

FACTSHEET



9th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATION FORUM ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

November 16-18

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 organisations, businesses, labor unions, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organisations, 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](#), [35/7](#), [44/15](#), the Forum is the world's largest annual gathering on business and human rights. It gives the possibility to more than 3 000 stakeholders to network, share experiences and learn about the latest initiatives to promote corporate respect for human rights.

With the theme " Preventing business-related human rights abuses: The key to a sustainable future for people and planet" the 2020 Forum will seek to reinforce the message that strengthening prevention of business-related human rights abuses – by learning from both good practices and from things that have gone wrong, as well as by addressing systemic gaps – can help to build a sustainable future for people and planet. Detailed information on this session is available at this [link](#)

3. How to participate? Registration and access to the Online Platform

In 2020, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the 9th session of the FBHR will adopt an online format. Online registration is necessary to attend the virtual session.

In order to register please click on that [link](#). For any **logistical** and **registration** queries, contact: registrationforumbhr@ohchr.org.

Once participants have registered via indico, an email from sched will be sent to their respective email addresses to create/update an sched account. Please note that by default the profiles will not be public, and participants who wish to appear in the public participation list, will have to select the option. Sched will allow participants to indicate their respective time zones, and therefore adapt the agendas to their timezones. Furthermore, sched will allow participants to link the account to their social media and also to create personalized agendas, which can be included to their respective calendars. The link to the sessions will be posted in the agenda in sched prior to the meeting.

Please note that sometimes emails from Sched end up in the spam folder, thankful if you could please check the folder regularly and inform the secretariat of the Forum if no email has been received within 48 hours from registration.

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>

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. Indigenous Peoples preparatory Caucus meeting

Two Indigenous Caucus preparatory online meetings will be held on **November 10th from 3:15PM to 6:15PM** and **November 13th from 3PM to 6PM CET**. Interpretation will be provided by Docip in Russian, Spanish, English and French and Portuguese.

Logistical information including the link and the draft agenda of each of the two meetings will be available [here](#):

First meeting November 10:

- [Register in advance for this meeting](#)

Second meeting November 13:

- [Register in advance for this meeting](#)

Reducing the meeting to three hours is the best option to ensure that Indigenous Peoples coming from all regions can access it at a suitable time.

Having two separate meetings allow to secure a period of seven days in between to draft the collective Statement that will be delivered on behalf of the Indigenous Caucus at the closing plenary of the 9th session of the FBHR.

These Indigenous Caucus preparatory meetings represent 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 have the opportunity to:

- put together joints' statements, positions, and recommendations,
- receive a briefing from the members Secretariat of the FBHR and from the UN WG B&HR and

5. Indigenous Caucus statement

The FBHR will reserve a slot for a representative from the Indigenous Caucus to read a collective statement from the Indigenous Caucus at the closing plenary. This statement should be submitted to forumbhr@ohchr.org with CC to mgarciatorrente@ohchr.org, under the following format:

Deadline for submission: 17 november COB

Format: Video (duration: 3min) and written

Additional individual statements can be sent to forumbhr@ohchr.org in advance. These statements will be published in the Forum webpage.

Guidelines on how to draft a Statement on behalf of the Indigenous Caucus :

- Maximum 705 words
- The statement should be linked with the main issue of FBHR 2020 "prevention" "governance"

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

5. How to engage with participants virtually?

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 to engage with participants**.

How to engage with participants virtually?

All the sessions will have a chat in which participants will be able to comment and pose questions, that will be then redirected by the moderator to the relevant speakers.

Signing up to make an individual statement:

Given the virtual format of the 9th session individual statements can be submitted under two different format (1) video format of 3 minutes or under (2) written format, via email at: forumbhr@ohchr.org

Deadline for individual statement submission is 17 November. However we suggest that the earlier the better, as people access the Forum webpage more frequently before the session.

All the statements will be published on the [FBHR webpage of the OHCHR](#) website under the section “Statements and submissions” as well as on Docip website. (If you decide to submit your statement under a video format please do also send the written version to: documentation@docip.org)

The Working Group accepts submissions in French, Spanish and English. Russian and Portuguese speakers can submit their statements in their languages but will have to send a translation request to johanna.massa@docip.org

Interpretation

Plenary sessions will be interpreted in Spanish, French and English. Information on available languages will be provided in the agendas. The opening plenary will also have interpretation in Arabic, Russian and Chinese.

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.

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.

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 the submissions to the Special Procedures, you are encouraged to use the online form available at: <https://spsubmission.ohchr.org/>

9. More detailed information:

Due to the virtual format of the Forum, the Working Group has not issued a general call for session proposals this year and there will be fewer sessions than in previous years. However, the virtual format represents an opportunity to extend the global reach of the Forum and to open it up to even more stakeholders.

For updates on the 9th session of the FBHR please refer to the [official Webpage](#)

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-fbhr9-en>