



GLOBAL FORUM ON RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT
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Improving Access to Remedy

18 June 2015, 13:30 – 15:00
Room CC1, OECD Conference Centre

The National Contact Points (NCPs) have existed since the 1984 update of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (the OECD Guidelines). However, it was the 2011 update that strengthened their mandate and provided clearer and reinforced guidance for their functioning. NCPs are expected to further the effectiveness of the OECD Guidelines by undertaking promotional activities, handling enquiries and contributing to the resolution of issues that arise relating to the implementation of the Guidelines in specific instances.

The 2011 update of the OECD Guidelines was also significant in other ways. A new chapter on human rights was added, based on and consistent with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The update also clarified that businesses are expected to undertake risk-based due diligence on the actual and potential adverse impacts of their activities, including in the entire supply chain. This expectation includes activities linked to their operations, products or services by a business relationship. All businesses - regardless of their legal status, size, ownership structure or sector – are expected to behave responsibly.

These changes defacto make the Guidelines one of the few international instruments with a grievance mechanism under which NCPs are obliged to provide a platform for discussion and assistance to help find resolution for issues arising from the alleged non-observance of the Guidelines. This includes issues related to business and human rights. The availability of this grievance mechanism contributes to the implementation of the third pillar of the UN Guiding Principles on Access to Remedy.

The purpose of this session is to discuss progress made in improving access to remedy for victims of adverse impacts from business conduct. Panellist are invited to discuss the contribution of National Contact Points for the OECD Guidelines in providing access to remedy and promoting RBC worldwide, as well as recent measures to strengthen NCP functioning and the challenges NCPs face in engaging stakeholders.