



**International Forum
BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS
Protect, Respect and Remedy**



**March 16, 2010
Marriott Grand Hotel
26, Tverskaya Street, Moscow**

In times of globalization and financial crisis, the impact that business has on society is ever more important. There is an increasing societal demand on companies to take on responsibilities that go beyond 'doing business'. Achieving consensus on these roles and responsibilities has been difficult because of very different views held by the various stakeholders involved: States, affected individuals and communities, civil society, and companies. In order to achieve greater clarity, and pursuant to a request from the then UN Commission on Human Rights, the UN Secretary General appointed Professor John Ruggie in 2005 as his Special Representative on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (SRSG). His mandate was to identify and clarify standards of corporate responsibility and accountability with regard to human rights, and to indicate the role of States in effectively regulating and adjudicating the role of business.

In June 2008, in accordance with his original mandate and after extensive research and consultations in different regions of the world, the SRSG proposed a policy framework for business and human rights built on three core principles:

- 1) The State duty to protect against human rights abuses committed by third parties, including business;
- 2) The corporate responsibility to respect human rights;
- 3) The need for greater access by victims to effective remedy.

The Framework was welcomed unanimously by the UN Human Rights Council, and endorsed by the major international business associations, individual companies and leading international human rights organizations. The Council extended the SRSG's mandate until 2011, asking him to "operationalize" the framework in order to provide concrete guidance to States and businesses. In carrying out his new mandate, the SRSG intends to continue his practice of hearing directly from and consulting with stakeholder groups from different parts of the world, learning from different regional perspectives on the overall issues raised by the mandate, and identifying potential ways, challenges and opportunities in operationalizing the framework. That is what brings him to Moscow.

The goal of the Moscow Forum is to share views and experiences with and among stakeholders in Russia and other interested countries in the region.

We would like to invite the following stakeholders to participate in the Forum:

- Government officials;
- Social program and human resources managers of large and medium business companies;
- Representatives of NGOs and human rights organizations;
- Experts and international organizations representatives.

DRAFT AGENDA

09.30 – 10.00	Registration. Welcoming coffee
Forum moderators	
<p>- Gerald Pachoud, Special Adviser of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on the Issue of Human Rights and Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises</p> <p>- Sergey Litovchenko, Executive Director, Russian Managers Association</p>	
10.00 – 10.15	Forum opening. Words of welcome
<p>- Frode Mauring, UN Resident Coordinator / UNDP Resident Representative in the Russian Federation</p> <p>- Alexandr Yakovenko, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation</p> <p>- Sergey Litovchenko, Executive Director, Russian Managers Association</p>	
10.15 – 11.00	Protect, Respect and Remedy: The UN framework for business and human rights
<p>- John Ruggie, Special Representative of the Secretary General on the Issue of Human Rights and Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises</p>	
11.00 – 13.00	<p>Section 1</p> <p>THE STATE DUTY TO PROTECT</p> <p>The Framework’s first principle is the State duty to protect against human rights abuses committed by third parties, including business. Most governments, whether host or home states, take a relatively narrow approach to managing the business and human rights agenda. Often human rights concerns are kept apart from, or heavily discounted in, other policy domains that directly shape business practices. Inadequate domestic policy coherence is, of course, replicated at the international level.</p> <p>The human rights policies of States in relation to business need to be pushed beyond their narrow institutional confines. Governments need actively to encourage corporate cultures respectful of human rights at home and abroad. And they need to consider human rights impacts when they sign trade and investment agreements, and when they provide export credit or investment guarantees for overseas projects in contexts where the risk of human rights challenges is known to be high.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools for strengthening domestic and international policy in protecting against corporate-related human rights abuses. • The need for States to consider human rights principles in policy domains that directly shape business practices. • Division of human rights protection functions between federal, regional and municipal government bodies. • Recommendations to help States better understand and fulfill the duty to protect with regard to corporate-related abuse.

Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sergey Kourbatov, Deputy Director of Department, Ministry of Healthcare and Social Development of the Russian Federation - Tatyana Margolina, Ombudsperson in the Perm Region, Co-Chair of the Coordination Council of Ombudspersons in the subjects of the Russian Federation - Natalia Ivanova, Director of Department of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Office of the Ombudsperson of the Supreme Soviet for Human Rights, Ukraine 	
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.30	Section 2 THE CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY TO RESPECT AS AN INDICATOR OF A SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS APPROACH <p>In addition to compliance with applicable laws, the corporate responsibility to respect human rights is the baseline expectation for all companies in all situations. It is recognized by virtually every voluntary initiative, and it is stipulated in such soft law instruments as the ILO Tripartite Declaration and the OECD Guidelines as well as in the UN Global Compact.</p> <p>Yet relatively few companies have systems in place enabling them to know that they respect human rights with any degree of confidence. What is required, therefore, is a due diligence process whereby companies become aware of, prevent, and address adverse human rights impacts.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State and business: division of human rights protection functions. • Stakeholder engagement in accordance with human rights principles and responsible business practices. • Due diligence in the context of the corporate responsibility to respect human rights. • Successful examples of a company's activities in accordance with human rights principles and responsible business practices. <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alexander Bim, Director, Global Compact Sustainable Development Project, Russia, UNDP Moscow - Oleg Alekseev, Board Member, Renova Group - Veronica Kabalina, Head of the Department for Social Programs, Norilsk Nickel - Galina Grigorieva, Manager for Sustainable Development, Alcoa-Russia - Reinier Nijmeijer, Associate General Counsel Upstream International, Russia and Caspian, Shell Exploration & Production Services (RF) BV
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break
16.00 – 17.30	Section 3 ACCESS TO MORE EFFECTIVE REMEDIES <p>Even where institutions operate optimally, disputes over adverse human rights impacts of company activities are likely to occur, and victims will seek redress. Currently, access to formal judicial systems is often most difficult where the need is greatest. And non-judicial mechanisms are seriously underdeveloped—from the</p>

company level up through national and international spheres.

Key questions:

- Remedies in Russia for those impacted by corporate human rights abuses.
- Recommendations on the improvement of existing human rights mechanisms and the introduction of more effective mechanisms.
- The role of mediation on human rights issues between companies and communities, as well as employers and employees.

Speakers:

- **Oleg Sapozhnikov**, Head of Public Information Department, Sakhalin Energy
- **Andrey Mrost**, Representative of International Confederation of Trade Unions in Russian Federation
- **Abgar Egoyan**, Director, NGO “Consumer Protection”, Armenia
- **Sergey Kondryuk**, Deputy Chairman of the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine
- **Allison Gill**, Director, Human Rights Watch
- **Alexander Gorelik**, Director, UN Information Center in the Russian Federation

17.30 – 18.00	Closing remarks
18.00 – 18.30	Cocktail Reception
