

# The OECD Guidelines:

## A tool for operationalising the business and human rights framework?

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OECD Watch **side event** at the OHCHR Consultation on business and human rights: Operationalizing the “Protect, Respect, Remedy” framework.

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**6 October 2009**

**13:00 – 15:00**

**Room XXVII, Palais des Nations**

**Geneva**

(lunch will be available in the room)

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The OECD Guidelines are at present one of the few mechanisms available to address the impacts of corporate misconduct. Though they can neither impose sanctions nor offer compensation, they provide a potentially valuable instrument for operationalising the “Protect, Respect, Remedy” framework developed by SRSG Ruggie. However, if that potential is to be realised fundamental changes are needed to harmonise performance of National Contact Points and enhance the OECD Guidelines’ effectiveness in ensuring that businesses respect human rights. A review of the OECD Guidelines is expected to start in 2010 and could provide an opportunity for such improvements.

This lunchtime side event will explore the Guidelines’ potential to contribute to the Ruggie framework. OECD Watch will encourage professor Ruggie and his team to engage with the OECD and member states in upgrading the Guidelines and create synergy towards a more effective and accountable business and human rights framework.

# Programme

Chair • **Richard Howitt, Member of European Parliament**  
**European Parliament Spokesperson on CSR**

- 13:00** **Welcome and introduction** by the Chair, *Richard Howitt*
- 13:15** **Aims of the side event**
- *Joseph Wilde-Ramsing, OECD Watch*
- 13:25** **Perspectives from the South:**  
**Can the OECD Guidelines provide effective remedies?**
- *Rashmi Venkatesan, Cividep, India*
  - *Samson Mokoena, GroundWork, South Africa*
  - *Víctor Ricco, CEDHA, Argentina*
- 13:55** **Response from the Ruggie Team**
- *Caroline Rees, Director of the Governance and Accountability Program, Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative, Harvard Kennedy School*
- 14:10** **Perspective from the unions**
- *Kirstine Drew, TUAC*
- 14:15** **Discussion with the audience**
- 14:40** **Conclusions and recommendations: Towards the review of the OECD Guidelines**
- *Joris Oldenziel, OECD Watch*

OECD Watch is an international network of civil society organisations promoting corporate accountability. The network currently consists of 88 civil society organisations from 45 different countries around the world. For more information visit [www.oecdwatch.org](http://www.oecdwatch.org) or e-mail [info@oecdwatch.org](mailto:info@oecdwatch.org).