

Sustainable value chains – Success factors for an internationally accepted binding standard

Concept Note – Workshop #1
6 May 2022

Success factors for the acceptance of an internationally binding standard on business and human rights

Time	01:15–03:15 p.m. CET
Languages	English with simultaneous interpretation in French, German, Italian, Japanese
Moderator	Anita Ramasastry, Professor of Law at the University of Washington, member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights

Let's talk about

Sustainable global value chains are of paramount importance for ensuring human rights and decent work for all. It is necessary to strengthen the rules-based multilateral system by setting standards requiring companies to respect human and environmental rights in their value chains. Taking account of the current momentum towards mandatory due diligence at national and regional levels, a coordinated G7 approach regarding the international debate on a binding and internationally accepted standard for business and human rights is crucial.

This workshop aims to give new impetus to the debate on an internationally accepted, binding standard on business and human rights.

What is the benefit of such a standard? What are critical success factors for achieving a broad international acceptance? How can the G7 get involved in a constructive way to support a solution-oriented and inclusive negotiation process?

Distinguished experts will present their ideas and state and stakeholder representatives will share their perspectives on the way forward.

Agenda

01:15 p.m. Welcome

Carsten Stender, Director-General, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

01:20 p.m. The next decade of business and human rights

Anita Ramasastry, Professor of Law, University of Washington, member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights

01:30 p.m. Panel: Success factors for the acceptance of an internationally binding standard on business and human rights

- Malgosia Fitzmaurice, Professor of Law, Queen Mary University of London
- Nicola Bonucci, Partner at Paul Hastings, former OECD General Counsel
- John H. Knox, Professor of Law, Wake Forest University, former UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment
- Olivier De Schutter, Professor of Law at University of Louvain, UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

02:20 p.m. Interventions: Building consensus towards an internationally accepted level playing field

- Ana María Suárez Franco, Permanent Representative to the UN, FIAN International
- Albert Kruff, Works Council at Solvay, European Works Council Secretary, Coordinator Global Works Council
- Kerstin Waltenberg, Volkswagen Group Compliance COO, Human Rights Coordinator
- Nanda Bergstein, Director for Corporate Responsibility, Tchibo
- Thea Lee, Deputy Undersecretary, U.S. Department of Labor (USA)
- Anousheh Karvar, French Government Representative to the ILO, G7 and G20, Chair of Alliance 8.7 (France)

03:00 p.m. Interactive chat with the experts

03:15 p.m. End of workshop