

## INAUGURAL DIALOGUE ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS (BHR) IN THE ARAB STATES REGION

*"Charting the Course for Responsible Business Practices in the Arab States Region"*

28-29 October 2024 | Doha (Qatar) and Online

### TENTATIVE AGENDA

Day 1, 28 October 2024   Regional Dialogue (in-person and online)		
	Session	Moderator and Speakers
8.30 – 9.00	Registration and Welcome Tea/Coffee	
9.00 – 10.00	<b>Opening Session</b> And a group photo session	<b>Speakers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H.E. Ms. Maryam bint Abdullah Al Attiyah, Chairperson, Qatar National Human Rights Committee, and President, GANHRI</li> <li>- H.E. Mr. Sultan Ben Hassan Aljammali, Secretary-General, Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions</li> <li>- Prof. Damilola Sunday Olawuyi, Member, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights</li> <li>- Mr. Biplove Choudhary, Technical Representative and Head of Office, UNDP Qatar</li> </ul>
10.00 – 10.30	Tea/Coffee Break	
10.30 – 11.30	<b>Session 1</b> <b>Charting the Course</b> Business and Human Rights in the Arab States Region: Priorities and Actions	<b>Moderator [Global landscape]:</b> Prof. Damilola Sunday Olawuyi, Member, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights  <b>Speakers:</b>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>[Regional cooperation]</b> Prof. Hajer Gueldich, Legal Counsel, African Union</li> <li>- <b>[Rights-holders' perspective]</b> Ms. Rita Chemaly, Executive Director, Lebanese League for Women in Business</li> <li>- <b>[Labour/migrant rights]</b> Ms. Luigia Ingianni, Commissioner, Employment Standards Office, Qatar Financial Centre Authority</li> <li>- <b>[CSDDD and its impacts on the region]</b> Mr. Angelos Lenos, Deputy Head of Mission, European Union Delegation to the State of Qatar</li> </ul>
11.30 – 12.30	<p><b>Session 2</b></p> <p><b>States' Duty to Protect</b></p> <p>Towards a conducive business and human rights regulatory environment in the Arab States Region</p>	<p><b>Moderator [International standards]:</b> Mr. Livio Sarandrea, Global Policy Adviser on Business and Human Rights, UNDP</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>[States' perspective]</b> Ms. Fatima Berkane, Secretary-General, Interministerial Delegation for Human Rights in Morocco</li> <li>- <b>[NAP development]</b> Mr. Ali Soubaneh Atteyeh, President, Djibouti National Human Rights Commission</li> <li>- <b>[Regulatory developments]</b> Mr. Walaa Gad El Karim, Member, Egypt National Council for Human Rights</li> <li>- <b>[Regulatory developments]</b> Ms. Zahra Albarazi, Board Member and Director of Programmes, Syrian Legal Development Programme</li> </ul>
12.30 – 13.00	Tea/Coffee Break	

<p>13.00 – 14.00</p>	<p><b>Session 3</b> <b>Corporate Responsibility to Respect</b> Towards business operations and partnerships based on a human rights-based approach</p>	<p><b>Moderator [International standards]:</b> Mr. Hugo Charbit, Regional Manager Partnerships, UNICEF MENA</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>[Businesses’ perspective]</b> Ms. Rim Siam, Member, Chamber of Commerce in Egypt.</li> <li>- <b>[Responsible supply chains]</b> Ms. Yasmine Barbir, Founder, Responsible Legacy and Circular Economy, and ESG Consultant</li> <li>- <b>[Affected rights-holder engagement]</b> Mr. Ahmad Abdallah, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Egyptian Commission for Rights and Freedoms</li> <li>- <b>[States’ perspective]</b> Dr. Mohammed Al Ameri, Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Qatar</li> </ul>
<p>14.00 – 15.00</p>	<p>Networking Lunch</p>	
<p>15.00 – 16.00</p>	<p><b>Session 4</b> <b>Access to Remedies</b> Towards people-centered remediation mechanisms and processes</p>	<p><b>Moderator [International standards]:</b> Ms. Sonia Cuesta, Associate Human Rights Officer, OHCHR</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>[States’ perspective]</b> TBC, Ministry of Labour of the State of Qatar</li> <li>- <b>[Role of NHRIs]</b> Mr. Abdulrahman Sultan Al Hashemi, Head of the Department of Legislation, Research and Legal Studies, Qatar National Human Rights Committee</li> <li>- <b>[Rights-holders’ perspective]</b> Ms. Ingrid Breisteinslien Rosland, Senior Advisor, Rafto</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>[Rights-holders' perspective]</b> Mr. Ahmad Awad, Director, Phenix Center for Economic and Informatics Studies</li> </ul>
16.00 – 17.00	<p><b>Session 5</b> <b>Way Forward</b></p>	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Marie-José Tayah, Technical Specialist for Social Dialogue, ILO</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>[Partners' way forward]</b> Ms. Asako Okai, Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Bahrain</li> <li>- <b>[UNDP's way forward]</b> Mr. Filippo Di Carpegna, Rule of Law and Human Rights Regional Advisor for the Arab States, UNDP</li> <li>- <b>[States' way forward]</b> Mr. Khalil Buhazaa, Director of Labor Affairs, Gulf Cooperation Council</li> <li>- <b>[Rights-holders' way forward]</b> Mr. Mohammad Lahdan Al-Muhannadi, Chair, Qatar Experts and Arbitrators Association for Cultural and Awareness</li> </ul>
17.30 – 18.30	<b>Meeting of the Drafting Committee</b>	<b>Participants:</b> Organizing Team <b>[INVITE-ONLY]</b>
<b>Day 2, 29 October 2024   Side Sessions (in person only)</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Conference Room 1</b>	<b>Conference Room 2</b>
9.00 – 11.00	<p><b>Group Work 1   Role of States</b></p> <p>Global and regional good practices and lessons learned in developing National Action Plans on business and human rights</p>	<p><b>Group Work 2   Role of CSOs [INVITE-ONLY]</b></p> <p>Role of CSOs in ensuring corporate respect for human rights in the Arab States region</p>

	<p><b>Moderator and Presenter:</b> Mr. Livio Sarandrea, Global Policy Adviser on Business and Human Rights, UNDP</p>	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Joseph Kibugu, Regional Manager for Africa and the Middle East, Business and Human Rights Resource Center</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Mr. Abdelbasset Ben Hassen, Arab Institute for Human Rights</p>
11.00 – 11.30	Tea/Coffee Break	
11.30 – 13.30	<p><b>Group Work 3   Role of Businesses</b></p> <p>Corporate responsibility to carry out human rights due diligence, including with environmental dimensions</p> <p><b>Moderator and Presenter:</b> Ms. Olga Nilova, Business and Human Rights Specialist, UNDP</p>	<p><b>Group Work 4   Role of NHRIs</b></p> <p>Role of NHRIs in ensuring corporate respect for human rights and supporting (potentially) affected rights-holders in the Arab States region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eng. Ali Al Drazzi, Chairman, Bahrain National Human Right Institution</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Nasser Marzouq Almerri, Qatar National Human Rights Committee</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b> Ms. Takoua Tayari, Business and Human Rights Administrator, UNDP Tunisia</p>
13.30 – 15.00	Networking Lunch	
15.00 – 16.00	<p><b>Closing Plenary   Working Groups' Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Chair:</b> Mr. Sultan bin Hassan Al-Jamali, Secretary General, Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions and Secretary General, Qatar National Human Rights Committee</li> <li>- <b>Speakers:</b> Four Working Groups' Rapporteurs</li> </ul>	
16.00 – 16.30	<p><b>Closing Statements and Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prof. Damilola Sunday Olawuyi, Member, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights</li> <li>- Mr. Sultan bin Hassan Al-Jamali, Secretary General, Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions and Secretary General, National Human Rights Committee of Qatar</li> </ul>	



17.00 – 18.30

**Group Work | Role of the UN [INVITE ONLY]**

UN cooperation on business and human rights in the Arab States Region