OECD Roundtable on Due Diligence in the Garment and Footwear Supply Chain

AGENDA

1-2 October 2015
CC1 & CC13, OECD Conference Centre
Paris, France
The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises are recommendations on responsible business conduct addressed by governments to multinational enterprises operating in or from adhering countries. They are the most comprehensive set of recommendations on responsible business conduct promoted by governments in existence today, covering all major areas of business ethics, including information disclosure, human rights, employment and industrial relations, environment, bribery and corruption, consumer interests, science and technology, competition, and taxation. The Guidelines are also the only government-backed international instrument on responsible business conduct with a unique implementation mechanism.

mneguidelines.oecd.org

METEING INFORMATION

Registration and badges: Please bring your passport or identity card with you. Registration at the OECD will be open from 8:00 am on 1 October and 2 October. Please register at least 30 minutes in advance of the official start of the meeting to allow time for all formalities. Please note there are multiple events occurring at the OECD conference centre on any given day, and as such there may be long lines. For security reasons, you must wear your conference badge at all times.

Chatham House rule: The meeting will be held under the Chatham House Rule for the two days. “When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), not that of any other participant, may be revealed.” This rule also applies to social media – join the conversation at #OECDrbc.

Language information: Please note that no interpretation will be available for the duration of the conference.
Those participating in the morning Consultation on the draft OECD Due Diligence Guidance are encouraged to register at 08:00.

Consultation on draft OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector

09:00 – 12:15 Consultation on draft OECD Due Diligence Guidance

The OECD seeks to support a common understanding of due diligence for enterprises operating at each stage in the supply chain in relation to matters covered by the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (with the exception of taxation, competition and science and technology). In this context, the OECD is developing a Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector. This Consultation will provide an opportunity for governments, business, trade unions and civil society to provide feedback on the current draft Guidance. Comments received during the consultation will inform the next iteration of the draft Guidance.

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14:00 – 14:30 Welcoming remarks

- Pierre Poret, Acting Deputy Director, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD

Opening addresses

- Bernhard Welschke, Secretary General, The Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC)
- John Evans, General Secretary, Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC)

14:30 – 14:45 Introduction to due diligence

- Jennifer Schappert, Policy Analyst, Textile & Garment, Responsible Business Conduct Unit, OECD

14:45 – 16:30 The application of due diligence in a complex and fast-paced sector

The garment and footwear sector supply chains are complex, dynamic and labour intensive with a strong reliance on short-product cycles and fast-paced production. Current production in the garment and footwear sectors includes a range of suppliers of various sizes. Sourcing may be conducted through direct channels between a company (e.g. retailer) and producer (e.g. manufacturer), or it may be conducted through an intermediary, such as a buying agent which buys products on the company’s behalf. In recognition of these complexities, this session will look at how a company can apply supply chain due diligence across sourcing models. It will address the need for internal due diligence to ensure that a company’s purchasing
practices do not contribute to adverse impacts in the supply chain; and it will look at how an enterprise’s size and resources may affect how it conducts due diligence.

Moderated by Roopa Nair, Head of Partnerships & Communications, Better Work, ILO

Panellists
- Dr. Richard Locke, Provost and Swearer Director of the Watson Institute for International Studies, Watson Institute, Brown University
- Aleix Gonzalez Busquets, Global Head of External Stakeholder Engagement, C&A
- John Cheh, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, The Esquel Group
- Dr. Liang Xiaohui, Deputy Chief Economist, China Textile Information Centre, and Chief Researcher, Office for Social Responsibility of China National Textile and Apparel Council, China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC)
- Matthijs Crietee, Secretary General, International Apparel Federation (IAF)

16:30 – 17:00 Break

17:00 – 18:30 Mapping of inter-governmental initiatives in the garment and footwear sector and their interplay

The Rana Plaza tragedy in April 2013 brought increased global attention to the risks of adverse impact in the garment and footwear sector supply chain. In the two years since Rana Plaza, the sector has seen an increase in initiatives to mitigate these risks. This session will seek to map existing inter-governmental initiatives and their objectives, provide clarity on how each of these partnerships interact, and how they contribute to due diligence. This session will likewise provide clarity on how governments, business, trade unions, and multi-stakeholder initiatives can engage with and contribute to these initiatives.

Moderated by Professor Roel Nieuwenkamp, Chair of the OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct

Panellists
- Alette Van Leur, Director, Sectoral Policies Department, ILO
- Aurelie Godefroy, Assistant to DDG Klaus Rudischhauser, European Commission, DG International Cooperation and Development
- Tyler Gillard, Manager of Sector Projects, Responsible Business Conduct Unit, Investment Division, OECD
- Professor Doug Miller, Workers’ Rights in Fashion, Northumbria School of Design, Northumbria University

18:30 Reception

George Marshall, Chateau
Engaging with government as a component of due diligence, case study from Cambodia

While it is the role of businesses to act responsibly, it is the responsibility of government to protect against abuses by third parties, including business enterprises, through regulation, policymaking, investigation, and enforcement. This session will examine the role of enterprises, both local and foreign, in engaging with government to address regulatory gaps by looking at the successes and challenges of the garment wage negotiations in Cambodia. The session will explore how lessons learned can be applied to other contexts.

Moderated by Ana Novik, Head of Investment Division, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD

Panellists
- Sandra Gallina, Director for DG Trade Directorate D “Sustainable Development; Economic Partnerships Agreements-African, Caribbean and Pacific; Agri-food and Fisheries”
- H.E. SOM Chamnan, Advisor to Minister, Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training
- Jyrki Raina, Secretary General, IndustriALL Global Union
- Katherine Stewart, Director, Ethical Trade and Sustainability, Primark
- Peter McAllister, Executive Director, Ethical Trade Initiative (ETI)

Breakout session: Environmental due diligence

Approximately 20% of global industrial water pollution comes from the treatment and dyeing of textiles. The textile sector is second only to agriculture as the biggest polluter of clean water globally. This session will address due diligence in relation to chemical use, water use, and water pollution in textile and cotton production. This session will likewise explore what is practical and feasible in relation to mitigating environmental risks and what can be realistically expected from companies.

Breakout session: Due diligence for freedom of association

Despite being internationally recognised human rights, the right to join a trade union and to bargain collectively are not respected in many contexts. Protecting and respecting these rights remains a persistent and fundamental challenge in the garment and footwear sector. This session will look at the practical process that enterprises can put in place to identify and prevent anti-worker policies and practise as well as mitigate the adverse impacts on these rights by other business activities.

Case Studies: This session will consider lessons learned from the Honduras Labour Framework and Indonesian Framework Agreement.
Moderated by Cristina Tébar Less, Head, Responsible Business Conduct Unit, OECD

Panellists
- Caroline Polders, Flemish Institute for Technological Research
- John Cheh, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, The Esquel Group
- Eeva Leinala, Principal Administrator, Environment Health & Safety Division, Environment Directorate, OECD
- Harsh Sheth, Program Manager, Water-Energy-Food Nexus, Stockholm International Water Institute

Moderated by Professor Roel Nieuwenkamp, Chair of the OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct

Panellists
- Dwight Justice, Policy Advisory, Economic and Social Policy, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
- Linda Kromjong, Secretary General, International Organisation of Employers (IOE)
- Emelia Yanti, General Secretary of GSBI, Central Executive Board of Federation of Indonesian Trade Union
- Holly Hammonds, Adjunct Professor of International and Public Affairs, Columbia School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA)

12:30 – 14:00  Lunch

14:00 – 15:30  Breakout session: Due diligence regarding homeworkers
Room CC1

Homeworkers are an integral component of the textile, garment and footwear supply chains; however few homeworkers have legal status as employees and are thus vulnerable to exploitation. Common adverse impacts related to homework are low pay, insufficient and irregular work, unofficial employment status, social security and benefits, and child labour. This session will look at how an enterprise can minimise the risk of marginalising homeworkers, particularly the victims of exploitation, while promoting responsible supply chains.

Case Study: This session will consider lessons learned from the application of due diligence in North India

Moderated by Jennifer Schappert, Policy Analyst, Textile & Garment, Responsible Business Conduct Unit, OECD

Panellists
- Daniela Nordmeyer, Head of Responsible Sourcing, Monsoon
- Sanchita Mitra, Self Employed Women’s Association
- Alok Singh, Ethical Trade Initiative (ETI)

Breakout session: Due diligence of risks linked to raw material production
Room CC13

Risks of adverse impact in the apparel and footwear supply chain extend beyond manufacturing to upstream raw material production. This session will seek to understand how enterprises operating at different stages of the supply chain can practically conduct due diligence on risks of severe adverse impact. This session will look at learnings from the tobacco, cocoa and minerals industries and assess how lessons learned might be applied to raw material commodities linked to garment and footwear supply chains.

Moderated by Hannah Koep-Andrieu, Policy Advisor, Extractives/Sector Projects, Responsible Business Conduct Unit, OECD

Panellists
- Patricia Jurewicz, Director, Spinner Verification Initiative (SVI)
- Maarten Bevers, Vice President, Corporate Affairs & Communications, JTI (Japan Tobacco International), Global Leaf
- Tyler Gillard, Manager of Sector Projects, Responsible Business Conduct Unit, OECD
According to the OECD Guidelines and UNGPs, enterprises should provide for or co-operate through legitimate processes in the remediation of adverse impacts where they identify that they have caused or contributed to these impacts. This session will seek to address what this means in practice.

**Case Studies:** This session will consider lessons learned from two case studies

*Moderated by Kathryn Dovey, Manager-NCP Coordination, Responsible Business Conduct Unit, OECD*

**Panellists**
- Lene Wendland, Head, Business & Human Rights Team, UN Office of the Human Rights Commissioner
- Dominique Muller, Coordinator, Clean Clothes Campaign
- Ruth Vermeulen, Senior International Verification Coordinator Fair Wear Foundation
- Ben Vanpeperstraete, Supply Chain Coordinator at UNI Global Union and IndustriALL Global Union
- Maylis Souque, General Secretary of the NCP, France OECD National Contact Point

The expectation of due diligence in the OECD Guidelines extends to both large multinational enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). In light of very real resource constraints, how can SMEs apply due diligence in practice? This session will seek to address this question and will be designed to be participatory in nature.

*Moderated by Tyler Gillard, Manager of Sector Projects, Responsible Business Conduct Unit, OECD*

**Panellists**
- Carl Christian Hasselbach, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark
- Stéphanie Le Berre, Legal & Social Affairs Manager, EURATEX
- Jef Wintermans, Director, MODINT
- Christa Luginbühl, Campaign Coordinator, Berne Declaration, OECD Watch

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1 OECD Guidelines, Chapter IV, Paragraph 6.