



JOINT STATEMENT ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

On 16 September 2014 the EU and the AU held a joint seminar in Addis Ababa on “Fostering the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights”. The seminar is an outcome of the previous AU-EU Human Rights Dialogue of November 2013.

The guiding principles, adopted by the UN Human Rights Council in June 2011, provide the first globally agreed framework for promoting responsible business conduct and corporate respect for human rights.

In light of an increasingly globalised world, where supply and value chains are more and more intertwined, promoting policies on business and human rights needs to be a common endeavor of all regions. Hence, the cooperation between Africa and Europe is critical to exchange expertise towards an effective implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

The meeting was organized under the Joint Africa-EU Strategy and featured a vibrant and lively exchange of views and experiences between government officials and officials of both organizations, policy makers, including experts from Civil Society Organizations, Chambers of Commerce and National Human Rights Institutions.

At the end of the meeting, both parties confirmed their commitment to promote and implement the UN Guiding Principles in the two regions. They also agreed to continue their work in the coming months on sharing experiences as well as planning potential areas of cooperation, with a view to pursue their discussions at a higher level during the next AU-EU Human Rights Dialogue of November 2014.

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