

RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE (PRECIOUS) STONES, METALS AND MINERALS VALUE CHAINS

Embedding the Commodity Trading Sector Guidance on the UN Guiding Principles on Business
and Human Rights

16th and 18th March 2021, 9 – 11am
Online

In November 2020 Switzerland voted to adopt the indirect counter-proposal to the Responsible Business Initiative (RBI) setting out new human rights due diligence and reporting obligations for subject entities. Though less demanding than the RBI, the counter-proposal is illustrative of the wider trend towards greater human rights due diligence (HRDD) legislation. Such legislation is invariably based on standards such as the [United Nations Guiding Principles \(UNGPs\)](#), the [OECD Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct](#) and the [Swiss Commodity Trading Sector Guidance](#), which state that all businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights, to conduct human rights due diligence and to address adverse impacts wherever they occur.

This two-part workshop will bring together actors from across three interconnected sectors directly affected by the counter-proposal to understand its implications, clarify actors' responsibilities to respect human rights, learn about existing good practices and explore possibilities around shared challenges.

Shared challenges within the (precious) stones, metals and minerals commodity trading and value chains

Parties operating within these sectors often face **common human rights risks** associated with their activities and supply chains such as those relating to **conflict minerals, environmental damages, forced and child labour and community and indigenous rights**. They may also face common challenges managing these risks and implementing human rights due diligence in line with the Swiss Commodity Trading Sector Guidance (hereafter "Sector Guidance"). For example, common challenges could include a lack of supply chain **transparency** and access to accurate information, a **lack of leverage** to encourage improvements, difficulty accessing **grievance information** from the deeper supply chain and **limited resource and/or time** (particularly in the case of trading) to implement robust due diligence.

Workshop purpose, scope and desired outcomes

Facilitated by human rights due diligence experts [twentyfifty GmbH](#) and with contributions from Swiss government officials and practitioners from across the value chains, the purpose of this two-part workshop is to **support Swiss companies to respond to existing and upcoming legislation and implement the Sector Guidance**. It will focus on the following central questions:

- What are the **practical implications of the counter-project** for Swiss businesses in the value chains for precious stones, metals and minerals? Over what timeline are these implications anticipated to be felt?
- How can companies use the **Sector Guidance** to take action to prepare for the counter-project and other legislation coming into force (e.g. European conflict minerals regulation)?
- Which specific **practices or methodologies** can be used to effectively manage human rights risks and impacts in supply chains and address adverse impacts when they occur?
- What **opportunities are there to collaborate** to address shared challenges?

At the end of the workshop, participants will have:

- Clarity on **what the counter-proposal means** for their business
- Insight into how different companies are **implementing the Sector Guidance** to address human rights risks and impacts as well as where to find **practical support**
- **Deepened connections** with peer network

Agenda (draft)

The event is split into two, two-hour sessions. The first session on the **16th of March** will entail **expert briefings** on the expectations and requirements of business regarding human rights due diligence as well as space for questions and discussion. The second session on the **18th of March** will build on the first and entail **interactive workshops** exploring implementation challenges and opportunities.

Day 1: 16th March

Time	Item
09:00 – 09:05	Welcome Olivier Bovet – Senior Advisor, SECO Frédéric Chenais – Policy Advisor, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)
Briefings: Requirements and expectations of Swiss businesses	
09:05-09:45	Briefing I: Implications of the Swiss Counter-Project: • Overview of requirements and practical implications of the counter-project for Swiss businesses
09:45 – 10:30	Briefing II: Using the Sector Guidance to implement human rights due diligence: • Overview of the Sector Guidance and good practices for implementation
10:30 – 10:55	Questions and discussion
10:55 – 11:00	Closing summary and points for Day 2

Day 2: 18th March

Time	Item
09:00 – 09:10	Introduction Hannah Temple – Director of Consulting, twentyfifty
Interactive workshops: Human rights due diligence implementation challenges and opportunities	
09:10 – 10:00	Workshop I: • <i>Topic to be finalised (e.g. reporting, supply chain transparency, price volatility, supply chain engagement)</i>
10:00 – 10:50	Workshop II: • <i>Topic to be finalised (e.g. reporting, supply chain transparency, price volatility, supply chain engagement)</i>
10:50 – 11:00	Closing summary
11:00 – 11:30	Virtual networking coffee

Practical information

- **Language:** English
- **Date and time:** 16th and 18th March 2021, 9 – 11am CET
- **Location:** Online, details will be shared following registration
- **Costs for participants:** 40 CHF for members (SBGA, FHH, ASFCMP, GCNS); 60 CHF for non-members
- **To register:** <https://buytickets.at/twentyfifty/477226>

This event is mandated by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and the State Secretary of Economic Affairs (SECO). It is organised by [twentyfifty GmbH](#), in partnership with the [Swiss Trading and Shipping Association \(STSA\)](#), the [Responsible Mining Foundation](#), the [Swiss Better Gold Association](#), the [Fondation de la Haute Horlogerie](#), the [Swiss precious metals industry association](#), and is supported by the [Global Compact Network Switzerland \(GNCS\)](#)