

Programme for East Africa Conference on Business and Human Rights: Opportunities to Integrate Human and Environmental Rights into Land Based Investments

When: 14 - 15 June 2023

Where: Kampala and [online](#)

DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY, 14 JUNE

| Time | Session | Objective | Speakers |
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| 08.30-9.00 | Registration | | |
| 09.00-9.30 | Opening Panel | The speakers of this session, including hosts, donors, and key stakeholders, will officially welcome the participations to the East Africa Business and Human Rights Conference. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anders Bastholm Hansen, Country Director, DanChurchAid Arnolda Shiundu, Sustainability Lead, Diaego / East African Breweries Professor Damilola Olawuyi, Vice-Chair, Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises [online] H.E. Jan Sadek, Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to Uganda Hon. Nyirabashitsi Sarah Mateke, The Minister of State for Youth and Children Affairs (Uganda) <p><i>Moderator: Gladys Nairuba (DanChurchAid)</i></p> |
| 09.30-10.30 | Pecha Kucha presentations and discussions: Business and Human Rights Policy Development in East Africa | This session will explore amongst a spectrum of actors the progress that has been made on the business and human rights agenda in the East Africa Region. It will further aim to identify areas that | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ikubaje John Gbodi, Political Officer, the African Union Commission |

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| | | can be advanced and which protection gaps remain. The session will also look at the implementation of the UNGPs highlighting government action and the development of Business and Human Rights National Action Plans (NAPs). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benard Mujuni, Commissioner, Equity & Rights, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development • Cyrus Maweu, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights • Jovina Muchunguzi, Business and Human Rights Coordinator, Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (Tanzania) • Arnold Kwesiga, Program Manager, Business and Human Rights at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria (host of ACCA) <p><i>Moderator: Mercy Obonyo (Network of African National Human Rights Institutions)</i></p> |
| 10.30-10.45 | Presentation: Introduction to Business and Human Rights Frameworks | This session will introduce the international policy frameworks within the field of Business and Human Rights. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria de Mello, Business and Human Rights Specialist, the United Nations Development Programme |
| 10.45-11.00 | Presentation: Human Rights amidst Just Transition | This session will provide the perspective of Human Rights Defenders within the context of the rights risks related to energy transition. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celine Tschizena, Lawyer and Advocacy Director at African Resources Watch (AFREWATCH, DRC) |
| 11.00-11.30 | Break: Tea | | |
| 11.30-11.45 | Presentation: A Private Sector Perspective to Responsible Business Conduct | The speaker of this session will share the RBC strategy and experiences related to investments in agricultural business. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mona Muguma Ssebuliba, CEO, aBi (Agricultural Business Initiative) Finance Limited (Uganda) |
| 11.45-13.00 | Plenary: Welcoming and Preparing for the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive | The session will provide insights and guidance on the implementation of the directive, discussing its implications for businesses and other stakeholders. It will introduce the key reporting requirements, and enforcement mechanisms. The session will also explore best practices and strategies to ensure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gilbert Cathal, Programme Officer, Delegation of the European Union to Uganda • Joseph Byomuhangi, Coordinator, Uganda Consortium on Corporate Accountability • Joseph Kibugu, Regional Manager for Africa, the Business and Human Rights Resource Center |

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| | | future compliance and enhance corporate sustainability efforts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elin Wrzoncki, Human Rights and Business Department Director, the Danish Institute of Human Rights [online] Malisa Mukanga, Country Manager of Hans R Neumann Stiftung <p><i>Moderator: Gladys Nairuba (DanChurchAid)</i></p> |
| 13.00-14.00 | Break: Lunch | | |
| 14.00-14.15 | Introduction to Breakout Workshops | This session will in broad introduce the topic and scope of the breakout workshops. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arnold Kwesiga, Program Manager, Business and Human Rights at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria (host of ACCA) |
| 14.15-15.45 | Breakout Workshops: Exploring Multiple Pathways for Business and Human Rights | | |
| | <i>A: Engaging Civil Society and Human Rights and Environmental Defenders in Due Diligence Activities</i> | This session will explore into the vital role that civil society organizations and human rights and environmental defenders play in due diligence activities for land-based investments. It will examine the existing policies that involve civil society and human rights defenders in these activities and identify potential policies and measures that can be implemented to enhance their engagement. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gerald Kanya, Team Leader, Twerwaneho Listeners Club (Uganda) Teresa Mutua, Interim Communities co-director, Accountability Counsel (Kenya) <p><i>Facilitator: Joanne Kirmi (DanChurchAid Kenya)</i></p> |
| | <i>B: Access to Judicial and Non-judicial Remedy [FRENCH TRANSLATION AVAILABLE]</i> | This session will dive into the critical issue of access to remedy for human rights violations. It shall explore both judicial and non-judicial avenues for seeking redress, examining the framework provided by the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and relevant National Action Plans. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elizabeth Kemigisha, Advocacy and Policy Manager, the Uganda Association of Women Lawyers-FIDA(U) Joyce Komanya, Head : Corporate Accountability and Environmental Justice, Legal and Human Rights Centre (Tanzania) Patrick Karanja, Project Lead Consultant, Advocates for International Development (A4ID, Kenya) <p><i>Facilitator: TBC (Advocates Sans Frontieres Uganda)</i></p> |

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| | <i>C: Operational and Reputational Opportunities within Business and Human Rights Implementation</i> | This session will examine the application of BHR principles in various sectors. The session will highlight the policy positions related to BHR and RBC and delve into the experiences of private sector actors in implementing principles. Through sharing case examples and best practices, this session aims to provide valuable insights and lessons learned in promoting respect for human rights in business operations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph Kibugu, Regional Manager for Africa, the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre • Mary Thou, CEO, Cityscape Trends (Kenya) • Jolis Nduwimana, CEO, Warrior Eco-Green Enterprise (Burundi) <p><i>Facilitator: Judy Njino (Global Compact Network Kenya)</i></p> |
| | <i>D: Youth and Media as Promoters of the Business and Human Rights Agenda</i> | This session aims to explore the influential role that youth and media can play in promoting business and human rights (BHR). Recognizing the power of youth as agents of change and the significant impact of media in shaping public opinion, we will delve into strategies to effective engagement. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bokayo Sora, Programme Officer, United Nations Development Programme • Abul Ajak, Independent film maker (Uganda/South Sudan) <p><i>Facilitator: Jarc Tusiime & Violet Ayoub Foy (East African Youth Network)</i></p> |
| | <i>E: The Role of National Human Rights Institutions and Civil Society in Promoting Implementation of NAPs in National Contexts</i> | This session focuses on exploring the critical role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) in promoting the implementation of National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights (NAPs) in national contexts in East Africa. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenya National Commission on Human Rights - Cyrus Maweu • Accountability Counsel - Teresa Mutua • Advocates for International Development - Patrick Karanja • Ethiopia Human Rights Commission - Brightman Gebremichael • TBC, Uganda Human Rights Commission <p><i>Facilitator: Mercy Obonyo (Network of African National Human Rights Institutions)</i></p> |
| | <i>F: Inter-ministerial Coordination of Human Rights Law</i> | The session will discuss the importance of inter-ministerial coordination in the context of human rights law and related challenges and opportunities, highlighting cases from various countries. The session will explore how coordination can ensure coherent and comprehensive approaches. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anne Mwathi, Senior State Counsel, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Justice (Kenya) <p><i>Facilitator: Simon Ndizeye (The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development)</i></p> |

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| | <i>G: Opportunities to Include Business and Human Rights into EAC Trade Policy</i> | This session will emphasize fundamental rights and principles guiding business activities. It will also discuss regional policy engagement to help businesses identify, prevent, mitigate, and address adverse effects on human rights. Additionally, it will explore the roles of stakeholders (governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector) and stress the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration to tackle human rights challenges in the business sector. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seyoum Chane, Addis Chamber of Commerce (Ethiopia) Joyce Kiplagat, Chamber of Commerce (Kenya) Gabriel Acaye, Project Manager, East African Law Society <p><i>Facilitator: Helen Njeri (East African Civil Society Organisation's Forum)</i></p> |
| | <i>H: AU and regional developments and opportunities for Business and Human Rights AFCFTA discussions mainstreamed</i> | This session highlights the African Union's efforts on Business and Human Rights, including the role of key institutions such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. It focuses on promoting the draft African Union Business and Human Rights Policy, supporting national initiatives, and fostering partnerships in East Africa. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thelma Chinyamurindi, Project Officer, African Coalition for Corporate Accountability (ACCA) <p><i>Facilitator: Ikubaje John Gbodi (the African Union Commission)</i></p> |
| 15:45-16.15 | <i>Targeted Highlights & Presentations (from breakout workshops)</i> | This session will invite the rapporteurs from each breakout session to briefly highlight the outputs of the workshops. | <i>Pre-identified rapporteurs from each workshop.</i> |
| 16.15-17.15 | <i>Afternoon Tea and Networking</i> | An afternoon tea session will give the multiple stakeholders a chance to discuss the developments and potential of the applied business and human rights agenda in an informal setting. | N/A |

DAY 2 – THURSDAY, 15 JUNE

| Time | Session | Objective | Speakers |
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| 08.30-9.00 | Registration | | |
| 09.00-9.05 | Welcome Remarks by the moderator | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gladys Nairuba (DanChurchAid Uganda) |
| 09.05-10.00 | Opening Panel: Rights Holders Voices on Energy Transition | This session aims to highlight the lived experiences of rights holders affected by energy transition projects/initiatives. The session will present two cases studies from South Sudan and Uganda. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrew Byharuanga, Director, Resource Rights Africa (Uganda) James Bidal, Coordinator, South Sudan HRD network Hambisa Ayana, Ethiopian Minorities and Indigenous Peoples Rights Organization (EMIPRO) <p><i>Moderator: Ojot Miru Ujulu (the Danish Institute for Human Rights, Ethiopia)</i></p> |
| 10.00-11.00 | Panel: Challenges and Opportunities Faced by Businesses in Complying to Human Rights standards within Land Based Investments (Human Rights Impact Assessment processes and issues) | This session will dive into the challenges and opportunities faced by businesses in complying to HR standards within Land Based Investments, with specific attention to human rights impact assessments' process and issues. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary Begg-Safar, NGO coordination and Human Rights Director, Total Energies (Uganda) Arnolda Shiundu, Sustainability Lead Diaego / East African Breweries (Kenya) Elie Ntirenganya, Climate smart agricultural expert / Co-founder, Biosolutions Rwanda <p><i>Moderator: Ronald Mayanja, Director Communications, Marketing & Sustainability, UN Global Compact-Local Network Uganda</i></p> |
| 11.00-11.30 | Break: Tea | | |
| 11.30-11.45 | Introduction to Breakout Workshops | This session will in broad introduce the topic and scope of the breakout workshops. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joseph Kibugu, Regional Manager for Africa, the Business and Human Rights Resource Center (Kenya) |

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| 11.45-13.15 | Breakout Workshops: Business and Human Rights in Land Based Investment | | |
| | <i>A: Child Rights in the Mining Industry</i> | The session will highlight the plight of child labourers in the Mining sector and make recommendations towards the eradication of child labour. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benedict Omillo, Executive Director, East African Child Rights Network <i>Facilitator: Joseph Byomuhangi (Uganda Consortium on Corporate Accountability), co-facilitator, Brian Kiira (Initiative for Social and Economic Rights, Uganda)</i> |
| | <i>B: Child Rights in Agricultural Production</i> | This session focuses on the critical issue of child rights in agricultural production. The session will discuss international frameworks and standards related to child rights in agriculture, emphasizing the importance of protecting children from harmful practices. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sano Anselme, Deputy Secretary General, Syndicat Des Travailleurs Aux Services Des Driots Humains (Rwanda) <i>Facilitator: Milcah Lalam, Private Sector Partnership Specialist (UNICEF Uganda)</i> |
| | <i>C: Women in Energy Transition</i> | This session explores the intersection of women's rights, energy transition, human rights, It highlights the challenges and opportunities for women in sustainable energy systems and emphasizes the importance of inclusive transitions that prioritize women's rights and sustainable business practices. | <i>Facilitator: Salma Houerbi, Human Rights and Business Advisor, the Danish Institute for Human Rights</i> |
| | <i>D: Women's Rights in Agricultural Production</i> | This session highlights women's rights in agricultural production. Participants will delve into the specific challenges faced by women in the agricultural sector, such as limited access to resources, gender-based discrimination, and unequal opportunities. The session aims to raise awareness about the importance of promoting and protecting women's rights in agricultural production. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atuhair Joyce, African Women Agribusiness Network (AWAN, Uganda) <i>Facilitator: Immaculate Maina (DanChurchAid Kenya)</i> |
| | <i>E: Labor Rights, Trade Unions and Land Based Investments</i> | This session explores the relationship between labor rights, trade unions, and land-based investments. Participants will examine the impact on workers and the role of trade unions in promoting fair conditions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lydia Bwiite, Platform for Labour Action (Uganda) Stephen Karake, Advisor of the Minister of Labour, Work and Employment (Burundi) |

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| | | The session aims to foster dialogue and collaboration to prioritize the rights and well-being of workers in land-based investments. | <i>Facilitator: Dan Okanya, (East African Employers Organisation)</i> |
| | <i>F: Worker's Rights within Supply Chain Management</i> | This session focuses on worker's rights within supply chain management. Participants will explore the challenges faced by workers in global supply chains, including issues such as low wages, unsafe working conditions, and limited access to labor rights. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Awongo, CEO, Trueline Africa (South Sudan) • Mary Begg-Safar, NGO coordination and Human Rights Director, Total Energies (Uganda) <i>Facilitator: Gilbert Kibekityo, Project Manager (Uganda Manufacturers Association)</i> |
| | <i>G: Land Rights and the Just Transition</i> | This session will explore the intersection of land rights, social justice, and the transition to sustainable and low-carbon business operations. The session aims to shed light on the challenges faced by communities in relation to land ownership, access, and control during the transition process. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff Wokulira Ssebagala, Director and Team Lead, Witness Radio • Florence Shako, Centre for Education Policy and Climate Justice <i>Facilitator: Jane Nalunga, Director, The Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiation Institute (Seatini)</i> |
| | <i>H: Environmental Rights and Biodiversity during Land Based Investments</i> | This session focuses on environmental rights and biodiversity in the context of land-based investments. Participants will examine the impacts of such investments on the environment, including biodiversity loss and ecological degradation. The session aims to raise awareness about the importance of safeguarding environmental rights and biodiversity in land-based investment projects. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime Nkezumukama, Executive Director, DUKINGIRE ISI YACU (Burundi) <i>Facilitator: Mary Bekunda (DanChurchAid)</i> |
| 13.15-14.15 | Break: Lunch | | |
| 14.15-14.45 | Targeted Highlights & Presentations (from breakout workshop) | This session will invite the rapporteurs from each breakout session to briefly highlight the outputs of the workshops. | <i>Pre-identified rapporteurs from each workshop.</i> |
| 14.45-16.00 | | This last plenary session of the Conference, will bring together a rich mix of actors to take stock and | |

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| | Opportunities for Positive Developments and Ways Forward | reflect on how East Africa and by extension the entire continent, can take advantage of existing and potential opportunities for positive development, take steps forward, leverage on existing efforts and advance the BHR agenda in the Continent. The session will introduce the 2nd African Business and Human Rights Forum convened by the African Union Commission (AUC) and co-organised by UNDP, OHCHR, UN Working Group on BHR, and UNICEF. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ikubaje John Gbodi, Political Officer, the African Union Commission • Harriet Asibazuyo, Principal Social Development Officer (Coordinator, National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights) Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (Uganda) • Judy Njino, Executive Director, Global Compact Network Kenya • Bienvenu Tshiala - the National Human Rights Institution (the Democratic Republic of Congo) • Jane Nalunga, Director, The Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiation Institute (Seatini) • Victoria de Mello, the United Nations Development Programme <p><i>Moderator: Mercy Obonyo (Network of African National Human Rights Institutions)</i></p> |
| 16.00-16.10 | Closing Remarks | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Signe Winding Albjerg, Danish Ambassador to Uganda |