



OECD Watch **workshop series** 

Using the **OECD Guidelines** for change

CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE

4 Dec 2023

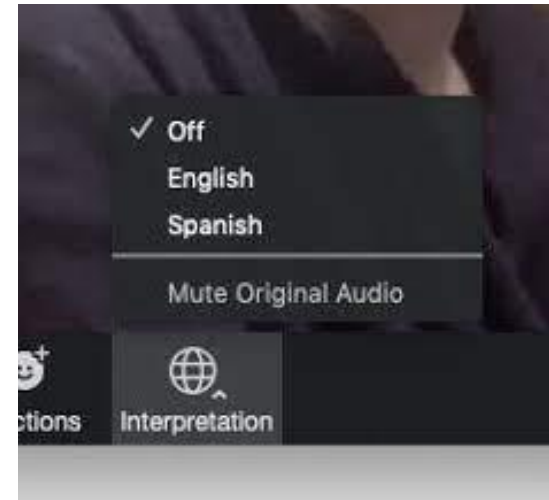
10:00 (CET)

11:00 (EET)



House rules

- Interpretation available
- Stay on mute when not talking
- The meeting is being recorded



Agenda

1. OECD Watch network
2. Context and purpose of workshop
3. OECD Guidelines and National Contact Points
4. Interventions
5. Questions & answers

About OECD Watch

- **Global network** of 140+ CSOs in 54 countries
- **Official representative of civil society** at the OECD Investment Committee
- Our work: capacity building, research, advocacy



For more information click here

About us

Context and purpose of workshop

Context

- Diverse harms of companies
- Lack of strong / binding legislation and accountability



Purpose

- Learn & strategise about how the OECD Guidelines could be an **additional tool** in this regional context

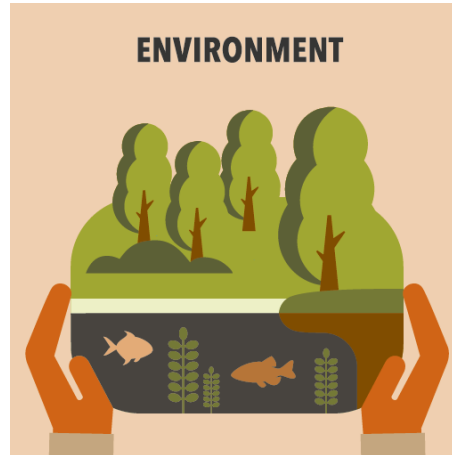
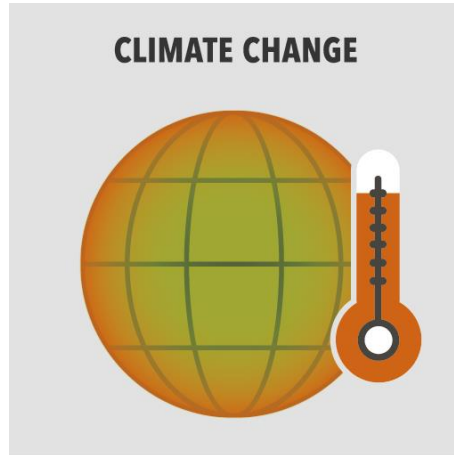


What are the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct?

- Recommendations from OECD governments to companies on how to act responsibly
- Non-binding (voluntary) standards for responsible business conduct – broad sector, issue & value chain coverage
- Governments that follow the Guidelines must establish a body called a National Contact Point (NCP) to promote the Guidelines and handle (non-judicial) complaints
- Updated in June 2023



What is in the updated Guidelines text?



For more information click here

[What's in the Guidelines](#)

Strengths & weaknesses

Strengths

- Government backing
- Broad coverage (sectors, issues, countries)
- Whole value chain
- Complaint mechanism
- Associated due diligence guidance

Weaknesses

- Not binding on companies
- States not required to enforce penalties
- Weak implementation (NCPs)

How to use the Guidelines

20  **ECD Watch**
YEARS



What are National Contact Points?

- Government-backed office that every government following the Guidelines must establish
- Two functions: (1) Promoting the Guidelines; (2) Handling complaints against companies alleged not to have met the Guidelines' standards
- Complaints are non-judicial, usually handled through mediation seeking to help the parties reach an agreement to address past harms and improve future practice
- Complaint eligibility – link to an OECD country



Filing complaints: strengths and weaknesses

Strengths

- Cheaper, faster, less adversarial (compared to litigation)
- Flexible remedy options
- Speak directly to company during mediation

Weaknesses

- Voluntary and non-binding
- High complaint rejection rate
- Few agreements
- Remedy not guaranteed

A complaint is **stronger** when it is filed **strategically**

Accession to OECD

- Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania (Brazil and Peru) in process of acceding to the OECD
- OECD Watch has two asks:
 - Substantive: improving environmental and social policies through accession (Brazil as test case)
 - Process: more transparency & inclusiveness in accession process
- Does CEE civil society want to engage?

For more information click here

[Work on Brazil's accession](#)

Interventions from speakers



Questions?

What do you want to understand better?

**What doubts do you have about the Guidelines or
NCPs?**

**Tell us about a harm that you are facing or
campaign you're working on & lets discuss how the
Guidelines could be helpful...**

Consider becoming a member of OECD Watch for:

- Connections with other global members for complaints and advocacy
- Access to information on RBC-related activities at the OECD
- Opportunities to advise on policy at the OECD
 - And more...

Contact us

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See our website by clicking here

OECD Watch

www.oecdwatch.org

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