

FACT SHEET



8TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

November 24-27, 2019

1. What is the Forum ?

Established in 2011, the three-day annual UN Forum on Business and Human Rights serves as a global platform for stakeholders, such as states, intergovernmental organizations, businesses, labor unions, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, and affected right holders, to discuss trends and challenges in the implementation of the [Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) and to promote dialogue and cooperation on issues linked to business and human rights.

2. What does the Forum do?

Guided and chaired by the [Working Group on Business and Human Rights](#) (WG B&HR), as per the Human Rights Council resolutions [17/4](#) and [35/7](#), the Forum is the world's largest annual gathering on business and human rights. It gives the possibility to more than 2 000 stakeholders to network, share experiences and learn about the latest initiatives to promote corporate respect for human rights.

With the theme “Time to act: Governments as catalysts for business respect for human rights”, the 2019 Forum will focus on the need for *all* governments to demonstrate progress, commitments and plans to implement the state duty of protecting and strengthening accountability. Detailed information on this session is available at this link: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Forum/Pages/2019ForumBHR.aspx>

3. How to participate in FBHR sessions

In 2019, due to ongoing construction work and consequent space constraints at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, participation will be capped at 2 000 participants, on a first-come, first-served basis. Normally, **no more** than three registrations per delegation will be approved. The registration link is here: <https://reg.unog.ch/event/19366/>.

For **logistical** and **registration** queries, contact: registrationforumbhr@ohchr.org.



4. Indigenous Peoples and the Forum

Since the Forum's first session, every year, thanks to the participation and advocacy efforts of Indigenous Peoples, there is a systematic inclusion of issues related to Indigenous Peoples' rights in the Forum reports, as well during the country visits by the Working Group.

- So far two reports have focused on Indigenous Peoples:
 - [A/68/279](#): "Business-related impacts on the rights of Indigenous Peoples"
 - [A/71/291](#) : "Addressing the human rights impacts of agro-industrial operations on indigenous and local communities: State duties and responsibilities of business enterprises"

Other reports and documents by the Working Group on the issue of human rights, transnational corporations and other business enterprises, are available at this page: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Pages/Reports.aspx>

- **An Indigenous Caucus preparatory meeting** will be held on **Sunday the 24th of November**. Logistical information including: time, location and a draft agenda will be available here: <http://bit.ly/docip-fbhr8-en>

This Indigenous Caucus preparatory meeting represents a unique opportunity for indigenous delegates to meet, exchange information and experiences, as well as a chance to unify their voices for a better representation during the Forum.

- During their Caucus meeting, the indigenous delegates will:
 - put together joint statements, positions and recommendations;
 - discuss with the members of the UN WG B&HR;
 - benefit from a workshop on: "Guidance on ways to submit individual complaints procedures to the WG so that they can engage in discussions with the states".

The statements delivered by the Indigenous Caucus during the previous sessions of the FBHR are available at: <http://bit.ly/FBHR-Indigenous-Caucus-Statements>

The Indigenous Peoples Caucus statement from the 2018 session is available in French, English, Spanish and Russian at this link on the OHCHR website: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Forum/Pages/2018Statements.aspx>

- The participation of indigenous delegates to the Forum contributes to:
 - guiding the work of the Working Group when interpreting the Guiding Principles, in line with international standards on Indigenous Peoples' rights;
 - providing factual context for the implementation of the Guiding Principles;
 - enhancing the representation of and strengthening the link between Indigenous Peoples;
 - facilitating direct discussions with high-level decision makers and businesses.

5. Signing up to make a written statement

The Forum was established by the UN Human Rights Council “**to discuss** trends and challenges in the implementation of the Guiding Principles and **promote dialogue and cooperation** on issues linked to business and human rights”, in the form of “**interactive dialogue**”. This means that the Forum strongly **encourages representatives not to read from written statements** and **to engage with participants** in the different Forum sessions, including sessions’ panelists. If you wish to actively participate in an interactive dialogue, you will simply need to **raise your hand** and wait for the chair to give you the floor.

Please note all stakeholders are invited to submit brief reports on relevant legal, regulatory and policy developments at global, regional or national levels. Submissions will be posted on the Forum Webpage.

Written individual statements can be submitted via email before the Forum at: forumbhr@ohchr.org and will be published online on the FBHR webpage of the OHCHR website : <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Forum/Pages/SubmissionsImplementation2019.aspx> as well as on Docip website at: <http://bit.ly/statements-fbhr8> (Please do also send a copy of your statement to: documentation@docip.org)

6. Submitting complaints

Individuals or groups are invited by the Working Group to send information of alleged human rights abuses on the issue of human rights, transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

On the basis of such allegations, and where deemed appropriate, the Working Group will send a letter to states, business enterprises and others to draw their attention to the facts and to the applicable international human rights norms and standards, in particular the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Communications sent and replies received are published in [joint communications reports](#) and submitted to each regular session of the Human Rights Council.

Guidelines for submitting allegations to the Working Group are available on this page: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Pages/Submittingcomplaints.aspx>

In order to keep track of submissions, you are encouraged to use the online form available at: <https://spsubmission.ohchr.org/>

7. Applying for a “stand/table”

Registered organisations wishing to showcase information, tools and materials to other participants during the three days of the Forum may apply for a stand/table in the public space outside Room XX.

If you wish to apply for a stand/table, email registrationforumbhr@ohchr.org and cc in forumbhr@ohchr.org (subject line: “Application for a stand/table (market place)”) stating: 1. Your name, 2. Your organization/company, 3. Contact email & telephone number, 4. Details about the material you wish to present at your stand.

8. Badges and access to the Palais des Nations

All visitors must collect their badge upon arrival and enter the Palais des Nations via the Pregny Gate:

Address: Pass and Identification Unit UNOG Security and Safety Section Pregny Gate, 8 - 14, Avenue de la Paix, 1211, Geneva 10

Standard working hours: Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. - During the Forum, registration is expected to be **open on Sunday 25th of November until 7pm.**

In order to collect your Forum badge, you must bring: - Your passport and/or ID; - A copy of the confirmation of your registration (your “e-ticket”).

Queues for registration are common and participants wait in the open air, therefore you are strongly advised to be at Pregny Gate one hour before the session starts.

Luggage: You may bring only small-sized luggage into the Palais des Nations (e.g. computer bags, rucksacks and handbags).

9. More detailed information:

Sessions are held in Building E (access via Door E40). See map:

https://reg.unog.ch/event/18936/map?_=1537354385

For updates, please refer to:

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Forum/Pages/2019ForumBHR.aspx>

To listen live to public meetings held at the UN in Geneva: <https://listen-live.unog.ch/>

Useful information for indigenous delegates for example regarding the Indigenous Caucus, will be available on Docip webpage: <http://bit.ly/docip-fbhr8-fr>