

Workshop

28 May 2015

Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation
No. 28, DongHouXiang, AnDingMenWai 100710 Beijing

**Promoting Responsible Business Conduct:
The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the role of National Contact Points**

The governments that adhere to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the leading international instrument for promoting responsible business conduct (RBC), set up National Contact Points (NCPs) to promote RBC and help resolve issues related to implementation of the Guidelines through good offices and mediation. The purpose of this workshop is to exchange experiences and share information with the Chinese authorities, businesses and other stakeholders that work on responsible business.

DRAFT AGENDA

All sessions will start with very short presentations in order to allow for discussion among all participants (maximum 10 minutes for introductions, 5-6 minutes for discussants and stakeholder views). Some discussion questions are suggested below. Participants are welcome to ask other questions.

08:00 - 08:30 Registration

08:30 - 09:00 Opening Remarks

- **REN Hongbin**, Executive Vice-President, CAITEC, MOFCOM
- **GU Xueming**, President, CAITEC, MOFCOM
- **Roel NIEUWENKAMP**, Chair, Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct, OECD

09:00 - 09:30 Session 1: Importance of Responsible Business Conduct for Sustainable Development

OBJECTIVE This session will discuss why responsible business conduct matters for sustainable and inclusive development, investment and trade.

Introduction

- **Chen Wenlin**, Director, Department of Foreign Investment and Economic Cooperation, MOFCOM
- **Erik SOLHEIM**, Chair, Development Assistance Committee, OECD
- **Arlete da SILVA**, Coordinator, National Contact Point, Brazil

Roundtable Discussion

- SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**
- What does responsible business conduct (RBC) mean for governments and businesses?
 - How does RBC contribute to sustainable development?
 - Why does RBC matter for investment and trade?

* Simultaneous English/Mandarin translation available for all sessions.

09:30 - 10:30 Session 2: The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

OBJECTIVE This session will provide an overview of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the leading international instrument for promoting responsible business conduct.

Introduction

- **Cristina TEBAR LESS**, Head, Responsible Business Conduct Unit, OECD
- **Roel NIEUWENKAMP**, Chair, Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct, OECD

Roundtable Discussion

- SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
- What are the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises? What are their unique elements?
 - How do the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises relate to other international instruments that address business conduct, such as the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights and the core ILO conventions?
 - What Chinese instruments and initiatives address business conduct in overseas and domestic investments? What is the role of government involvement in the implementation of these instruments?

10:30 - 10:45 Coffee Break

10:45 - 12:30 Session 3: National Approaches to Responsible Business Conduct and the Role of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

OBJECTIVE This session will discuss different ways governments promote the Guidelines and engage the private sector in support of responsible business conduct. It will include presentations from government representatives and views from stakeholders.

Lead Discussants

- **Francine NOFTLE**, Director, International Trade Portfolio and Responsible Business Practice Division and Head of National Contact Point Secretariat, Canada
- **Ola MESTAD**, Chair, National Contact Point, Norway
- **Jean-Marie PAUGAM**, President, National Contact Point, France

Views from stakeholders

- **ZHANG Jincheng**, Director of the Research Center, SASAC
- **Joerg WUTTKE**, Chief Representative, BASF China, and Chair, China Task Force, Business Advisory Committee to the OECD
- **Kirstine DREW**, Senior Policy Advisor, Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD
- **Grace MANG**, Member, OECD Watch and Co-Director, Programs, International Rivers

* Simultaneous English/Mandarin translation available for all sessions.

Roundtable Discussion

SUGGESTED
DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS

- What are different ways governments promote and implement RBC policies on a national level? What role do the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises have in developing and implementing those policies?
- How does the government ensure a whole-of-government approach to RBC?
- What strategies are used across various government agencies to support and promote RBC?
- Does the government integrate RBC considerations in government support programmes (i.e procurement, aid, export credits)?
- How does the Chinese government make its expectations on RBC known? How does it communicate those expectations to Chinese and foreign businesses?

12:30 - 13:30 Buffet Lunch

13:30 - 15:00 Session 5: National Contact Points for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises - Mandate and Core Functioning Criteria

OBJECTIVE National Contact Points (NCPs) are the government bodies tasked with ensuring implementation of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. This session will introduce their mandate and core criteria for functioning.

Introduction

- **Cristina TEBAR LESS**, Head, Responsible Business Conduct, OECD
- **Malte HAUSCHILD**, Chair, National Contact Point, Germany
- **Inho JOE**, Korean Commercial Arbitration Board (KCAB), National Contact Point Secretariat, Korea

Roundtable Discussion

SUGGESTED
DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS

- Why is it important for governments to support the implementation of the Guidelines?
- How do facilities offered by the NCPs relate to other available mechanisms that provide access to remedy? What is the added benefit of using non-judicial mechanisms and problem solving techniques?
- How do NCPs coordinate their activities?
- Do similar facilities exist in the Chinese context, either on the government or operational business levels?

15:00 - 15:15 Coffee Break

15:15 - 16:45 Session 6: Resolving Issues Related to Responsible Business Conduct - Case Studies

OBJECTIVE This session will discuss practical experiences by NCPs in dealing with issues related to non-observance of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises by individual companies.

Lead Discussants

- **Herman MULDER**, National Contact Point, Netherlands
- **Michael WILLIAMS**, Chair of the Steering Board, National Contact Point, United Kingdom
- **Yang DAYONG**, Deputy Director, Strategy Department, China Nonferrous Metal Ming (Group) Co., Ltd.

Roundtable Discussion

SUGGESTED
DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS

- How do NCPs remain impartial and independent in dealing with complaints?
- What are the main challenges that NCPs face?
- How do NCPs co-operate in cases dealing with company operations in multiple countries?

16:45 - 17:15 Closing Remarks and Next Steps

- **Kang BINGJIAN**, Director, Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs, MOFCOM
- **Roel NIEUWENKAMP**, Chair, Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct, OECD
- **REN Hongbin**, Executive Vice-President, CAITEC, MOFCOM