



## Workshop

### Environment, Human Rights and Business: A framework for addressing environmental protection challenges

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#### Programme

Strasbourg, Tuesday 27 April 2021  
KUDO videoconference

#### 9:00-9:15 Welcoming remarks

- **Mr Christophe POIREL**, Director of Human Rights, Council of Europe
- **Ms Sigrid JACOBY**, Representative of the German Federal Government for Matters Relating to Human Rights

#### 9:15-10:15 Setting the scene

#### *The nexus between human rights and business responsibilities to protect the environment in international human rights law*

Drawing on the international framework on human rights and business this session will discuss the different models for state and business responsibilities to protect the environment.

- Environment and the ECHR: How does the European Court of Human Rights address environmental matters in its case-law?
- What are the states' human rights obligations relating to a healthy and sustainable environment?
- What are the environmental aspects of business responsibilities regarding human rights? What is the scope of such responsibilities?

Moderator:

**Ms Kristine LĪCIĒ**

Chairperson of the Council of Europe Drafting Group on Environment and Human Rights (CDDH-ENV)

Speaker:

**Prof Surya DEVA**

UN Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises

Panel Discussion with:

- **Mr Lado CHANTURIA**  
*Judge, European Court of Human Rights*
- **Ms Chiara MACCHI**  
*Postdoctoral Researcher, Law Group, Wageningen University*
- **Mr Carlos LOPEZ**  
*International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)*

#### Discussions

10:15-10:30

Break

10:30-11:30

**How to facilitate access to effective remedies for victims of human rights violations related to business and the environment?**

- What is the environmental dimension of the international framework on accountability and access to effective remedies for victims of business-related human rights abuse?
- What results have the State-based and non-State-based grievance mechanisms yielded so far?
- What barriers do individuals face to access effective remedies? How to overcome them?
- How can NGOs and NHRIs facilitate access to effective remedies, e.g., by accepting complaints, investigating abuses, conducting public inquiries, raising awareness, providing legal assistance and supporting human rights defenders?

Moderator:  
**Ms Nicola WENZEL**

*Ministry of Justice and  
Consumer Protection, Germany*

Speaker:  
**Ms Ulla GLAESSER**

*European University Viadrina -  
The potential of non-judicial  
remedies*

Panel Discussion with:

- **Ms Margreet VRIELING**  
*Fair Wear Foundation*
- **Mr Richard MEERAN**  
*Leigh Day*
- **Ms Maddalena NEGLIA**  
*International Federation  
of Human Rights (FIDH)*
- **Mr Diego QUIROZ**  
*Policy & International Officer,  
Scottish Human Rights  
Commission*

**Discussion**

11:30-11:45 **Break**

**What is the concrete business' environmental future? What responsibilities can the Council of Europe contribute?**

Companies usually implement separate components or join selected initiatives regarding environmental aspects of corporate social responsibility. While allowing businesses to present their good practices and initiatives aimed at increasing environmental sustainability and ensuring respect for human rights, this session will ask:

- Is such a voluntary and fragmentary approach enough to create a higher level of social consciousness in the business world to act in favour of environmental integrity?
- How can the Council of Europe support businesses to better understand, identify and address links between human rights and environment-related risks and strengthen their capacities to contribute positively to the efforts to address global environmental challenges?
- How can Council of Europe co-operation programmes help member States incentivise human rights and environmentally - conscious and responsible business practices?

Moderator:  
**Mr Daniel KLEIN**

*KleinCarazo, International  
Lawyers & Consultants*

Speaker:  
**Ms Bettina RECHENBERG**

*German Environment Agency  
– How can businesses  
implement environmental due  
diligence?*

Panel Discussion with:

- **Mr Thorsten PINKEPANK**  
*Director Sustainability  
Relations, BASF*
- **Ms Lila KARBASSI**  
*Chief of Programmes  
UN Global Compact*
- **Mr Hermann OTT**  
*Client Earth*
- **Mr Jan MALINOWSKI**

*Executive Secretary of the  
European Social Charter*

➤ **Mr Tigran Karapetyan**  
*Head of Unit, Cooperation  
programmes, DGI, Council  
of Europe*

## Discussion

**13:15**                    **Closing remarks**

**Mr Mikhail LOBOV**

Head of Department, Human Rights Policy and Co-operation Department, DGI, Council of Europe