



On the Horizon ▪ A l'Horizon ▪ En el Horizonte
A practical bulletin on what is ahead in the field of business & human rights
Issue 16 - 4 June 2010

This bulletin is prepared by [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](#) for our International Advisory Network, Academic Partners, and select others working in this field. It presents contributions from a number of experts & organizations, and is designed to keep all of us informed of future initiatives.

If you would like to contribute to our next bulletin planned for early September 2010, please send your announcement about an event, publication or initiative taking place after 7 September to Malena Bengtsson: bengtsson@business-humanrights.org. Please keep the contribution under 200 words. The deadline for contributions is 25 August.

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International

1. Consultation on IFC Policies and Performance Standards

After three years of implementation, IFC Policy and Performance Standards on Social and Environmental Sustainability and Policy on Disclosure of Information are under revision. The first draft of the revised policy documents is now available at www.ifc.org/policyreview for a 60-day consultation period. Stakeholders wishing to comment can submit written comments [here](#), through 31 July. Coinciding with the draft, IFC has also released its first analysis of the revised standards against the International Bill of Human Rights, in order to show the concrete relationship between specific environmental and social requirements and human rights, so as to provide better guidance to businesses on how to operationalise their commitment to human rights. The comparison matrix is a work in progress, and IFC would welcome stakeholder comments on the following aspects:

- IFC's overall approach to human rights
- The content of the Version I of the Performance Standards and Guidance Notes
- The comparison matrix and whether IFC accurately co-related rights to specific Standards
- How coverage of rights can be deepened to address additional dimensions of business impacts on human rights

→ *Contributed by Motoko Aizawa, IFC.*

2. Forthcoming DanWatch reports on impacts of timber, illegal fishing in Africa

Fishing report: A report from [DanWatch](#) in August will focus on the social and economic consequences of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing in African countries; the problematic aspects of international regulation; and the supply chain of the fish caught in African waters to the supermarkets in Denmark.

From the coast of Western Africa to the Gulf of Aden local fishing is affected by international industrial trawlers. Lack of international regulation makes this type of industrial fishing a profitable business, while developing countries lose several billions of US dollars each year. The fish are found in cans and refrigerated counters in European supermarkets without any indication of the costs and consequences of the fishing.

Timber report: You have been sitting on it - you have been walking on it. Hard tropical timber from Africa is imported to Europe for numerous purposes, but still the exploitation does not seem to benefit the countries in the Congo Basin blessed with this valuable resource.

Based on field research in Cameroon, a report from DanWatch to be issued in July documents how easy it is to discover illegalities in this still very unregulated industry and how both authorities and certifiers do not always live up to their responsibilities. The negative consequences for local communities and wildlife are obvious, while the positive impact on economic development seems harder to identify.

→ *Contributed by DanWatch. For more information visit DanWatch.dk or email Peter Bengtsen (peter@danwatch.dk) regarding the fishing report or Johan Seidenfaden (johan@danwatch.dk) regarding the timber report.*

3. Reports from As You Sow on apparel industry supply chain

Two reports examining approaches to and activities executed in supply-chain management in the apparel industry will be released by [As You Sow](#) this next quarter. The first, "Best Current Practices in Purchasing: The Apparel Industry" presents best current practices in corporate culture, designing and buying, forecasting, production management, and pricing. Featured companies are: Gap, Nike, Levi Strauss, Jones Apparel, Timberland, and Phillips-Van Heusen. The second, "Global Supply Chain Compliance: A Survey and Scorecard of Apparel Retailers in the U.S. Market", presents the findings of As You Sow's survey of social compliance programs implemented by the top 35 US-traded apparel retailers. As You Sow is a nonprofit that promotes environmental and social responsibility through corporate dialogue.

→ *Contributed by Katherine Kassing, As You Sow (katherine@asyousow.org). To read the report findings, visit us at www.asyousow.org.*

4. FIDH to launch guidebook on recourse mechanisms for human rights abuses

The [International Federation of Human Rights \(FIDH\)](#) will be releasing a comprehensive guidebook in early summer 2010 for victims and NGOs on available recourse mechanisms in cases of corporate-related abuses. The guidebook aims at providing victims and NGOs with an overview of existing recourse mechanisms with practical insights as to how to use these mechanisms.

The guidebook will be composed of various sections looking at international and regional human rights protection systems, civil and criminal liability of transnational companies, mediation mechanisms such as the OECD National Contact Points, how to use financial institutions' mechanisms and engage with shareholders, and ways to use voluntary commitments for greater accountability.

What can we expect from these mechanisms? What corporate-related issues have they looked into to date? Can a victim lodge a complaint to hold the home State responsible for violations committed abroad by corporations registered in its territory?

The guidebook aims to answer some of these questions, while providing practical information on existing recourse mechanisms with a view to raising awareness on the various mechanisms available to victims. It is hoped that the assessment of these mechanisms can serve to pave the way for future discussions on remedial mechanisms with one overarching objective: ensuring the right of victims to an effective remedy.

→ *Contributed by Geneviève Paul, Globalisation and Human Rights Desk, FIDH (gpaul@fidh.org).*

5. Report on right to land, by UN Special Rapporteur on Right to Food

The report to be presented by the [UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food](#) at the 65th session of the UN General Assembly in September will document the emergence of the right to land in international human rights law, discussing which measures of implementation are called for to ensure the full realisation of this right. In making the case for improving the protection of the right to land in international human rights law, the report will recall the current pressures on land, particularly as the result of the recent interest of investment funds and transnational companies in farmland; it will examine the protection of land users in their existing access to natural resources ; and it will discuss the conditions under which agrarian reform may be seen as a component of the progressive realisation of the emerging human right to land, when what we are currently witnessing is a massive counter-agrarian reform developing worldwide.

→ *Contributed by UN Special Rapporteur Olivier de Schutter.*

6. Launch of global clothing brand to end slave labour

In a campaign to end slave labour in the global garment industry, a new global clothing brand called No Chains will be launched on Friday 4 June 2010. The No Chains brand is the result of a joint idea of La Alameda, a cooperative garment factory in Argentina born after the social crisis of 2001, and Dignity Returns, in Thailand, formed of workers who had been fired from an export supplying garment factory in 2003.

The cooperatives plan to call other cooperatives around the world to join the brand, producing under their own management and sharing profits – showing that quality clothes can be made by free workers in good conditions, and supporting the fight for labour rights.

The joint launch will take place on 4 June, simultaneously by videoconference at 8 PM Bangkok time/10 AM Buenos Aires time. Besides a fashion show of the six T-shirt designs chosen in a worldwide contest, there will be videos, music and messages from No Chains members and other supporters.

→ *More information in English, Thai and Spanish is available from the websites of [No Chains](#) and [Dignity Returns](#). See also relevant news articles [here](#) and [here](#).*

→ *Contributed by Doris Lee, Asia Monitor Resource Centre (doris@amrc.org.hk).*

7. Call for comments on revisions to GRI company reporting guidelines

On the first day of the [Amsterdam Global Conference on Sustainability and Transparency](#), the Public Comment for the Human Rights, Gender and Community related thematic revisions of [Global Reporting Initiative's](#) G3 Guidelines – the G3.1 revisions – started and will be open until 23 August.

The objective of the Working Group process in the [Human Rights Revisions Project](#) was to build a strong consensus around a “state-of-the-art model” for reporting on human rights and to compare the current G3 against this structure. The group was specifically asked to review and make recommendations on:

- The appropriate scope for organizational reporting on human rights and whether it should go beyond the current focus of the G3 on workplace-related rights;
- The key aspects that should be covered in human rights reporting;
- How the reporting of human rights indicators could/should relate to the reporting on labour practices under the GRI;
- How performance regarding protecting rights should be measured and reported in terms of policy, process, outcomes and the appropriate balance amongst these elements;
- Specific indicators to address human rights.

Sustainability reporting practitioners and their stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback on the G3.1 content proposals via an [online public survey](#).

→ *Contributed by Gudrun Dohl, GRI (dohl@globalreporting.org).*

8. Nominations sought for World Business & Development Awards

The [World Business and Development Awards](#) have been recognised as one of the most important celebrations of business contributions to the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The deadline for nominations is 1 July 2010. This is a great opportunity to shine a spotlight on the extraordinary activities of innovative activities of companies that are contributing to development. Companies of all sizes and types are invited to participate by nominating a project that documents business activities leading to progress in one or more of the MDGs. The winners will be announced on 21 September in New York at a side event to the 2010 Summit on the MDGs.

For more information, including brochure, nomination form, press release and media contacts please click [here](#).

→ *Contributed by Ursula Wynhoven, UN Global Compact (wynhoven@un.org).*

9. “Making Human Rights Work for Business – Latest Standards & Guidance Tools” – New York, 25 Jun

At a side event to the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit, this session will provide an overview of the latest standards and guidance tools that are designed to help businesses improve their human rights performance at the corporate and project levels. It will be held at the Marriott Marquis (Manhattan Room), New York, 25 June 1:45-3:00 PM. Hosted by [IFC](#), [International Business Leaders Forum](#) and the [Global Compact](#), this session will feature the revised version of the Guide to Human Rights Impact Assessment and Management (HRIAM) and show how it will help companies:

- Better assess and address the human rights risks and impacts in their operations;
- Improve their human rights due diligence;
- Meet the new requirements in the draft, updated IFC Policies and Performance Standards.

Speakers will include:

- John Ruggie, Special Representative on Business and Human Rights;
- Motoko Aizawa, Advisor, Business Advisory Services Vice-Presidency, IFC;
- Graham Baxter, Acting CEO, IBLF;
- Ursula Wynhoven, Head, Policy & Legal, UN Global Compact.

This side event is open to all UNGC Leaders Summit participants.

→ To attend this session live on the web, contact Yann Wyss at ywyss@ifc.org. For additional information about the Guide to HRIAM: www.guidetohriam.org

→ Contributed by Yann Wyss, IFC

10. Leaders breakfast on business & human rights: The next ten years – New York, 24 Jun

This leaders breakfast on the opening morning of the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit is hosted by the [Global Business Initiative on Human Rights](#), the [Institute for Human Rights and Business](#), and the [Netherlands Network of the Global Compact \(GCNL\)](#), with support from the Governments of Switzerland and the Netherlands.

Mary Robinson (Chair of the Institute for Human Rights and Business, Board Member of the UN Global Compact and Chair of its Human Rights Working Group) will moderate a discussion on the evolving business and human rights agenda, and UN Special Representative on Business and Human Rights, Professor John Ruggie, will deliver remarks. The panel will include Ambassador Herman Schaper (Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations), Ambassador Martin Dahinden (Director-General, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) and Jamshed Irani (Director of the Board, Tata Sons). Paul Polman (CEO, Unilever) has also been invited to speak.

New publications for business will be launched by the Institute (a state of play review) and GCNL (a good practice guide) on the “Protect, Respect, Remedy” framework of the UN Special Representative.

→ Contributed by Joanna Clark, Global Business Initiative. For further information, contact: bhr.event@global-business-initiative.org.

11. Business in the Community seeks contributions to resource on Millennium Development Goals

Do you know a company whose core business or supply chain positively impacts the Millennium Development Goals? Do you know a business that implements strategies, manages projects or runs programmes in middle-income or developing countries that have positive social, environmental or development impacts? If yes, then you can contribute to [Business in the Community](#)'s forthcoming online Millennium Development Goals resource using the [Millennium Development Goals Case Study Template](#) and submitting your contribution to BITC by 26 June.

Case studies provide useful insights to the tools and techniques businesses use and the complexities businesses face in the UK and internationally as well as highlighting best practice and encouraging knowledge sharing and collaboration.

Selected case studies will be uploaded onto the online resource and will be available to a wide audience in order to promote the contributions companies can make when addressing the MDGs. The launch of the online resource will take place in the Symposium that BITC is organising in partnership with the UK Department for International Development, International Business Leaders Forum and BAA Ltd. on 29 June 2010.

→ Further details can be found in the [template](#).

→ For further information, or to submit your contribution (by 26 June), contact Eider Inunciaga at BITC's International Team (Eider.Inunciaga@bitc.org.uk).

→ Contributed by Eider Inunciaga, Business in the Community.

12. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre portal: “Children, business & human rights”

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will soon be developing a portal on “Children, business & human rights”. When we launch the portal, probably in early 2011, it will be the first global information hub on the subject,

providing practical information needed by NGOs, companies and other stakeholders to promote respect for children's rights.

The portal will bring together in one place information produced by NGOs, companies, Unicef, the ILO and others about positive initiatives by business, as well as concerns raised by civil society. Issues covered will include child labour, health and education and housing. The portal will also feature guidance materials that help companies understand and respect children's rights.

→ contributed by staff of Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (contact@business-humanrights.org)

Africa

13. Three initiatives by Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD), Sierra Leone

Diamond mining & displacement: A new report on diamond mining and displacement will be available at the end of June from Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD), at www.nmjd.org. It is the first in a series of publications by NMJD as part of its Campaign for Just Mining. Historically the operations of mining companies have been among the most contested by human rights and environmental campaigners due to the abuse of community rights, environmental devastation, poor working conditions and violent confrontations.

National dialogue on diamond smuggling and enforcement of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS): Civil society organizations from four countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone) have come together in the Mano River Union (MRU) Civil Society Platform to deal with ongoing KPCS implementation challenges in West Africa. Having identified smuggling and enforcement as priority areas for collaborative action, NMJD is preparing a report, which will be available on www.nmjd.org in July. The participating organizations' planned dialogue will:

- Support government officials, private industry, and artisanal miners in MRU countries to combat diamond smuggling;
- Generate national profiles related to smuggling for Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone;
- Prepare a presentation for the 24 June 2010 KPCS Enforcement Workshop in Tel Aviv; and
- Lay the groundwork for action to address diamond smuggling in the MRU countries.

The right to know: NMJD is working on simplifying the Mines and Mineral Act (MMA) 2009 and on a public education and information campaign. Further information will be available on www.nmjd.org at the end of June. NMJD's planned activities intend to get the public, especially human rights organizations and communities affected by mining, to hold government accountable for compliance with the Act and also to use it to protect themselves from abuse by corporations. The 2009 MMA has provisions for community consultations, environmental protection, health and safety, etc.

→ Contributed by Abu Brima, NMJD (abrima@nmjd.org).

14. Report on Chinese mining investments in southern Dem. Rep. of Congo

[unofficial translation by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre from the French original]

In the coming weeks [L'Action Contre l'Impunité pour les Droits Humains \(ACIDH\)](http://www.acidhrdc.net) will be distributing its new report, "Public and private Chinese investments in the Katanga mining sector: Good governance and human rights". The report, officially launched at a press conference on 31 May 2010 in Lubumbashi, will be distributed in hard copy to the national governments of the DRC and China and to local and national NGOs, and ACIDH will receive their feedback before turning to other partners at the regional and national levels.

→ For further information, consult www.acidhrdc.net.

→ To contact the organisers, email: acidhrdc@ic-lubum.cd or emmanuelumpula@yahoo.fr; or tel.: +243 997025331 / 997108022.

→ Contributed by Emmanuel Umpula Nkumba, ACIDH.

15. National Guidance Workshop on sustainable cocoa – Abidjan, 7-8 Jun

A special workshop will be held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 7-8 June, bringing together key stakeholders in the Ivorian cocoa sector to develop a Local Guidance document for certification of socially and environmentally responsible cocoa production, and to discuss the opportunities created for the cocoa sector. The Local Guidance will be developed with consideration towards Ivorian cultural practices and with appreciation of the current cocoa farming system applied by local farming communities. The document will provide further and practical guidance on the requirements of the UTZ Code of Conduct enabling farmers, trainers and auditors to follow a set of criteria for growing and certifying sustainable cocoa.

Currently, there is a strong market-driven demand for sustainably sourced cocoa. To meet this demand [UTZ CERTIFIED](#) in 2007 founded the UTZ CERTIFIED Cocoa Program together with Solidaridad, Oxfam Novib, WWF and the major private partners from the cocoa and chocolate sector. Its objective is to create an efficient certification program for socially and environmentally responsible cocoa production that meets the needs of both producers and market parties. Key elements of the programme are a product-specific Code of Conduct, advanced traceability system, independent certification and focused producer support. UTZ CERTIFIED cooperatives, estate farms and producer groups comply with the UTZ CERTIFIED Code of Conduct and are annually inspected by independent third-party auditors.

Together with Solidaridad, UTZ develops tools to provide facilitators and farmers with practical solutions to common challenges in the area of cocoa farming, management and certification.

→ *Contributed by Stephanie de Hoogh, UTZ CERTIFIED (stephanie.de.hoogh@utzcertified.org).*

16. Forthcoming paper: "Bilateral Investment Treaties and Land Reform in Southern Africa"

A special international legal regime exists to protect cross-border investments, including ownership of land and property. Foreign owners, including foreign companies, may enjoy enhanced rights and protections thanks to this separate regime of some 3000 bilateral and multilateral trade and investment treaties. A new publication forthcoming from [Rights & Democracy](#), "Bilateral Investment Treaties and Land Reform in Southern Africa" by Luke Peterson and Ross Garland, will examine exactly how this regime may influence and, in some cases, complicate, efforts by governments to pursue policies which seek to remedy historic inequalities and to live up to human rights obligations owed to the landless and dispossessed. The study will include case examples from Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. The study concludes that efforts to ensure respect for human rights may be complicated by certain parallel legal protections owed to foreign nationals owning property and could have an impact upon land reform initiatives.

→ *Contributed by Carole Samdup, Rights & Democracy (csamdud@dd-rd.ca).*

17. Advocacy for handicapped children in mining region of Senegal – support from companies sought

[unofficial translation by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre from the French original]

The Conseil National des Enseignants pour l'Ethique, la Déontologie et le Droit à l'Education (CONEEDDE) (National Teachers' Council for Ethics, Good Practice and the Right to Education) is organising a caravan to advocate for accommodations at school for students living with handicaps. Children from the mining zone of Kédougou will participate in this event; CONEEDDE is counting on financial support from its partners for this event, and will invite support from mining companies in the region. The students in question suffer from paraplegia, cancer, epilepsy and other serious handicaps. The caravan aims to raise awareness nationally and internationally of the difficult conditions that handicapped children face in Africa generally, and specifically in Senegal. The caravan will leave Tambacounda on 25 July 2010 for Dakar, passing through Kaffrine and Kaolack. The return to Tambacounda is planned for 30 July.

→ *Contributed by Youssoupha Cissé, Coordinator of CONEEDDE, tel.: +221 77 657 1998, e-mail: youcisseconeedde@hotmail.fr*

Americas

18. Peru: NGO campaign on use of cyanide in mining

[unofficial translation by Business & Human Rights Resource Centre from the Spanish original]

Peruvian civil society organizations that are part of the [Red Muqui](#) (“Muqui Network”) have joined the campaign led by the Observatory of Mining Conflicts in Latin America (OCMAL) to promote the ban on cyanide use in mining in Peru. The [Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos del Perú \(CNDDHH\)](#) expects to disseminate a report on the initial progress made in this campaign over the next six months.

Through this campaign Red Muqui and OCMAL will expose the risk to people, especially indigenous peoples, of using cyanide in mining activities. It will also expose the impact that cyanide could have on the enormous biodiversity in Peruvian ecosystems.

As stated in the resolution just adopted by the European Parliament, cyanide "could have a catastrophic and irreversible impact on human health and the environment", and may be replaced by the use of less risky technologies. Peru is among the five largest producers of silver and gold. In the production of both metals the use of sodium cyanide is widespread, and this is one of the most dangerous forms of the chemical.

→ Contributed by Mar Pérez, [Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos del Perú \(CNDDHH\)](#) (marperez@dhperu.org).

19. Summer course: “Corporate Social Responsibility: A Human Rights Approach”, New York

This course will be taught 6 July-13 August at Columbia University by Joanne Bauer (Adjunct Professor, Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs; Senior Researcher, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre).

Through an in-depth examination of the relationship between business and human rights, students will gain an understanding of the existing and emerging international human rights norms relevant to business, learn ways in which business and human rights intersect, and be exposed to the range of methods and tactics employed by human rights advocates and businesses to address their human rights impacts. By the end of the course, the student will have a firm grasp of the current business and human rights debates, and be able to critically evaluate the efficacy of applying human rights standards to corporations. Classroom discussion will include a review of trends in human rights; the development of human rights principles and standards relevant to corporations; human rights issues facing business operations abroad; the growing public demand for greater accountability; strategies of civil society advocacy around business and human rights; collaborative efforts between business and non-profit organizations; and other issues managers must deal with. Through guest lectures, students will have the opportunity to engage first hand with business managers and advocacy professionals dealing with these issues.

→ Contributed by Joanne Bauer (bauer@business-humanrights.org). For further information, click [here](#).

Asia/Pacific

20. SACOM (Hong Kong) campaign on alleged poisoning of workers at Apple supplier Wintek

[Students & Scholars Against Corporate Misbehaviour \(SACOM\)](#) will be taking steps to pressure Apple to publicly address poisoning of workers at United Win (part of Wintek), an Apple supplier, with n-hexane, a chemical used to clean the screens of iPhones. SACOM is planning a campaign in Hong Kong, and is seeking international partners before the release of the new iPhones in June.

In March 2010, SACOM interviewed workers at United Win, and found they were poisoned by n-hexane. On 4 May, SACOM issued a report titled “Apple Owes Workers and Public a Response over the Poisonings”, available at <http://sacom.hk/archives/636>. According to the workers, there are still around 20 victims receiving treatment in the Hospital for Occupational Disease Prevention and Treatment. The most seriously injured worker has been in hospital for 9 months. In order to seek compensation, workers have to undergo assessment of ability to work. Some workers complain to SACOM that they have different results in assessment when they go to other hospitals or doctors. Now the workers have applied for re-assessment and are waiting for the results. This reflects that the poisoning cases have been disturbing the workers for a long period of time.

Since our report was published, SACOM has not heard any response from Apple. SACOM regrets the unresponsive attitude of Apple over the rights violations found at its suppliers.

→ Contributed by Debby Chan, SACOM (debby@sacom.hk).

NOTE: [This article](#) refers to comments by Apple about allegations regarding illness at Wintek due to n-hexane poisoning: "There is no suggestion that Apple was responsible for the use of n-hexane. Apple declined to answer questions about the poisonings or about the firms involved, saying it does not reveal who it works with, although its spokeswoman added that Wintek had been 'quite proactive' in discussing the issue. Instead it pointed to its code of conduct, which sets strict requirements for working and environmental practices, adding that many suppliers say they are the only customer carrying out such checks." Tania Branigan, [Guardian](#) (UK), 7 May 2010.

21. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre to recruit East Asia Researcher

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre will recruit an East Asia Researcher, based in Hong Kong, in the coming months. The researcher will:

- highlight under-reported issues and cases in the region;
- build wide networks of people working in NGOs, companies, government, etc;
- seek responses from companies to allegations of misconduct;
- draw attention to positive steps by companies; and
- help raise awareness of business & human rights issues.

The researcher will join our existing regional researchers based in India (currently under recruitment), Senegal, South Africa and Ukraine. Our regional researchers have proven that there is no substitute for having someone in each region who understands the local context. In future we plan to recruit researchers based in other regions.

Details of the East Asia recruitment will be featured on our website and disseminated widely in the region. If you have suggestions for where we should send the job announcement, please let us know.

→ contributed by staff of Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (contact@business-humanrights.org).

Europe & Central Asia

22. OECD Watch report "10 years on" to assess OECD Guidelines complaint mechanism

On 27-28 June, [OECD Watch](#) will hold a General Assembly in Paris for its 80 member organizations around the world. The event is organised on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of National Contact Points at the OECD (29 June-1 July), which will mark the start of a new revision of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, with the broad aim of completing the update in 2011. OECD Watch will launch its report, "10 Years On", documenting the experience of civil society experiences with the OECD Guidelines' complaint mechanism, and providing the evidence base for proposals to improve the effectiveness of the OECD Guidelines in the revision process. Discussions at the June 2010 meetings will centre on supply chains, human rights and environment/climate change.

→ Contributed by OECD Watch. For more information, email info@oecdwatch.org or see www.oecdwatch.org.

23. Symposium on business & human rights – University of Essex, 17-18 Sep

Join us for the Symposium on Business and Human Rights organised jointly by the [Law Society of England and Wales \(LSEW\)](#) and the [Human Rights Centre of the University of Essex](#) to be held 17-18 September 2010 near Colchester, England.

The Symposium will offer analyses and a forum for debate on key issues in the challenges for business activity and actors in terms of the evolving law and practice of human rights. With the participation of lawyers, judges, public servants, policy-makers and other practitioners, along with representatives from business, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs, as well as academics, a wide range of topics will be addressed through keynote panels and working sessions. Each theme will be addressed in a way that has relevance to both

practicing lawyers and those in the commercial world who have responsibility for evolving policy or practical solutions in relation to rights-related issues.

Among the topics to be addressed will be: Access to Information; Employee and Enterprise Interests and Human Rights; Commercial Litigation and Human Rights; Investment Decisions; Health and Commercial Interests; Alternatives to Litigation; Corporate Governance; the Public/Private Sector Divide; the Financial Crisis; Corporate Complicity in Human Rights Violations.

The two-day event will also include an art exhibition, theatre performance, live music, and a great opportunity for networking in the pleasant campus setting, one hour from central London.

→ For more information, click [here](#) and contact the LSEW at: internationalhumanrights@lawsociety.org.uk, or contact the conference assistant at the University of Essex, Alessandro Biagetti, email: abiage@essex.ac.uk or tel.: +44 (0)1206 872 558.

→ Click [here](#) [PDF] to see the full programme. For the report of the 2009 Symposium, click [here](#) [PDF].

→ Contributed by John Packer (johnp@essex.ac.uk) and Alessandro Biagetti (abiage@essex.ac.uk), University of Essex Human Rights Centre.

24. ECCHR kick-starts multi-regional litigation project against transnational corporations

Responding to petitions from human rights organizations in Latin America, Africa and Asia, the [European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights \(ECCHR\)](#) – together with Misereor and Bread for the World – is launching a multi-year, multi-regional litigation campaign against transnational corporations. It starts with a regional practitioners' workshop in Latin America in September 2010, will continue in Africa and finally reach Asia.

What is new about this initiative is that it brings together the affected communities, their accompanying organizations and legal experts from North and South to jointly develop international litigation strategies for their cases and jointly work on their implementation. ECCHR aims to set precedents not only in legal terms but also in terms of an innovative methodological approach that is participatory and truly transnational. This approach will help build case-specific transnational litigation teams that include victims, supporters, lawyers, academics and activists coordinating across borders between host and home countries of enterprises responsible for human rights violations.

The cases covered will reflect typical problems of each region and include so far: mining and extractive industries, infrastructure projects, privatisation of public services – or, speaking in terms of human rights: economic, social and cultural rights including access to land; labour rights, killing of trade unionists and community leaders, among others.

→ Contributed by Claudia Müller-Hoff (mueller-hoff@ecchr.eu), project coordinator, Business and Human Rights Programme, ECCHR.

25. SOMO: Forthcoming company profiles, reports on banks and power sector

European works councils and CSR in the European energy sector: [SOMO](#) is preparing a report, due to be launched 8 June, on the potential role of European works councils (EWCs – bodies representing workers in dialogue with company management) in formulating and implementing policy among European energy companies on CSR issues including labour rights, health & safety, supply chain, and diversity/discrimination. It is collaborating with the European Public Services Union (EPSU) on the report. As energy companies increasingly operate across national borders, employee participation in business decision making is also taking on increasingly international forms. One example is the proliferation of the EWCs. At the same time, attention is increasingly being paid to CSR in the European energy sector. Based on the findings and the results of interviews with energy company and EWC representatives, the report provides recommendations to EWC members and trade unions for increasing their influence on energy companies' CSR policies and practices.

"Investing responsibly: A financial puzzle – the limited scope of sustainable asset management": SOMO will be launching this new report in July. Based on research by SOMO into the CSR policies of a selection of European banks, it reveals limitations in the application of sustainability criteria to asset management (investments in shares and other assets). The CSR policies of banks generally only apply to a very small part of the total invested assets. For example, almost all large banks have developed a human rights policy, but this policy is often not applicable to asset management activities.

New company profiles: In preparation for the 2010 shareholders meetings, SOMO and Dutch Association of Investors for Sustainable Development (VBDO) are jointly carrying out research into the CSR policies and practice of ten Dutch stock-exchange listed companies in 2009. SOMO is preparing company profiles of Heineken and ING, which will be available [here](#) in June. SOMO has drawn up a profile for each of these companies: Aegon, Ahold, Fugro, KPN, SBM Offshore, Shell, Unilever.

→ Contributed by Leontien Aarnoudse, SOMO (L.Aarnoudse@somo.nl).

26. University College London summer course on Human Rights in China

The [UCL Institute for Human Rights](#)' summer course on Human Rights in China, which will take place 19-23 July 2010, is currently accepting applications (deadline 30 June). This course is designed specifically for diplomats, business leaders, and senior officials to provide the highest level of training to anyone wanting to work in China or engage with human rights issues in China. It brings together experts and expertise in an intensive period of training, focusing on both the legal and historical background and the practical questions faced by practitioners in the Chinese context. The course will cover several topics related to the private sector, including labour rights and the rights of migrant workers.

→ For more information and the preliminary course programme, visit <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/human-rights/teaching/china>.

→ Contributed by Kimberlee Sue Moran, Research Centre & Course Administrator, Faculty of Laws, University College London (k.moran@ucl.ac.uk).

27. Roundtable on state duty to protect & pension fund investments in companies – Dublin, 24 Jun

[Trócaire](#) is holding a Business and Human Rights policy roundtable in Dublin, Ireland, on 24 June, titled “The State duty to protect human rights and its application with regard to State Pension Fund investments in companies: Policy and practice of the Norwegian government pension fund”. Speaking at this event will be representatives from the Norwegian Government Pension Fund's Council on Ethics, the Working group on mining in the Philippines, and Trócaire.

→ Contributed by Mark Cumming, Trócaire (mcumming@trocaire.ie). To read more on Trócaire's work on responsible investment, visit <http://tinyurl.com/37arfse> [PDF] and <http://tinyurl.com/3y7toeq> [PDF].

Español

28. ONGs promueven prohibición del cianuro en el Perú

Las organizaciones de la sociedad civil peruana que integran la [Red Muqui](#) acordaron sumarse a la campaña impulsada por el [Observatorio de Conflictos Mineros de América Latina \(OCMAL\)](#) para promover la prohibición del uso de cianuro en la minería desarrollada en el Perú. En los próximos seis meses se espera difundir los primeros avances logrados en el marco de esta campaña.

A través de esta campaña el OCMAL y la Red Muqui visibilizarán el riesgo que supone para las personas, y en especial para los pueblos indígenas, el uso del cianuro, y el impacto que el mismo puede tener en la enorme biodiversidad presente en los ecosistemas peruanos.

Como señala la resolución recientemente aprobada por el Parlamento Europeo, el cianuro “puede tener un impacto catastrófico e irreversible en la salud humana y el medio ambiente”, “crea poco empleo” y solo por un periodo de tiempo limitado, y puede ser sustituido mediante el uso de tecnologías menos riesgosas.

El Perú se encuentra entre los cinco mayores productores mundiales de plata y oro. En la recuperación de ambos metales está ampliamente extendido el uso de cianuro de sodio, una de las formas más peligrosas de este químico.

→ Contribuido por Mar Pérez, de la [Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos del Perú \(CNDDHH\)](#) (marperez@dhperu.org)

29. ComunicaRSE investigará los reportes de RSE en Argentina

[ComunicaRSE](#) inició en enero el trabajo de campo de su [investigación](#) anual. En 2010 nuestro trabajo será sobre "Informes de RSE (Responsabilidad Social Empresaria) en Argentina. Lecciones y Aprendizajes". Los resultados de la investigación serán presentados durante el tercer trimestre del 2010.

Creemos que durante 2009 [el número de reportes de RSE en Argentina ha alcanzado un número suficiente](#) de casos como para hacer relevante esta investigación. El reporting ha encontrado un grado de madurez que vuelve necesario analizar su evolución para perfeccionar y diseminar las mejores prácticas empresarias en rendición de cuentas y diálogo con los grupos de interés. Esta investigación tiene como objetivos:

1. Conocer el estado del arte del reporting de la RSE en la Argentina.
2. Identificar los lineamientos, métodos, procedimientos, procesos e indicadores más usuales.
3. Relevar las lecciones y aprendizajes de las empresas que realizan reportes de RSE.
4. Analizar el contenido de los Reportes de RSE para caracterizar la identidad del Reporting de RSE en Argentina.

Formarán parte de la muestra todas aquellas empresas que hayan publicado un informe, reporte, memoria o balance de RSE/Sostenibilidad/Sustentabilidad durante los años 2008 y 2009. La investigación contará con entrevistas presenciales con los responsables de realizar el reporte de RSE dentro de cada empresa y con análisis de contenido de los reportes.

→ *Contribuido por Alejandro Langlois, Director Institucional, ComunicaRSE (langlois@comunicarseweb.com.ar)*

Français

30. FIDH publiera un guide sur les mécanismes de recours pour les violations des droits de l'homme

[La Fédération Internationale des ligues des droits de l'Homme \(FIDH\)](#) publiera au début de l'été 2010 un guide détaillé pour les victimes et les ONG sur les mécanismes de recours disponibles en cas de violations des droits de l'Homme par les entreprises. Le guide vise à fournir aux victimes et aux ONG un aperçu des mécanismes de recours existants avec des indications concrètes quant à la façon d'utiliser ces mécanismes.

Le guide comprendra différentes sections concernant les systèmes internationaux et régionaux de protection des droits de l'Homme, la mise en cause de la responsabilité civile et pénale des sociétés transnationales, les mécanismes de médiation tels que les points de contact nationaux de l'OCDE, les mécanismes disponibles au sein des institutions financières et l'activisme actionnarial ainsi que des pistes portant sur l'utilisation des engagements volontaires pour une plus grande responsabilité des entreprises.

Que pouvons-nous attendre de ces mécanismes ? Quelles questions ont-ils été amenés à examiner jusqu'à ce jour ? Une victime peut-elle déposer une plainte afin d'engager la responsabilité de l'État d'origine pour les violations des droits de l'Homme commises à l'étranger par des sociétés basées sur son territoire ?

Le guide vise à répondre à certaines de ces questions tout en fournissant des informations pratiques sur les mécanismes de recours existants en vue de sensibiliser la société civile aux voies de recours possibles. L'objectif principal étant d'assurer le droit des victimes à un recours effectif, il est à espérer que l'évaluation de ces mécanismes pourra servir de base aux débats futurs sur les mécanismes de réparation disponibles pour les victimes dans le cas d'abus commis par ou avec la complicité des entreprises.

→ *Contribué par Geneviève Paul, Bureau Mondialisation et droits de l'Homme, FIDH. Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez contacter Geneviève Paul (gpaul@fidh.org).*

31. Rapport sur les investissements chinois dans le secteur minier au Katanga

Dans les semaines qui viennent, [L'Action Contre l'Impunité pour les Droits Humains \(ACIDH\)](#) (République démocratique du Congo) distribuera son rapport sur « Les investissements privés et publics chinois dans le secteur minier au Katanga : Bonne gouvernance et droits de l'homme ». Le rapport, officiellement rendu public au cours d'une conférence de presse à Lubumbashi le 31 Mai 2010, sera distribué en copie dure auprès des autorités politiques de la RDC et de la Chine, les ONG en province et dans la capitale. ACIDH recevra leur feedback avant de s'orienter vers les autres partenaires au niveau régional et international.

→ Pour avoir plus d'information, consultez notre site web à www.acidhrdc.net.

→ Pour contacter les organisateurs : acidhrdc@ic-lubum.cd ou emmanuelumpula@yahoo.fr ; par téléphone : +243 997025331 / 997108022.

→ Contribué par Emmanuel Umpula Nkumba, ACIDH.

32. Plaidoyer pour les élèves handicapés en zone minière du Sénégal – l'aide des compagnies sollicitée

Le Conseil National des Enseignants pour l'Ethique, la Déontologie et le Droit à l'Education (CONEEDDE) organise une caravane pour plaider la cause des élèves vivant avec un handicap en milieu scolaire. Les enfants de la zone minière de Kédougou seront associés à cet événement ; le CONEEDDE compte sur le soutien financier de ses partenaires pour organiser cet événement, et sollicitera également l'aide des compagnies minières de la région. Il s'agit d'élèves souffrant notamment de paraplégie, du cancer, de l'épilepsie et d'autres handicaps graves. La caravane vise à sensibiliser l'opinion publique nationale et internationale sur les conditions très difficiles dans lesquelles les élèves handicapés vivent en Afrique en général et au Sénégal en particulier. Elle quittera Tambacounda le 25 juillet 2010 pour rejoindre Dakar en passant par Kaffrine et Kaolack. Le retour à Tambacounda est prévu pour le 30 juillet 2010.

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