CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS AND NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS FOR RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT OF LATIN AMERICA

12 July 2022

Based on the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), participants from National Human Rights Institutions (hereinafter NHRIs) and National Contact Points for responsible business conduct (hereinafter NCPs) of Latin America\(^1\) attended the first face-to-face regional meeting between the institutions. This meeting took place in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 12 July 2022.

The meeting was organised by the OECD and the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR). Participants recognised the importance of implementing the Memorandum of Understanding at the regional and local levels, in order to strengthen dialogue, coordination and collaboration between the institutions to promote respect for human rights in the context of business activities and responsible business conduct (RBC) standards.

To this end, participants agreed to joint efforts to:

1. Exchange experiences and technical knowledge on business and human rights, RBC standards and due diligence;
2. Advance in the development of awareness, promotion and training activities for stakeholders, including companies, state institutions, civil society, unions and community organisations in order to promote respect for human rights in the context of business activities and RBC standards;
3. Consider collaboration between the NCP and the NHRI (or vice versa) as appropriate, in the handling of cases related to business and human rights and RBC;
4. Coordinate and articulate initiatives and actions to contribute to the formulation and implementation of public policies related to RBC and human rights in the framework of business activities.
5. Whenever possible and in relation to points 1 to 4 above, seek to formalise collaboration between the respective NCP and NHRI at the national level through memorandums of understanding, establishment and participation in advisory bodies and public policies, as well as National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights, among others.

In this context, the participants from the NHRIs and NCPs of Latin America stress the importance of having sufficient human and financial resources to implement these lines of action.

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With the support of

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\(^1\) Participants included the NHRIs and NCPs of Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Mexico and Peru, as well as the NCP of Brazil, the NHRIs of Uruguay and Ecuador and the National Human Rights Council of Brazil. The NCP of Spain also participated as an observer.