

WEBINAR:

Recoding our understanding of Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) in science, tech and innovation: What's new in the OECD MNE Guidelines?

**Thursday 5 October 2023
17:00-18:30 CET**

AGENDA

Background

Science and technology continues to be a powerful engine driving prosperity and progress. With this dynamic growth, however, comes new challenges that demand the attention and collective efforts of the international policy-making community. Among these pressing concerns is the imperative to ensure that the impact of the sector aligns with OECD values. The OECD's work on responsible business conduct (RBC) and due diligence stems from the common values of the governments we work with on the protection of human rights, the environment, the rule of law, and open markets. The Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct (the MNE Guidelines) are the OECD's main RBC instrument. The MNE Guidelines were most recently updated and launched at the June 2023 OECD Ministerial Council Meeting. The chapter on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) has seen some of the biggest changes to reflect that with digital transformation, there is an increasing need for coherent government-backed standards on responsible development and use of technologies.

The purpose of this webinar will be to unbox the changes to the STI chapter in detail; to hear from stakeholders and policymakers on how the MNE Guidelines are already being operationalised; and to get expert views on the future outlook of RBC in this area.

Session summary

Introductory remarks and scene-setting – Allan Jorgensen, Head of the OECD Centre for RBC

Unboxing the chapter – Rashad Abelson, Technology Sector Lead, OECD Centre for RBC

Panel on implementation and expectations (60 mins, 7-10 mins per speaker)

Policymakers

- Eamon Gilmore, EU Special Representative for Human Rights
- Surdas Mohit, Director of the AI and Data Policy Directorate, Innovation, Science and Economic Development, Government of Canada
- Valerie J Santos, Foreign Service Officer, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, US Department of State

Stakeholders

- Pamela Wood, Manager, Human Rights and Supply Chain Responsibility, Hewlett Packard Enterprise
- Lucy Purdon, Senior Tech Policy Fellow, Mozilla Foundation
- Jason Pielemeier, Executive Director, Global Network Initiative

Closing reflections – Lene Wendland, Chief, Business and Human Rights Unit, UN Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Responsible today, sustainable tomorrow