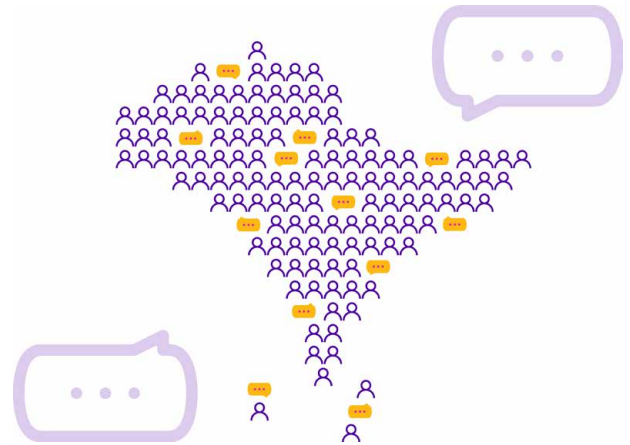


## AGENDA

# 4<sup>th</sup> UN South Asia Forum on Business and Human Rights

20-22 March 2023  
Kathmandu, Nepal and virtual

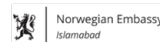
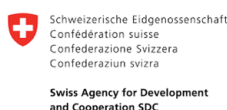
**REGISTER**



## DAY 1 | MONDAY, MARCH 20

Time*	Session	
09:00–10:30	<b>TRAINING</b> <b>Introduction to the UNGPs and the MNE Declaration</b> This training is open to all registered, in-person forum participants. <a href="#">Register to join here.</a>	
10:30–11:00	Tea break	
11:00–11:30	<b>Inauguration and Keynote Address</b> Welcome remarks: <b>Hanaa Singer-Hamdy</b> , UN Resident Coordinator, Nepal Opening remarks: <b>Shanker Das Bairagi</b> , Chief Secretary, Government of Nepal Keynote address: <b>Pichamon Yeophantong</b> , Chair, UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights	
11:30–12:30	<b>High-Level Opening Plenary: Workers and Employers in Asia: Progress, Challenges, and Opportunities</b>	
12:30–13:30	Lunch	
13:30–14:45	<b>GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS PLENARY</b> <b>Strengthening Resilience in Asian Supply Chains</b> The session aims to provide a brief overview of some of the main trends, challenges and opportunities related to protecting and respecting the rights of workers in South Asian supply chains.	
14:45–15:15	Tea Break	
15:15–16:30	<b>Government Action on Promoting Responsible Business in South Asia</b> The session seeks to assess government progress and challenges in implementing the UNGPs in South Asia, discuss the value of meaningful stakeholder engagement and inclusion and discuss ongoing NAP processes in this respect. The session will also look ahead and evaluate how governments and other stakeholders can promote business respect for human rights beyond NAPs in the foreseeable future.	<b>Young Workers and the Future of Work</b> This session will explore how current transformations will impact future prospects for young workers, and what policies and actions need to put in place now to ensure the adequate protection of young workers. It will also look at the youth perspective on these issues.
16:30–17:45	<b>Indigenous Peoples' Experiences with Business and Human Rights Cases in South Asia</b> In this session, IPHRDs from India, Bangladesh and Nepal of the IPHRD Network in Asia will share their experiences on the panel. They will share their selected cases related to BHR on Indigenous Peoples and share experience on how to work with cases and provide some recommendations to the forum. AIPP will share regional overview of the situation of IPs in relation to business and human rights.	

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\*All times are displayed in Nepal Standard Time (GMT +5:45)

## DAY 2 | TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Time*	Session		
09:00–10:30	<p><b>MIGRATION PLENARY</b></p> <p><b>The Future of Migration in South Asia</b></p> <p>This session intends to explore the shifting dynamics of migration in South Asia, identifying the drivers behind these economic, social, technological, and environmental trends and changes, analyze how risks and vulnerabilities faced by migrants have evolved in parallel, and recommend measures to protect their human rights. The session will explore policy options for migration that is safe, dignified and sustainable and protects the human rights of migrants.</p>		
10:30-11:00	Tea Break		
11:00–12:15	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>MIGRATION</b></p> <p><b>Protecting Migrant Workers during Recruitment and upon Return</b></p> <p>This session will look at ways and means to protect migrant workers through fair and ethical recruitment practices and sustainable return and reintegration.</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS</b></p> <p><b>Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence: Perspectives from the Global South</b></p> <p>The session aims to amplify Global South voices on mHRDD. Panelists and participants will explore the effect of mHRDD legislation on South Asia, to what extent ongoing legislative trends in the Global North integrate Global South perspectives.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>MIGRATION</b></p> <p><b>Protecting Migrant Workers during Recruitment and upon Return</b></p> <p>This session will look at ways and means to protect migrant workers through fair and ethical recruitment practices and sustainable return and reintegration.</p>	<p><b>GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS</b></p> <p><b>Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence: Perspectives from the Global South</b></p> <p>The session aims to amplify Global South voices on mHRDD. Panelists and participants will explore the effect of mHRDD legislation on South Asia, to what extent ongoing legislative trends in the Global North integrate Global South perspectives.</p>
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13:30–15:00	<p><b>JUST TRANSITIONS PLENARY</b></p> <p><b>Transitioning to a Just and Fair World – What’s at Stake</b></p> <p>The session aims to provide an overview of the concept of “just transitions”, provide examples of how this concept can be applied to various economic transitions, and outline potential impacts on workers in South Asia, including by hearing from workers and their representatives themselves. Moreover, the session will stimulate debate among panelists and speakers on the specific impacts faced by workers, and what governments and businesses can do to ensure that economic transitions are grounded in a human rights based approach.</p>		
15:00–15:30	Tea break		

## DAY 2 | TUESDAY, MARCH 21 (continued)

Time*	Session
15:30–16:45	<p><b>INFORMAL WORKERS</b></p> <p><b>Pathways towards Integrated Approaches to Formalization</b></p> <p>This session will discuss examples of initiatives pursuing coordinated and integrated pathways towards the formalization of jobs and businesses. It will also reflect on the challenges to upholding human rights in business operations in the informal economy and what could be meaningful ways to address them.</p>
16:45–18:00	<p><b>JUST TRANSITIONS</b></p> <p><b>Just Transitions and Human Rights Defenders</b></p> <p>This session will explore land and environmental defenders' critical role in addressing climate risks and how responsible business must uphold their rights to ensure a just transition.</p>
	<p><b>GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS</b></p> <p><b>Breaking Barriers for Women: Applying an Intersectional Lens to Human Rights Due Diligence in Supply Chains</b></p> <p>This session will provide an important platform for sharing knowledge and experiences on applying an intersectional approach to human rights due diligence in a supply chain. The session seeks to raise awareness about the importance of identifying and addressing the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and inequality in supply chains through due diligence processes and inspire action towards more gender-responsive and resilient supply chains.</p>

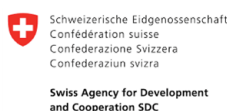
## DAY 3 | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Time*	Session
09:00–10:15	<p><b>From Tragedy to Progress: Lessons from Rana Plaza Building Collapse</b></p> <p>To commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Rana Plaza Building collapse in Bangladesh, the session will analyse the success of the Bangladesh Accord for Fire and Building Safety (the Accord) and the Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety (the Alliance). The panellists will share their views on what lessons could be learnt from the Accord and Alliance to make factories safer in other sourcing countries in South Asia and how the lessons from RMG could be replicated/adapted to other sectors such as leather, fisheries and construction..</p>
10:15–11:00	Tea break
11:00–12:15	<p><b>Interconnections between Land Insecurity, Displacement, and Forced Migration in South Asia</b></p> <p>In this session, speakers will discuss the interconnections between land insecurity, (internal) displacement, and forced migration within the context of business and human rights in South Asia. In so doing, the session will highlight the under-documented experiences of Indigenous Peoples who are forced to migrate and who are pushed into precarious work, especially in urban areas. It will also underscore the drivers of these dynamics, together with how protections and safeguards can be afforded to Indigenous Peoples who are especially at risk.</p>
	<p><b>GIG WORKERS</b></p> <p><b>Everywhere, but Nowhere: The Invisibility of Gig Workers and Contract Workers</b></p> <p>This session aims to provide a description of unique vulnerabilities associated with gig workers and sanitation workers; and discuss the reasons for their invisibility in the business and human rights discourse. The session also aims to explore the gaps in the current protection mechanisms available to these workers and discuss the role of states and businesses in ensuring equal rights and access to remedy for gig and contract workers.</p>

## DAY 3 | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22 (continued)

Time*	Session
12:15–13:15	<p>Lunch</p> <p><b>SIDE SESSION</b></p> <p><b>Access to Remedy in South Asia Supply Chain Grievance Mechanisms, a Practical Perspective and Look Forward</b></p> <p>This session will showcase how different parties and initiatives can work together to provide the best access to remedy in a resource-efficient manner. Panelists will share learnings from their own experience in South Asia, but also some key challenges they faced in implementing access to remedy across supply chains. The panel will also explore how collaborations between companies but also between mechanisms and initiatives can enable more effective remedy and avoid duplication for the rightsholders.</p>
13:30–14:45	<p><b>MIGRATION</b></p> <p><b>“We wanted workers, but human beings came”: Human Rights Gaps in Temporary Labour Migration Programmes</b></p> <p>While TLMPs are often discussed through the lens of labour rights, their impact on a wider range of human rights of migrant workers and of their families as well as their experiences beyond the workplace have received less attention. This session compares TLMPs and international human rights standards, including the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and suggests what alternatives are possible and what human rights-based labour migration pathways look like.</p>
14:45–15:15	<p>Tea Break</p>
15:15–16:30	<p><b>JUST TRANSITIONS</b></p> <p><b>Equitable Transition towards a Green Economy</b></p> <p>Most plastics originate as fossil fuels and emit greenhouse gases at each stage of the plastic lifecycle. The negotiations of the new instrument on plastics is a key opportunity for the international community to adopt a strong binding framework that addresses the full life cycle of plastic and the impact of just transition to workers, ensuring inclusive, evidence-based and accountable environmental action. This session aims to discuss how a rights-based approach applied to the whole life cycle of plastic is necessary to prevent the adverse impact of transitional out of emissions-intensive production on workers' rights.</p>
	<p><b>SIDE SESSION</b></p> <p><b>Indigenous Peoples' Experiences with Just Transitions</b></p> <p>This side event seeks to present Indigenous Peoples' experiences from the ground affected by hydropower and other projects touted as “clean” and “green” energy projects. The Indigenous Peoples' representatives will share their perspectives and aspirations with such projects to explain what transitions should look like..</p>
	<p><b>Children are Everyone's Business: Business and Community Resilience in South Asia</b></p> <p>This session offers the possibility to connect business and community resilience with the promotion of responsible business conduct and workers fueling development as well as emergency preparedness in South Asia. It will provide a safe space to discuss how and where to engage the private sector to build up youth/community (but also business) resilience in emergency preparedness and response, as well as development settings in South Asia.</p>
	<p><b>Unregulated and Invisible: The Challenges Faced by Women Workers in Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka</b></p> <p>Women working in the unregulated sector often face a range of challenges, including low pay, poor working conditions, and limited job security. Owing to cultural perceptions of women's status in society, many are also at a higher risk of sexual harassment and discrimination, particularly in industries where women are underrepresented. The unregulated nature of the work often limits women's access to benefits such as health insurance and overtime pay, making it difficult for them to support themselves and their families. Additionally, the lack of oversight and legal protections only increases their chances of being exploited by employers and makes it more challenging for them to advocate for their rights and seek justice.</p>

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## DAY 0 | SUNDAY, MARCH 19

- Respecting Human Rights: Training for Business (19 March) – [Register here](#)  
(Note: only available for in-person participants)
- Reporting Business and Human Rights: Capacity Building Action for South Asian Journalists (19-22 March)

Note: This programme will be regularly updated on the [UN South Asia Forum website](#), with details on sessions, speakers, and more.

If you have any questions, please contact the UN South Asia Forum Secretariat ([unsaforum@undp.org](mailto:unsaforum@undp.org)) and/or Harpreet Kaur ([harpreet.kaur@undp.org](mailto:harpreet.kaur@undp.org))

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