

POLICY MAKERS ROUNDTABLE



*Thinking Beyond Borders: The Role
of Governments in Optimising the
Impact of RBC Due Diligence Policy
and Regulation*

Mobilising development cooperation
and public procurement

8 MARCH 2024
OECD CONFERENCE CENTRE, PARIS

- **About the Roundtable for Policy Makers**

The Roundtable for Policy Makers provides a space for dialogue among policy makers and experts responsible for designing and implementing policies to enable and promote responsible business conduct (RBC). The Roundtable is forum designed to allow participants to exchange experience and discuss ways to effectively design, promote and implement policies and instruments to promote RBC, and to support policy coherence for RBC aligned with the [OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct](#) and the [OECD Recommendation on the Role of Government in Promoting RBC](#).

- **Date, time and venue**

Friday 8 March 2024, 09:30-17:30, Room CC15, OECD Conference Centre
Remote participation will be available through this [link](#).

- **Participation**

Stakeholders, including representatives from business, trade unions and civil society, will be invited to participate in the opening session to share their perspectives. The other sessions are for policy makers only. The sessions will follow an interactive format with opening interventions, followed by discussions among participants.

Officials from OECD and non-OECD governments, representatives from international organisations and experts are invited to participate.

Kindly [register](#) for the event by selecting on site or remote participation.

The Roundtable is held under the Chatham House Rule.*

- **Contact**

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* Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

DRAFT AGENDA

9:00 – 9:30

Registration and welcome coffee

9:30 – 10:15

Opening session and stakeholder perspectives

- **Welcome**
- **Stakeholder perspectives** by BIAC, TUAC and OECD Watch

SESSION 1

10:15 – 12:00

Due diligence policy design and implementation

Due diligence-related policy, including regulation, has been adopted in a number of countries, with due diligence requirements that extend along global supply chains. Getting these policy measures right can ensure that responsible businesses uphold human rights, labour standards and environmental sustainability in supply chains. Getting them wrong risks increasing barriers to supply chain participation, in particular for emerging market and developing economy firms. The purpose of the session is to exchange experiences on potential positive and negative impacts of such policy measures and implications for policy design and implementation to date, including the need for accompanying measures.

Chair: Christine Kaufmann, Chair of the OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct

Moderator: Allan Jorgensen, Head of the OECD Centre for Responsible Business Conduct

Part 1:

Evaluating the impacts of due diligence policy and regulation

Guiding questions:

- What changes have industries in emerging markets and developing economies experienced in the wake of the adoption of RBC due diligence policies and regulation?
- What opportunities result for emerging markets and developing economies from heightened attention to responsible business conduct in global supply chains?
- What challenges have emerging market and developing economy firms experienced in the wake of increased RBC expectations?

Part 2:

Implications for due diligence policy design, implementation and accompanying measures

Guiding questions:

- What concrete policy tools and approaches have optimised impacts of due diligence policy and regulation, specifically for emerging markets and developing economies?
- What lessons can be learned for future policy design?

SESSION 2

13:30 – 15:15

Mainstreaming RBC due diligence in government actions: the example of public procurement

While policies and regulations related to due diligence aim to improve sustainability in global supply chains by targeting business actions, they also have an impact on government activities. They can be a driver for mainstreaming RBC across government actions and advancing policy coherence. Public procurement is a key area of government activity that can signal RBC expectations to the market and incentivise change in global supply chains. The OECD Recommendation on the Role of Government in Promoting RBC calls on governments to apply RBC standards in their own commercial activities and ensure that relevant policies are coherent with these standards. The purpose of the session is to discuss policy coherence for RBC and experiences of how policies and regulations related to due diligence intersect with other government areas, using public procurement as an illustrative example.

Chair: Christine Kaufmann, Chair of the OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct

Moderator: Froukje Boele, Head of Public Policy, OECD Centre for Responsible Business Conduct

Part 1:

Lessons learnt from mainstreaming RBC in government activities

Guiding questions:

- What were challenges in adopting RBC due diligence policy and regulation, implementing it and creating guidance for other parts of government?
- What has been the impact across government departments so far?
- What are opportunities or synergies to collaborate with other areas of government in advancing RBC?

Part 2:

RBC policy coherence: the example of public procurement

Guiding questions:

- How have RBC due diligence policy and regulation driven policy coherence efforts, for example in public procurement?
- What are lessons learned from mainstreaming RBC in public procurement processes?

SESSION 3

15:45 – 17:30

RBC and development co-operation: enabling the synergies

RBC and development co-operation can be mutually reinforcing agendas. The purpose of RBC is to help align business conduct with sustainable development. Development co-operation seeks to support the achievement of sustainable development goals, including through leveraging private business and finance. RBC can be an important catalyst for these development outcomes, while development co-operation can support developing economies in meeting RBC and sustainability standards in global supply chains and financial markets. At its High-Level Meeting in November 2023, the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) therefore committed to strengthen promotion and application of OECD standards on RBC in development co-operation, as a priority for its policy coherence efforts. Likewise, the Recommendation on the Role of Government in Promoting RBC released in 2023 calls on governments to promote RBC in development co-operation efforts.

This session will feature an exchange on lessons learnt to explore opportunities and challenges for integrating RBC more systematically in development co-operation.

Chair: Carsten Staur, Chair of the Development Assistance Committee

Opening remarks: Pilar Garrido, Director of the Development Co-operation Directorate (tbc)

Guiding questions:

- What are participants' experiences on the interaction of RBC and development co-operation, where do they see biggest potential for synergies, what might be obstacles?
- How can development co-operation actors integrate RBC standards in their programmes in a way that enables local private sector actors?
- How can the DAC best support the momentum for greater integration of RBC in development co-operation?