



United Nations
Global Compact

Mandate of the Working on Business and Human Rights

Report to the 59th session of the UN Human Rights Council on the Use of Artificial Intelligence and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Consultation with business members of the UN Global Compact

Background

The rapid proliferation of new technologies, particularly artificial intelligence (AI)^[1.1], has significantly reshaped the global business landscape. While these technologies promise to revolutionize industries, boost productivity, and spur economic growth, they also raise critical questions around human rights. From privacy infringements and labour rights violations to discrimination, there are growing concerns about the potential for human rights violations and abuses.

In this context, the intersection of business and human rights (BHR) with the procurement and deployment of AI has become a crucial issue. Under the UNGPs, States have a duty to protect individuals and communities from human rights abuses by third parties, including businesses. At the same time, business enterprises themselves bear an independent responsibility to respect human rights, both those developing AI and those using AI in their activities. Moreover, victims of human rights violations and abuses must have access to effective remedy, as emphasized in the UNGPs' third pillar.

The report seeks to clarify the respective duty and responsibility of States and businesses outside the technology sector, understood here as businesses which do not develop AI, to protect and respect human rights, as well as the roles of other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, human rights defenders, academia, and trade unions, in the context of the evolving landscape of AI procurement^[1.2] and deployment^[1.3]. It will look into how the State-business nexus can be an opportunity for States to ensure their own companies or businesses they work with respect human rights in this context.^[1.4] The report will also explore how States can enhance legislations and policies to safeguard human rights in the context of procurement and deployment of AI, how businesses outside the technology sector can incorporate a human rights focus in the procurement and deployment of AI, and what challenges existing grievances mechanisms need to address to ensure victims of violations and abuses arising from the use of AI have access to effective remedy.

Please note that this report focuses on the procurement and deployment of AI systems by States and business enterprises outside of the technology sector, therefore it does not

cover issues related to States developing and deploying their own AI systems, and related to technology business enterprises developing and deploying AI systems.

Objectives of the consultation

This consultation is part of a series of consultations to hear from various stakeholders and in different regions to inform the preparation of the report. To complement these consultations, the Working Group has also issued an open [call for inputs](#) with a deadline of 15 January 2025.

Guiding questions

- For businesses outside of the technology sector:
 - a. How have you included human rights impacts related to the procurement and deployment of AI systems in your human rights due diligence processes?
 - b. What are the main human rights impacts you have identified that are linked to the procurement and deployment of AI?
 - c. How have you meaningfully engaged with relevant stakeholders, including potentially affected rightsholders and workers, to identify and address adverse human rights impacts related to the procurement and deployment of AI?
 - d. Has your business adopted measures to ensure the protection of human rights defenders at risk in the context of the deployment of AI in their activities? If so, please provide any examples.
- For businesses supplying AI to States:
 - a. What are the main human rights risks when supplying AI systems to States?
 - b. Are you aware of any emerging practices from States requiring respect for human rights for AI bidders and suppliers in the procurement and deployment process, including requiring human rights due diligence?
- Please provide evidence of any positive practices you are aware of in regard to policies, regulations or frameworks taken at the national, regional and international levels to address the human rights risks linked to the procurement and/or deployment of AI by States? What are the main opportunities to adopt and/or strengthen these frameworks?
- Please provide evidence of any positive practices you are aware of businesses, including your own, providing access to remedy when they have caused or contributed to adverse human rights impacts linked to the procurement of AI systems and their deployment across their activities, including through the establishment of operational level grievance mechanisms?
- Are there any court cases or judgments that you are aware of related to the procurement or deployment of AI by States or companies and human rights implications? Please provide examples.
- Please provide any comments, suggestions or additional information that you consider relevant to this thematic report.

Practical Information

The consultation will take place on **30 January 2025 at 15.00 CET/9.00 EST**, notwithstanding the deadline for written submissions and will be held in English.

You can join via this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkdu2gpjgvEtJE2NNFRb0Vbc-U3SWK2kqb>

For more information on the preparation of the Working Group's report, please contact hrc-wg-business@un.org.