

GLOBAL FORUM ON RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT

Draft Programme Outline

Thursday 18 June 2015

08:00 - 09:30

Registration

09:30 - 10:00

Welcoming Remarks and Opening Addresses

10:00 - 12:00

Developing a Long-Term Vision for Responsible Business Conduct

This high-level opening plenary will lay the ground for defining a long-term vision for Responsible Business Conduct on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises in 2016. The panellists will discuss how RBC can contribute to achieving major universal goals, such as those to be agreed under the post-2015 development and climate change agendas.

12:00 - 13:30

Lunch Break

13:30 - 15:00

Improving Access to Remedy

This session will discuss progress made in improving access to remedy for victims of adverse impacts from business conduct. It will also discuss the contribution of National Contact Points for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises in providing access to remedy and promoting RBC worldwide over the past 15 years, as well as recent measures to strengthen NCP functioning and the challenges NCPs face in engaging stakeholders.

15:00 - 15:30

Coffee Break

15:30 - 17:00

China's Approach to Responsible Business

This session will focus on recent developments in the approach by the Chinese government to promote RBC both in China and among Chinese investors abroad.

17:00 - 18:30

Responsibility in International Sporting Events

International sporting events involve large corporate sponsorship amounts and an intensely competitive bidding process for the host country. In light of the upcoming Brazil (2016), PyeongChang (2018), Tokyo (2020) Olympics and FIFA World Cups in Russia (2018) and Qatar (2022), this session will be an opportunity to reflect on the role and responsibilities of governments, international bodies and enterprises (such as IOC, FIFA and Formula 1) in ensuring that RBC principles and standards are observed throughout the organisation of such events.

18:30 - 20:00

Cocktail





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08:00 - 09:30

Registration

09:30 - 11:00

Corporate climate change reporting: what are the real impacts?

Increasingly, governments and investors are requiring companies to report their greenhouse gas emissions and climate change-related risks. This session will explore the impacts of current reporting schemes in triggering (or not) company action in reducing emissions and addressing climate change risks through their supply chains.

11:00 - 11:30

Coffee Break

11:30 - 13:00

Due Diligence along Agricultural Supply Chains

The nature and extent of due diligence is affected by factors such as the size of the enterprise, the context of its operations, the nature of its products or services, and the severity of adverse impacts. This session will explore the responsibilities of various types of investors and enterprises operating along agricultural supply chains and how they can collaborate with various stakeholders to carry out due diligence. The discussion will draw from the FAO-OECD guidance for responsible agricultural supply chains and feed into possible practical tools that could help implement such guidance.

13:00 - 14:30

Lunch Break

14:30 - 16:00

Preventing and Mitigating Adverse Impacts: Appropriate Responses in the Financial Sector

The session will explore how financial institutions can respond when their due diligence processes reveal a direct link to real or potential adverse impacts in the context of their investments (e.g. through individual engagement with investee entities, collective action to mitigate adverse impacts, or divestment). Panellists will share experience with successful response strategies and discuss challenges and limitations to response options.

16:00 - 17:00

Closing Plenary

This closing plenary will sum up the Global Forum discussions, with a focus on key considerations for moving the global RBC agenda forward, including the elaboration of a long-term vision for RBC.

Competition Law and Responsible Business Conduct

Both the UN Guiding Principles and the OECD Guidelines recommend the use and increase of leverage as a strategy to pressure other enterprises to be more responsible, e.g. by co-operation with other enterprises or by participation in multi-stakeholder initiatives. However, competition law may pose a challenge to this approach by discouraging collaboration for fear that such activity may lead to collusion. This session will discuss potential issues related to RBC and competition law, as well as recommendations for managing them.

Better Partnerships for Responsible Garment and Textile Supply Chains

This session will focus on re-defining partnership with suppliers and other business partners in the garment sector to promote responsible supply chains. It will address the opportunities and challenges facing buyers in moving towards strategic supplier relationships as well as the opportunities for non-traditional business partnerships to finance and promote continuous improvement in the sector.

Responsible Business Conduct in the Extractive Industries in Face of Resource Constraints

Recent research has revealed that even in the face of plunging commodity prices, extractive industries continue to prioritise budgeting for RBC-related activities. This demonstrates these are increasingly viewed as core business functions. This session will focus on the challenges extractive companies face and strategies they employ to ensure provision of adequate resources for RBC.

