” (Modern slavery. How to identify forced labour and prevent it?) [w]: „Personel i zarządzanie” professional journal, 1/2021, p.44-51
- Bartosz Kwiatkowski (red.) et al., Podstawowa analiza obecnej sytuacji w Polsce dotyczącej dostępu do środków zaradczych w sprawach nadużyć związanych z działalnością przedsiębiorstw, PIHRB Report Series 3/2021
- Beata Faracik, Aleksandra Wardak (red.) et al., #deliberateria: przestrzeń do dialogu. Studium przypadku, PIHRB Report Series 2/2021
- Faracik B. & Wrede J., Zamówienia Publiczne I sprawiedliwa elektronika. Poradnik dla uczelni wyższych (Public procurement and fair electronics. Guide for the higher education institutions.), Make ICT Fair project, IGO, Le Monde diplomatique, KiP, November 2020
- D. Sadowska i B. Faracik, „Redefined VUCA as the Urban Response to the Post-COVID Paradigm”, The World Human Rights Cities Forum, Paper Series I, WHRCF 2020, The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law The Chonnam National University and The Gwangju International Center, 2020.
- Beata Faracik (red.) et al., „Praca przymusowa. Poradnik: jak ją rozpoznać i jej przeciwdziałać” (Forced Labour. Toolkit: How to identify forced labour and prevent it), Ministerstwo Funduszy i Polityki Regionalnej, September 2020
- Markus Krajewski, Beata Faracik, „Substantive Elements of Potential Legislation on Human Rights Due Diligence” (w:) Human Rights Due Diligence Legislation – Options for the EU, European Parliament Policy Department, PE 603.495, June 2020
- Bartosz Kwiatkowski (red.), Podstawowa analiza obecnej sytuacji w Polsce dotyczącej dostępu do środków zaradczych w sprawach nadużyć związanych z działalnością przedsiębiorstw, PIHRB Report Series 1/2020
- Beata Faracik (red.) et al., „Praca przymusowa. Poradnik: jak ją rozpoznać i jej przeciwdziałać”, Ministerstwo Funduszy i Polityki Regionalnej, September 2020
- Sadowska D. (red.), Różnorodność i kultura włączająca krok po kroku. Przewodnik praktyczny dla organizacji, PIHRB 2021
- Szymonek J., „Kultura integralności w cieniu COVID-19” [w]: „Personel Plus”, nr 9/2020, p. 100-101

We have also contributed to the expert’s debate held by national Rzeczpospolita newspaper, concerning ESG and incoming ‘revolution’ of regulations concerning corporations „W przededniu rewolucji – czy i jak polski biznes przygotowuje się do zmian przepisów dotyczących raportowania” held on 25 February 2021 ([Mini video-teaser of the debate](#); [Full recording of the debate](#)), as well as several radio interviews during which we have addressed questions concerning BHR and responsible business conduct trying to reach broader audience than just BHR experts.

MAKING THE REGIONAL VOICE HEARD & REGIONAL NETWORK BUILDING

PIHRB expert contributed to the creation of the Central & Eastern European Business & Human Rights Association, which has already sparked collaboration and peer-to-peer learning in the region. Association also supported development by the BHRRC of the CEE and Central Asia Resource Hub. Apart from contributing to the material on the portal, we have translated the core content into Polish and had it



translated into Ukrainian – the Polish and Ukrainian language versions of the portal will be available in the summer of 2022, stimulating further exchange and peer learning.

Additionally, co-founders of CEEBHRA have also successfully approached the Business and Human Rights Journal editors with proposal for a special issue dedicated to Central and Eastern European Region, which is to be published in 2023.

Network building in the region as well as broader awareness rising and capacity building was undertaken through a number of events bringing together experts from the region:

- In April 2021 we have organized in cooperation with the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights and National Law University from Kharkiv regional consultations for the region of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia devoted to the issue of investment treaties and their impact on respect for human rights. (links to report above and below)
- Also in April 2021 we have organized a webinar providing overview of the VRP tools.

We have also used opportunity to present CEEBHRA and CEECA RH at every possible event in the region, including International Legal Forums in Kharkiv or CEE sessions at the UN Forum on BHR or regional BHR Forum.

Finally perspective from the region was also shared during the 3 consequent sessions focused on developments in the CEE region held every year during the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights.

All events were delivered in English and translated into Russian to reach broader audience across the region.

We have also **co-organized and moderated sessions dedicated to the BHR developments in the CEE region at the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights in 2019, 2020 and 2021** in collaboration with the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights and Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University from Kharkiv, Ukraine.

We also did contribute to the sessions dedicated to gender issues and forced labour during the 1st and 2nd **Regional Eastern Europe and Central Asia UNDP Business & Human Rights Forum**, as well as presented the key findings of the research carried out in 2021 for the UNDP Istanbul – **the scoping study of the BHR implementation in the 18 countries of the ECIS region, as defined by UNDP.**

Last not least, we are undertaking efforts to ensure that also our day to day operations have smallest possible impact on our surrounding, e.g. we try to reduce the use of paper for office purposes and use only eco- and recycled paper, also for printed publications.

We will continue to offer our expertise in order to undertake variety of initiatives engaging different actors, shaping strong partnerships and promoting mission of UNGC as well as support companies to build their capacity in sustainability by following the ten principles of the Global Compact.

Sincerely Yours

Beata Faracik
President of the Board