

Side event at the 61st Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC61)

Concept Note

Integrating Human Rights considerations into Corporate Governance Frameworks: Advancing Human Rights Due Diligence in Global Supply Chains

Palais des Nations, Geneva | 11 March 2026 | 14:00–15:00 (CET), Room III

Format: Hybrid modalities (in-person with the possibility of remote intervention)

Language: English

Organizers: Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR) & the Permanent Mission of Greece to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

Co-sponsored by: the Council of Europe

Background

Amid deepening economic interdependence, increasingly complex global supply chains, and heightened expectations for corporate respect of human rights, there is a continuing need to strengthen shared understanding of the respective responsibilities of States and business enterprises in preventing and addressing adverse human rights impacts linked to business operations.

Against this background, the side event focuses on the responsibility of businesses to embed respect for human rights into operational policies, practices and decision making, with particular attention to the implementation of human rights due diligence across supply chains. The discussion is grounded in the UN framework on Business and Human Rights, including the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and the principles of the UN Global Compact.

The event will examine how regulatory and policy developments at national and regional levels, including within the European Union, can support the implementation of the UNGPs across diverse legal and institutional contexts. Emphasis will be placed on the preventive and enabling function of human rights due diligence, including its role in identifying and managing human rights risks, strengthening corporate governance, and promoting sustainable and inclusive economic activity.

The discussion will also explore how the integration of human rights considerations into corporate strategies can generate positive outcomes for business enterprises, rights-holders, communities, and States, including through strengthened stakeholder trust and more resilient value chains. Representative case studies from the Greek business sector, will highlight practical experiences, implementation challenges, and emerging best practices in response to evolving international policy expectations.

Objectives

The side event aims to foster a shared understanding of how the effective integration of human rights into business operations can strengthen the protection of human rights across global supply chains and promote responsible and sustainable business conduct across jurisdictions, in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

In particular, the event seeks to:

- Highlight the potential of human rights due diligence to deliver positive outcomes for business enterprises, right-holders, societies, and States;
- Share best practices and lessons learned on the implementation of human rights due diligence, including examples from internationally operating business enterprises;
- Facilitate constructive dialogue and peer learning among States, international organizations, business enterprises, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders;
- Promote policy coherence and cooperation at the national, regional, and international level, to advance the prevention and remediation of business-related human rights impacts.
- Explore how trade and commercial activity can be harnessed as a positive force for the protection and advancement of human rights.

Format

The event will take the form of a moderated panel discussion, followed by an interactive exchange with the audience. Hybrid modalities will be available to enable remote participation.

Panel Discussion

- **Professor Maria Gavouneli**, President of Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR)
- **Mr Livio Sarandrea**, UNDP Global Policy Adviser on Business and Human Rights
- **Ms Katarina Nedeljković**, Advisor to the DG of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe
- **Ms Dimitra Serafeimidi**, Business and Human Rights Consultant & Training Lead, Ardea International
- **Ms Sophie Mytilineou-Daskalaki**, President, UN Global Compact Network Greece
- **Ms Alexandra Palli**, President, CSR Hellas
- **Ms Agni Mentaki Tripodi**, Business & Human Rights Expert, UNDP Global Policy Roster/Lecturer, n/w University Switzerland

Moderator:

Ambassador Mr Ioannis Ghikas, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Greece in Geneva