



Investment-related Dispute Settlement: Towards comprehensive accountability & inclusive access to remedy

June 14, 2017

15:30-16:30

Palais des Nations, Room XXI

Trade and investment can be a potentially powerful tool to support economic growth, job creation, and the realization of human rights. Yet, by invoking investment treaties and investor–state contracts, transnational companies and other investors have been able to sue States to challenge a wide range of public interest measures with significant impact on human rights and local communities.

As the global community continues to interrogate the benefits of globalization, it is time for all stakeholders to critically reflect on the impacts of the global trade and investment regime on human rights, global inequality, and sustainable development. Structural changes to the trade and investment regime should be prioritized to ensure that it benefits all, this includes addressing the negative impacts and inequality of existing dispute prevention and resolution mechanisms.

This meeting seeks to bring together stakeholders from different background to debate and conceptualize the concrete next steps in reforming dispute prevention and resolution mechanisms for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

AGENDA

15:30 Opening Remarks

- Ms. Cindy Woods, Legal and Policy Associate, International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR)

15:40 Setting the Stage: Alternative Models or Approaches to ISDS

- H.E. Ambassador Xavier CARIM, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the World Trade Organisation
- Mr. Luis Espinosa Salas, Minister in Ecuadorian Foreign Services, Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the UN
- Ms. Roeline Knottnerus, Trade & Investment Policy Advisor, Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO)
- Mr. Joe Zhang, Law Advisor, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

16:10 Open Discussion: Political Messaging and Power-Building