

Safeguarding human rights in simplification: EU's proposal to amend the CSDDD

23 September 2025, 16:30 - 18:00 followed by reception
UN House, Boulevard du Régent 37, 1000 Brussels



Objectives

- Increased awareness of how the proposed amendments to the CSDDD may negatively affect rights-holders, especially workers and groups in vulnerable situations, as well as business.
- Improved capacity of participants to engage with the CSDDD reform process and advocate for an approach that minimizes administrative burdens, creates legal certainty, and effectively protects rights-holders, in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

16:00 - 16:30

Arrival and registration

16:30 - 18:00

Panel discussion

Welcome

- Christina Meinecke, Regional Representative for Europe, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Moderator

- Robert McCorquodale, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights

Panel

- Mauricio Lazala, Chief, Business and Human Rights Unit, OHCHR
- Tomoya Obokata, UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery
- Veronika Hunt Safrankova, Head of Brussels Office, United Nation Environment Programme
- Gabrielle Holly, Chief Advisor, Human Rights and Business, Danish Institute for Human Rights
- Niklas Wehner, Director for Corporate Responsibility International, ALDI SÜD
- Virginie Rouas, Senior Legal Advisor, European Coalition for Corporate Justice

18:00 - 19:00

Reception

Background: The Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) was adopted in June 2024 and represented a milestone in global efforts to ensure business respect for human rights and the environment. In February 2025, the European Commission presented an omnibus proposal to “simplify and streamline” EU directives on sustainability reporting and due diligence, including the CSDDD. There are ongoing debates about the extent to which these simplification efforts may weaken essential protections related to human rights and the environment.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has actively engaged with EU institutions regarding the CSDDD and omnibus proposal, issuing a commentary on the Commission draft in May 2025, complemented by a press release from the High Commissioner. The UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights has also issued statements in February and March 2025.