



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: wg-business@ohchr.org - registry@ohchr.org

Mandate of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises

UNITED NATIONS WORKING GROUP ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

VISIT TO BRAZIL, 7 – 16 DECEMBER 2015

Background / Mandate

The Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (Working Group on Business and Human Rights) is composed of five experts and was established by the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2011 with a mandate to promote the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

The Guiding Principles, endorsed by the Human Rights Council in 2011, elaborate the implications of existing international human rights standards and practices for States and businesses and lay out their respective obligations and responsibilities to prevent and protect against human rights abuse, including through ensuring that persons and communities that suffer negative human rights impacts from business related activities have access to effective remedies.

The Working Group is mandated to undertake country visits that are designed to support efforts at national level to prevent and strengthen the protection against human rights abuses related to the activities of business enterprises. The visits also inform the Working Group's efforts to identify, exchange and promote good practices and lessons learned on the implementation of the Guiding Principles and to make recommendations thereon, including with regard to efforts to enhance access to effective remedies for those whose human rights are affected by corporate activities.

The Working Group will visit Brazil from 7 to 16 December 2015, at the invitation of the Government. The Working Group delegation will be composed of two members of the Working Group. After the visit, the Working Group will prepare a report on its findings to be presented to the UN Human Rights Council, which will include recommendations to the Government and other relevant stakeholders.

The visit to Brazil is one in a series of country visits undertaken by the Working Group. The Working Group has to date visited Mongolia, the United States of America, Ghana and Azerbaijan.

Activities

During its mission, the Working Group will seek to meet with all stakeholder groups, as per its mandate and methods of work. Overall activities will include:

- Meetings with Government authorities
- Consultations with business & industry organizations
- Consultations with civil society organizations and affected stakeholders
- Site visits and meetings with local stakeholders in relation to selected thematic issues

On the last day of the visit, on Wednesday 16 December, the Working Group will hold a debriefing meeting with Government officials in the morning followed by a press conference in which the Working Group will present preliminary observations from the visit.

Further information

The Working Group was established by the United Nations Human Rights Council in June 2011. The five members are Ms. Margaret Jungk (current Chairperson), Mr. Michael Addo, Mr. Dante Pesce, Mr. Puvan Selvanathan and Mr. Pavel Sulyandziga. The Working Group is independent from any government or organization. It reports to the Human Rights Council and to the UN General Assembly.

For more information on the Working Group, visit:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Pages/WGHRandtransnationalcorporationsandotherbusiness.aspx>

The text of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights is available at:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Pages/Tools.aspx>

The Working Group members who will conduct the visit to Brazil:



Mr. Pavel Sulyandziga (PhD in Economics) is a member of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and advisor to the president of RAIPON (Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East). In 1991 he was elected as Chairman of the Indigenous Peoples Association of the Primorskiy kray. From 1993 to 1994, Mr. Sulyandziga participated in the elaboration of a project on the preservation of biodiversity in the Bikin river valley, where he was responsible for project implementation. In 1994-1995 he participated in the project “Traditional Indigenous Crafts” funded by the Eurasian Club (Japan); he was Indigenous curator of the cooperative project on the preservation of the Ussuri Tiger; and in 1997-2000 he was coordinator of the Danish-Greenlandic Initiative for assistance to indigenous peoples of Russia. In addition, Mr. Sulyandziga was a councillor to the Governor of the Primorskiy kray on indigenous issues (1994-1997). In 1997 he was elected Vice-president and then in 2001 First Vice-president of RAIPON. From 2005 to 2010 he was a member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. He has been a member of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation since 2006.



Mr. Dante Pesce holds a Masters in Political Science from the Catholic University of Chile and a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University. He is the Founder and Executive Director of the VINCULAR Center for Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development at the Catholic University of Valparaíso, Chile (2001-currently), working in 14 Latin American countries in outreach, capacity building and advisory services related to sustainability and responsible business practices, including business and human rights, sustainability reporting, corporate sustainability strategy. His work involves interactions and projects with public sector organizations, private enterprises and business associations. He has actively collaborated in the development of international standards such as ISO26000, OECD Guidelines for multinational corporations and GRI G3, G3.1 and G4. Mr. Pesce is Special Advisor on Public Policy to the United Nations Global Compact, a Member of the Stakeholder Council to the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and a member of the Strategic Advisory Group within ISO26000. At a national level, he is a member of the Chilean Council on Social Responsibility for Sustainable Development which established Chile’s first National Action Plan 2015-2018. During the late 1980s he was actively engaged in the restoration of democracy in Chile and during the 1990s he was a grassroots NGO leader.

For additional information, please contact Mr. Ulrik Halsteen on tel: +41 22 917 323 or Ms. Natasha Andrews on +41 22 917 9269; email: wg-business@ohchr.org.