



**ARPEL Workshop on  
Business and Human Rights**  
*(A special look at the oil and gas industry in  
Latin America and the Caribbean)*



**Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
August 6 - 7, 2014**

**Host Company:**



## *ARPEL Workshop on Business and Human Rights*

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### **BACKGROUND:**

During 2013, the Social Responsibility Committee of ARPEL (SRC), decided to join efforts in relation to this subject, with the objective of interchanging knowledge and experiences among companies of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In collaboration with the SRC Committee of ARPEL, Shift will design and facilitate a tailored Workshop on the **UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights** and their relevance to oil and gas companies.

Shift is an independent non-profit center for business and human rights practice, chaired by Prof. John Ruggie. Shift works with governments, businesses and their stakeholders to support implementation of the UN Guiding Principles and share learning.

The Workshop will provide a dynamic and interactive opportunity for participants to learn about business and human rights—both in terms of the global standards related to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and their practical implications for oil and gas companies operating in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Workshop will also emphasize peer learning, leveraging the experiences of member companies of ARPEL that have already undertaken significant initiatives with regards to implementing the UN Guiding Principles.

The workshop will help participants to better understand the different pillars of the Protect, Respect and Remedy framework for business and human rights, as well as the relationship between the growing global expectations on companies in terms of respecting human rights and the different environmental, social, political and security issues confronting extractive industry companies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

### **INDICATIVE AGENDA:**

Below is an initial indicative agenda of the types of topics we anticipate that participants may find relevant and interesting during the Workshop. It will have two days (6 and 7 August). The entire first day and half of the second, will be focused in the issues indicated below, and the last evening is reserved for a discussion and conclusions space, with the presence of internationally renowned experts to motivate and strengthen the dialogue.

## INITIAL AGENDA

### **Session 1: Demystifying Business and Human Rights**

- What do we mean by ‘human rights’ in this context?
- What kinds of human rights impacts are most relevant for oil and gas companies in Latin America and the Caribbean?
- What are the main concerns of affected stakeholders, local communities, and indigenous populations?
- How does prevention and management of human rights relate to business ethics, corporate risk and legal compliance?

### **Session 2: Background and Overview of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs)**

- The origins of the UN Guiding Principles, the Process that led to their development, and the emerging international consensus.
- What is the relationship between the UNGPs and other laws, policies and industry standards of relevance to the oil and gas industry?

### **Session 3: The UN Guiding Principles: An Overview of The Three Pillared Framework**

- The State Duty to Protect Human Rights.
- The Corporate Responsibility to Respect Human Rights.
  - Embedding a policy commitment to human rights.
  - Human Right Due Diligence.
  - Leverage, Remediation and Grievance mechanisms.
  - Cause, Contribution, and Linkage.
- Access to Effective Remedy

### **Session 4: Embedding the Policy Commitment to Respect Human Rights**

- What is the importance and role of a policy commitment to respect human rights?
- What do these policies typically include and how are they developed?
- What are the leading practices and key challenges with embedding that policy commitment – translating it from ‘words on paper’ into the daily policies, procedures and practices of the company?
- What company perspectives and experiences can be shared among workshop participants?

### ***Session 5: Assessing and Addressing Impacts: Human Rights Due Diligence***

- What is meant by ‘human rights due diligence’, and how is it different from existing approaches to environmental, health and social due diligence?
- How can human rights due diligence be built into existing tools and methodologies?
- What are the main complementarities and critical differences between environmental and social impact assessments (EIAs, SIAs, ESIAAs), human rights impact assessment (HRIAs), and human rights due diligence (HRDD)?
- What tools and methodologies exist for assessing human rights impacts?
- What are company perspectives and experiences with human rights due diligence?

### ***Session 6: When Impacts Occur: Remediation, Grievance Mechanisms, and Leverage***

- What is the range of mechanisms that affected stakeholders use to raise concerns and seek remediation in Latin America and the Caribbean?
- What is the role and value of effective operational-level grievance mechanisms, and how can we ensure that they are indeed effective?
- What are company perspectives and experiences with grievance mechanisms?
- What are the leading practices and key challenges?
- How can companies most effectively exercise leverage with their business relationships (supply chains, joint venture partners, and governments) to address potential human rights impacts to which they might be ‘linked’?

### ***Session 7: Operationalizing human rights in your company***

- What are the key risks and impacts related to your company’s operations?
- What policies and procedures does your company have and/or need to address human rights and related issues?
- What are the current strengths of ARPEL’s SR Management System as a foundation for human rights due diligence by member companies?
- What opportunities do you see for leadership within and by your company about human rights?