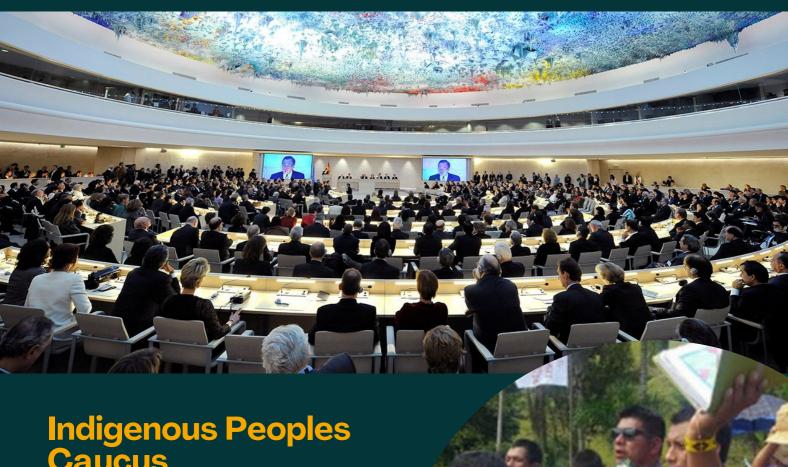# Information for Indigenous Peoples

12th UN Forum on Business and Human Rights
Geneva, November 27 - 29, 2023

Indigenous Peoples Caucus
Geneva, November 26

Information for representatives of Indigenous peoples participating in the 12th Forum on Business and Human Rights

CAOI
Coordinadora Andina
de Organizaciones Indígenas

FIAY
FORO INDÍGENA DEL
ABYA YALA

Caucus de Pueblos Indígenas del
Abya Yala

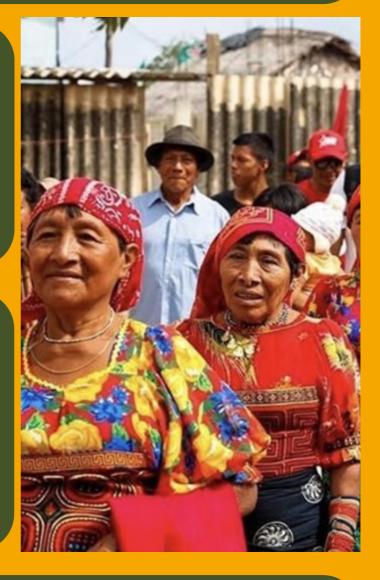# United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights

Background:

On June 16, 2011, the United Nations Human Rights Council established the United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights by the adoption of resolution 17/4. This resolution adopted the "UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations 'Protect, Respect, and Remedy' Framework" and established the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

Mandate:

To discuss trends and challenges in the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. To promote dialogue and cooperation on issues related to business and human rights, including challenges arising in specific sectors concerning particular rights or groups. Additionally, it seeks to identify best practices.

Participants:

The Forum brings together various stakeholders, including states, United Nations mechanisms, specialized bodies, funds, and programs; intergovernmental organizations; regional human rights mechanisms; national human rights institutions; transnational and other businesses; business associations; labor unions; academics; representatives of indigenous peoples; and affected individuals and groups.

Methodology:

Since 2012, the Forum has been held annually over a three-day period. One day is dedicated to preparatory meetings and exchanges on new instruments and experiences (resolutions 17/4, 26/22, and 44/15).

The Forum is directed and chaired by the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (resolutions 17/4, 35/7, and 44/15).

The program of the Forum is prepared by the Working Group. It includes sessions led by the Working Group as well as side events proposed by stakeholders. The Working Group compiles and presents a report to the Human Rights Council summarizing the discussions and recommendations.
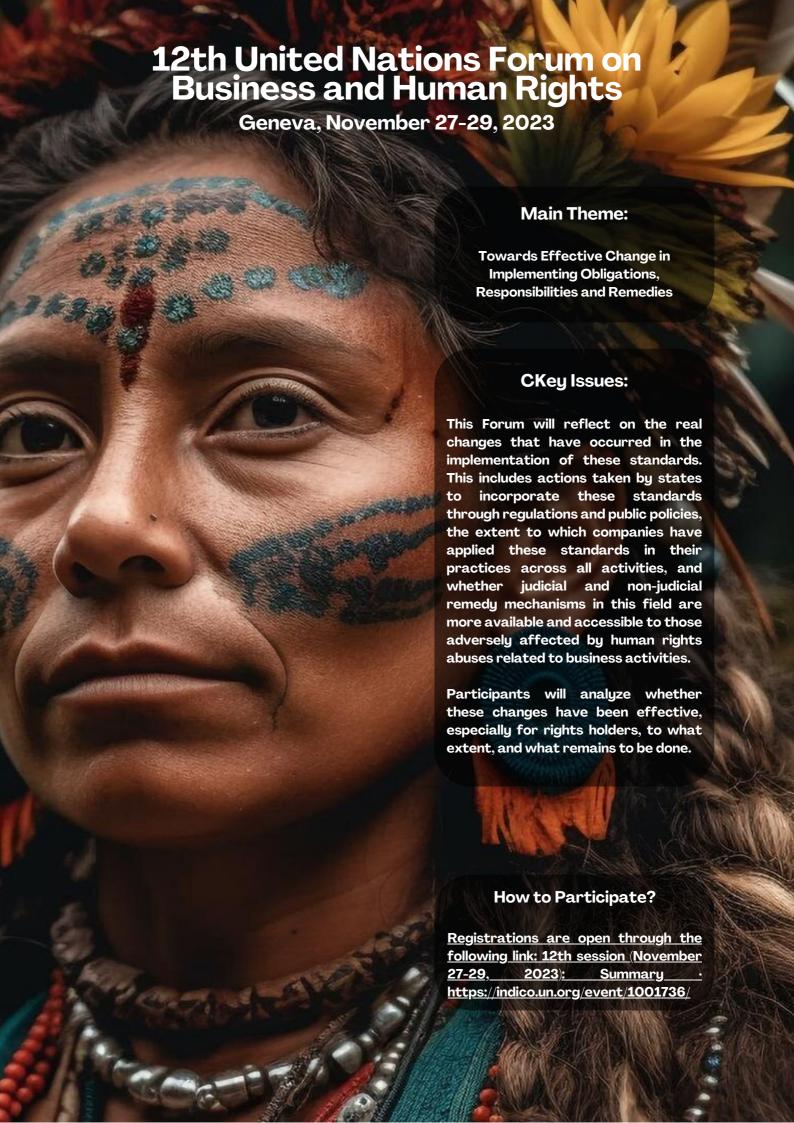
What is the Forum?

- ·It is a space for dialogue involving multiple stakeholders on the subject of business and human rights.

- ·It is the largest annual global gathering on business and human rights.

- Since 2012, ten annual forums on business and human rights have been held.

Opportunities for Indigenous Peoples

- ·Engage in dialogue with members of the Working Group on Business and Human Rights and other UN mechanisms.

- ·Provide information about the situation in their territories affected by business activities.

- ·Share their experiences of participation in the implementation of the Guiding Principles.

- ·Participate in the Indigenous Peoples Caucus prior to the 12th United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights.

12th United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights

Geneva, November 27-29, 2023

Main Theme:

Towards Effective Change in Implementing Obligations, Responsibilities and Remedies

CKey Issues:

This Forum will reflect on the real changes that have occurred in the implementation of these standards. This includes actions taken by states to incorporate these standards through regulations and public policies, the extent to which companies have applied these standards in their practices across all activities, and whether judicial and non-judicial remedy mechanisms in this field are more available and accessible to those adversely affected by human rights abuses related to business activities.

Participants will analyze whether these changes have been effective, especially for rights holders, to what extent, and what remains to be done.

How to Participate?

Registrations are open through the following link: 12th session (November 27-29, 2023): Summary · https://indico.un.org/event/1001736/

Program

The draft program of the Forum is available on the official event website: https://acortar.link/iiy4B4

Approximately 35 working sessions are planned over the three days of the event, including one related to Just Transition in the Energy and Extractive Industries.

A session addressing Progress and Opportunities to Strengthen the Business and Human Rights Agenda in the Latin America and Caribbean region has also been scheduled.

Another session of interest is the Updated OECD Guidelines: A New Roadmap for Tackling Climate Change.

Additionally, there is a session dedicated to Progress and Opportunities for Human Rights Due Diligence and the Environment Practice

One of the most important sessions is focused on the role of indigenous peoples in promoting the business and human rights agenda.

More information

For general inquiries:
ohchr-forumbhr@un.org

For logistical and registration inquiries:
ohchr-registrationforumbhr@un.org

Side events

As of the date, there is no option to submit applications, as the deadline closed in April.

Indigenous Peoples Caucus

Prior to the 12th Forum on Business and Human Rights, indigenous organizations, with the support of DOCIP, will convene in the Indigenous Peoples Caucus to be held on November 26. The Caucus will review progress in the implementation of the Guiding Principles and will agree on a statement outlining their main demands for the protection of their rights in the context of business activities in their territories.

The Caucus will take place on Sunday, November 26, from 10 am to 5 pm. You can confirm your participation through the following link: https://forms.gle/AXAEGyp3fUhu5aM76

For organizational and logistical reasons, ONLY REGISTERED INDIVIDUALS will be able to participate in the Caucus meeting.

In the coming days, we will provide further details on the development of the Caucus.

Recent statements by indigenous peoples:

2021: Declaration of the Indigenous Peoples Caucus at the 10th Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights (spanish version): https://bit.ly/3EcRJR6

2022: Declaration of the Indigenous Peoples Caucus of Latin America at the 7th Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights (spanish version): https://bit.ly/3wTKdJt

2022: Declaration of the Indigenous Peoples Caucus at the 11th Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights (spanish version): https://bit.ly/3gNFEvn

2023: Declaration of the Indigenous Peoples Caucus of Latin America at the 8th Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights (spanish version): https://goo.su/yTOvET

Caucus Global de Pueblos Indígenas

Ginebra, 26 de Noviembre de 2023

CAOI — COORDINADORA ANDINA DE ORGANIZACIONES INDÍGENAS

FIAY — FORO INDÍGENA DEL ABYA YALA

Caucus de Pueblos Indígenas del Abya Yala

12° Foro anual de la ONU sobre empresas y derechos humanos

Ginebra, 27 - 29 de Noviembre de 2023

More information:

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https://caoicoordinadoraandina.org/

https://www.facebook.com/caoi.andina/

https://twitter.com/caoi_andina

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