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STEERING COMMITTEE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (CDDH)

CDDH Online Platform on Human Rights and Business

Information note prepared by Secretariat

Introduction

This document represents an up-date of developments in respect of the CDDH Online Platform on Human Rights and Business. It invokes:

- I. The current state of the technical development of the platform and the feedback received;
- II. Information on the update related to HELP course on Human Rights and Business;
- III. The events where the platform could be presented as well as reflections on whether there is an interest in organizing a specific workshop on this subject.

I. THE PLATFORM AND THE FEEDBACK

1. The platform's public website is being finalized with the aim of being launched once it has collected sufficient amount of information.
2. The platform consists of:
 - (i) a page in the HELP¹ portal in which the national authorities can register the addresses of their contact points and their national staff concerned by the platform's subject matter.
 - a. This page will provide participants with a collaborative workspace that can become a forum for exchange;
 - b. It will also provide a place to collect and disseminate information and national practices. In this regard, the information provided by both the competent national authorities and the national human rights institutions following the questionnaire sent by the Secretariat in January 2019 is to be welcomed.

II. HELP COURSE

3. The update of HELP course on Human Rights and Business will begin upon a receipt of a voluntary contribution in this respect.
 - (i) The course will take into account the developments and trends reflected in the new Council of Europe Handbook on Human Rights and Business.
 - (ii) It will contain additional modules that could include guidance for legal professionals, for example on the development of national action plans.
 - (iii) The course could also conduct a human rights risk assessment and improve access to redress mechanisms.

III. THE EVENTS

4. The CDDH Secretariat will participate in the next United Nations Forum on Human Rights and Business in Geneva in November 2019.²
5. More generally, the Secretariat is exploring the possibility of organizing in 2020-2021 a workshop for national authorities in charge of preparing and monitoring national action plans on the implementation of relevant international standards in the field of human rights and business.
 - (i) Such a workshop would allow sharing initiatives and strategies, analyzing possible gaps, identifying common challenges and solutions.
 - (ii) It would also create a strong network amongst the participants.

¹ <http://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/course/view.php?id=2598>

² <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Forum/Pages/2019ForumBHR.aspx>

- (iii) The workshop could be held *in camera* in order to facilitate discussion. The platform can serve as a basis both for the organization of the workshop as well as for the subsequent follow-up.
6. The CDDH participants are invited to express their views on the possibility of such a workshop and on any requests they may have in that regard.