

Pilot Project for the Promotion of Social Dialogue in the Southern Mediterranean Neighborhood

Regional Seminar on Business and Human Rights

7-8 September 2016

Gefinor Rotana-Beirut-Lebanon

Agenda

Day One: Implications of Private Sector Engagement in Development	
9:00 – 10:00	<p>Opening Session: <i>Introduction to the project and seminar</i></p> <p>Moderator: Zahra Bazzi – Arab NGO Network for Development</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ziad Abdel Samad, Arab NGO Network for Development
10:00 – 11:30	<p>Session 1: The Private Sector and the New Development Paradigm – A Rights-Based Perspective</p> <p><i>This session will provide an introduction to the business environment and role of the private sector in the Arab region in development. In particular, it will focus on the introduction of the private sector into the development discourse and the new development paradigm. It will discuss questions related to financing for development and domestic resource mobilization, highlighting the role of the private sector.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Souad Triki – Association Tunisienne des Femmes Democrates</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Roberto Bissio (Social Watch), <i>Financing Development from a Rights-Based Approach</i> 2. Dr. Samir Aita: <i>Role of the Private Sector in the New Development Paradigm</i> 3. Dr. Abdel Salam Sidahmed (Regional Representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights): <i>Human Rights and the Business Sector</i> 4. Oleksii Pasiuk (BankWatch): <i>Role of IFIs</i>
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee Break



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12:00 – 13:30	<p>Session 2: Rights-Based Approach to Business Sector Involvement in Development</p> <p><i>This session will discuss possible conflicts with the rights-based approach in relation to private sector involvement in development, with a focus on issues such as flexibility in employment in relation to PPPs, investment (with a focus on investment treaties and investor-state dispute settlement), and other forms of involvement.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Sylvana Lakkis – Lebanese Physically Handicapped Union</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Khaled Ali (Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Rights): <i>Upholding Human Rights in Investment Treaties</i> 2. Ziad Hayek (Higher Council for Privatization-Lebanon): <i>The Role of Business in Upholding Human Rights</i> 3. Ahmed Mansour (Habitat International Coalition): <i>Upholding Human Rights in PPPs</i> 4. Mustapha Said (ILO): <i>Investment and Flexibility in the Labor Market</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch Break
14:30 – 16:00	<p>Session 3: Redistributive Policies in the New Development Paradigm</p> <p><i>This session will focus on more specific examples, such as tax justice (with a focus on tax evasion and avoidance), social protection, and the gender dimension in relation to private sector involvement in development.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Rabie Nasr – Syria Center for Policy Research</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sorely McCaughey (Christian Aid): <i>Impact of Tax Evasion and Avoidance on Human Rights</i> 2. Firas Jaber (al-Marsad, Palestine): <i>Tax Justice – A Local Perspective</i> 3. Slaheddine el-Jourchi (ANND): <i>Social Protection in the New Development Paradigm</i> 4. Dr. Howeida Roman (National Center for Social and Criminological Research, Egypt): <i>Gender Impact of Redistributive Policies under the New Development Paradigm</i>



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Day Two: Mechanisms	
9:00 – 10:30	<p>Session 4: International Legal Frameworks on Business and Human Rights</p> <p><i>This session will introduce the international legal frameworks related to business and human rights, such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights; the “Elaboration of an international legally binding instrument on Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises with respect to Human Rights”; and the Maastricht Principles on Extraterritorial Obligations in the Area of Economic and Social Rights.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ziad Abel Samad – Arab NGO Network for Development</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Kinda Mohamadieh: <i>Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument on Business and Human Rights</i> Joshua Curtis (ETO Consortium/FIAN): <i>Maastricht Principles</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:30	<p>Session 5: Other Human Rights Mechanisms</p> <p><i>This session will provide an overview of other civil society mechanisms to monitor business and corporations compliance with international human rights standards, based on the UDHR, ICCPR, ICESCR, and other instruments, such as through the UPR and ILO Mechanisms.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mona Ezzat – New Woman Foundation, Egypt</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Akram Khalifa (OHCHR): <i>Monitoring the Business Sector through UN Human Rights Mechanisms</i> Manar Zaiter (Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering): <i>The UPR Process</i> Mustapha Said (ILO): <i>ILO Conventions</i>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 14:30	<p>Session 6: Local Means of Accountability of the Business Sector</p> <p><i>This session will discuss practical local means of accountability of the business sector and transnational corporations from a rights-based perspective, through examples from the Arab region and other regions, with a focus on the challenges faced.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Elvira Giraldez Casal Del Rey – Norwegian People’s Aid</p>



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	Speakers: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ashraf Hussein (EIPR): <i>Human Rights Obligations of the Business Sector</i> 2. Dr. Niazy Mostapha (Cairo University): <i>Example from Egypt</i> 3. Bahaa Ezzelarab (Business and Human Rights Resource Center): <i>Example from Jordan</i>
14:30 – 15:00	Coffee Break
15:00 – 16:30	Roundtable: Responsible Business Conduct Standards in the Arab Region <i>This session will discuss responsible business conduct standards in the Arab region and come out with recommendations for the business community.</i> Speakers: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ahmad Awad, ANND 2. Adib Abou Habib, Lebanese Trade Union Training Center
16:30 – 17:00	Closing Session <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ziad Abdel Samad – ANND



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