

RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: *MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA & TÜRKIYE*



AGENDA

4-5 December 2023, OECD Istanbul Centre

Register here:



EVENT OVERVIEW

The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct are recommendations addressed by governments to multinational enterprises to enhance the business contribution to sustainable development and address adverse impacts associated with business activities on people, planet, and society. The Guidelines were updated in June 2023 to respond to urgent social and environmental priorities facing business and society today.

On 4-5 December 2023, we turn our attention to the MENA region as five leading economies come together to launch a new three-year regional programme on responsible business conduct (RBC), spearheaded by the OECD with the support of the governments of Germany and Switzerland. This will be the first project of its kind and offers a unique opportunity to identify step-changes in government and across companies to ensure responsible business conduct becomes a reality.

The first half-day will include a high-level panel of government representatives, followed by a session to gather stakeholder views from across business, trade unions and civil society. The second day will be framed as a workshop designed to distil priorities to help set the direction of the new programme.

MONDAY 4 DECEMBER 2023 (Day 1)

13:30 -14:00 Welcome Coffee and Registration

14:00- 14:25 Inaugural Session: Responsible Today – Sustainable Tomorrow

[This session will be streamed live]

The session will open the event and set the scene for the new regional cooperation on Responsible Business Conduct in MENA and Türkiye.

Welcome remarks:

- **Mr. Achraf Bouali**, Head of the OECD Istanbul Centre
- **Mr. Zekeriya Çoştu**, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Industry and Technology, Türkiye
- **Ms. Riccarda Torriani**, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Switzerland in Türkiye
- **Mr. Florian Burkhardt**, Head of Economic Department, Embassy of Germany in Türkiye

Keynote speech:

- **Mr. Yoshiki Takeuchi**, Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD

Master of ceremony: Ms. Damla Hacıbrahimoğlu Dabak, Policy Analyst, OECD Istanbul Centre

14:25-15:40 Policymakers panel: Why responsible business conduct? Why now?

[This session will be streamed live]

In this session, high-level representatives of the five countries will share their perspective on the role of responsible business conduct for sustainable development in the region.

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

Panellists:

- **Mr. Amr Noureldin**, Vice Chairman, General Authority for Investment & Free Zones (GAFI), Egypt
- **H.E. Zaher Al Qatarneh**, Secretary General of the Ministry of Investment, Jordan
- **Ms. Assia Bensaad**, Director of International Cooperation, Moroccan Agency for Investment and Export Development (AMDIE), Morocco
- **Mr. Ghali Manoubi**, Head of Investment Policies and Reforms Department, Tunisia Investment Authority (TIA), Tunisia
- **Ms. Zergül Özbilgiç**, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Industry and Technology, Türkiye

15:40-16:00 Coffee Break

16:00-17:15 Stakeholders panel: What are the priority areas for action on RBC?

[This session will be streamed live]

The session will feature an interactive discussion among representatives from businesses, trade unions, civil society, academia, and relevant international organisations to identify priority areas for action for the implementation of responsible business conduct in the region. This will be an opportunity for different stakeholder groups to highlight their priorities and frame their expectations for the next three years, taking into account the national and regional context.

Moderator: **Ms. Lena Diesing**, Policy Lead, OECD Centre for Responsible Business Conduct

Panellists:

- **Mr. Kemal Özkan**, Assistant General Secretary, IndustriALL Global Union
- **Mr. Ahmad Awad**, Chairman of the Arab Watch Coalition
- **Mr. Yasser Ahmed Hassan**, Director of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Office for Türkiye
- **TBC**

17:15-17:30 Wrap-up and set-up for next day

Briefly setting out the agenda for day two. Group picture moment.

Master of ceremony: Ms. Damla Hacıbrahimoğlu Dabak, Policy Analyst

17:30-19:00 Networking cocktail

Held at the 19th floor in the same building, the networking cocktail will feature the launch of the Arabic and Turkish translations of the updated OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct. The event also allows for participants and speakers from all sectors to meet.

Day one closing remarks:

- **Mr. Yoshiki Takeuchi**, Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD

TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2023 (Day 2)

09:00-10:00 Programme overview: RBC programme for the MENA region and Türkiye

In this session, the OECD Secretariat will present an overview of the RBC programme for the MENA region and Türkiye, followed by reactions and an exchange with the National Contact Points for Responsible Business Conduct.

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

Panellists:

- **Mr. Hisham El Shall**, Manager of the Technical Office to the CEO and **Ms. Naglaa Fathi**, Senior Investment Promotion Officer, GAFI, Egypt
- **H.E. Zaher Al Qatarneh**, Secretary General of the Ministry of Investment, Jordan
- **Ms. Assia Bensaad**, Director of International Cooperation, AMDIE, Morocco
- **Ms. Mariem Ben Rhaiem**, Head of Department, Ministry of Economy and Planning, Tunisia
- **Mr. Onur Ataoğlu**, Head of Department and **Ms. Nilay Camcı**, Specialist, Ministry of Industry and Technology, Türkiye

10:00-10:45 Dialogue on RBC experiences from Latin America

Since 2019, the OECD has supported the promotion of Responsible Business Conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean. This session aims to delve into the major insights from this regional programme, highlighting Chile's experiences and achievements.

- **Ms. Lena Diesing**, Policy Lead, OECD Centre for Responsible Business Conduct
- **Mr. Felipe Henriquez Palma**, Head of the Responsible Business Conduct Division - National Contact Point of Chile, Undersecretariat for International Economic Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile

10:45-11:15 Coffee Break

11:15-12:30 Deep dive: National Contact Points for Responsible Business Conduct

This session will focus on NCP priorities for the regional programme bringing together views of government, business, unions and civil society. The session will kick off with a brief overview of the five National Contact Points for Responsible Business Conduct, followed by break-out group discussions among participants on: What is needed for MENA and Türkiye NCPs? What is the vision for 2026 and how do we get there?

Facilitators:

- **Ms. Lena Diesing**, Policy Lead, OECD Centre for Responsible Business Conduct
- **Ms. Damla Hacıbrahimoğlu Dabak**, Policy Analyst, OECD Istanbul Centre
- **Mr. Dylan van de Ven**, Policy Analyst, OECD Istanbul Centre

12:30 Lunch

RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT IN PRACTICE: "NORDIC TALKS" AND "THE RBH NETWORK"

Special session (14:00h-17:00h)

[This session will be streamed live]

In the afternoon segment, we will explore best practices that focus on engaging various stakeholders to advance RBC and due diligence in the region during two discussion panels. These insights are drawn from real-world experiences, featuring contributions from both public and private sector actors. Furthermore, this interactive session serves as a platform for in-depth peer exchange and to facilitate meaningful conversations on RBC and due diligence. A coffee break will be held during the session.

The session is jointly hosted within the **Nordic Council of Ministers' "Nordic Talks"** framework that aims to share Nordic experiences and solutions and by the **Responsible Business Helpdesk Network** funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

14:00-15:15 Nordic Talks - RBC in Practice: Working with RBC in Global Value Chains

Moderator: **Ms. Rikke Therkildsen**, Regional Sustainability Advisor, Consulate General of Denmark in Istanbul

Speakers:

- **Ms. Cecilia Ekholm**, Ambassador for Sustainable Business, Swedish MFA
- **Ms. Berrin Postalcioglu**, General Manager, Ultimo Buying Office
- **Mr. Gunnar Tinjar**, Executive Vice President, East CCI of Norway
- **Ms. Burcu Duman**, Product and Sourcing Director, Hummel
- **Mr. Utku Varol**, Sustainability Manager, Sun Tekstil

15:15-15:45 Coffee Break

15:45-16:15 Responsible Business Helpdesks as Support Structures on Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence for Production Companies

Moderators: **Ms. Franzisca Markschlaeger** & **Ms. İpek Benek**, Technical Advisors, IGS Programme, GIZ

Speakers:

- **Mr. Thorsten Metz**, Head of IGS Programme, GIZ
- **Mr. Arda Batu**, Secretary General and Board Member, TÜRKONFED

16:15-17:00 Open Forum: Roundtable Discussions

**NORDIC
TALKS**

 **ROYAL DANISH
CONSULATE GENERAL**
The Trade Council in Istanbul



Norwegian Embassy



Consulate General of Sweden
Istanbul



Embassy of Finland
Ankara



Implemented by

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

17:00-17:30 Closing reflections and Next steps – looking forward to 2024

[This session will be streamed live]

The NCPs will share insights and takeaways from the NCP deep dive. Speakers will round off the two-day event by sharing what to look forward to in the coming year.

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

Speakers:

- **Mr. Hisham El Shall**, Manager of the Technical Office to the CEO and **Ms. Naglaa Fathi**, Senior Investment Promotion Officer, GAFI, Egypt
- **H.E. Zaher Al Qatarneh**, Secretary General of the Ministry of Investment, Jordan
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- **Mr. Onur Ataoğlu**, Head of Department and **Ms. Nilay Camcı**, Specialist, Ministry of Industry and Technology, Türkiye

Closing remarks:

- **Mr. Achraf Bouali**, Head of the OECD Istanbul Centre