

AMMAN DECLARATION

Advancing Responsible Business Practices in the Arab States Region

Amman, Jordan | 17-18 June 2026

PREAMBLE

WELCOMING the convening by the Jordan National Center for Human Rights in partnership with the UN Development Programme, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Children's Fund, International Organization for Migration, Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development, Danish Institute for Human Rights, Rafto Foundation, and the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions, in collaboration with the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, of the 3rd Dialogue on Business and Human Rights in the Arab States Region under the theme "Promoting Responsible Business Practices: Human Rights at the Core of Sustainable Development in the Arab States," to facilitate exchange, peer learning, and collaboration,

We, participants from States, regional and international organizations, businesses, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), labour organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), academia, and other stakeholders, gathered in Amman, Jordan, on 17-18 June 2026 for the event,

RECOGNIZING that this Declaration is voluntary and non-legally binding, and that its implementation will be guided by national constitutions, laws and policies, development priorities, and available capacities,

REAFFIRMING the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

RECALLING relevant International and Regional Human Rights Treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Arab Charter on Human Rights, and *RECALLING ALSO* the ILO Core Conventions as set out in the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises (ILO MNE Declaration), and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct (OECD Guidelines),

RECOGNIZING the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), endorsed by the UN Human Rights Council in its resolution 17/4 of 16 June 2011, as an authoritative framework to prevent, mitigate, and address business-related human rights abuses, based on the three pillars of the "Protect, Respect, and Remedy" Framework,

STRESSING that the obligations and the primary duty to promote, protect, and fulfil human rights and fundamental freedoms lie with States and that States must protect against human rights abuses within their territory and/or jurisdiction by businesses,

EMPHASIZING that businesses, regardless of their size, sector, operational context, ownership, and structure, have the responsibility to respect all human rights,

UNDERLINING that NHRIs, labour organizations, CSOs, and National Contact Points for Responsible Business Conduct (NCPs) play an instrumental role in promoting responsible business practices, monitoring, documenting, and raising awareness of business-related human rights abuses, and facilitating access to effective remedy for victims.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

1. *RECOGNIZE* the progress achieved and the ongoing efforts undertaken to implement the UNGPs, ILO MNE Declaration, OECD Guidelines, and other relevant international standards on responsible business practices by States and businesses across the Arab States region;
2. *COMMEND* the role of the League of Arab States in raising awareness of human rights in the region and its keenness to its Member States to harmonize their domestic laws with international human rights standards, particularly through constructive cooperation with the UN System and other stakeholders;

3. *COMMEND* the State-led processes undertaken in Djibouti, Jordan, Morocco, and Palestine to undertake National Baseline Assessments on Business and Human Rights and to develop National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights;
4. *FURTHER COMMEND* the governments of Bahrain and Oman for integrating responsible business considerations into their national human rights strategies and action plans;
5. *CONGRATULATE* the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions for their continuous efforts in supporting the business and human rights agenda in the region;
6. *ACKNOWLEDGE* the persistent challenges faced by States and businesses in the Arab States region in fulfilling their respective duties and responsibilities to prevent, mitigate, and address business-related human rights abuses; and *EMPHASIZE* the need to strengthen efforts towards the effective implementation of the UNGPs, ILO MNE Declaration, and the OECD Guidelines;
7. *RECOGNIZE* the evolving global regulatory landscape relating to responsible business practices, particularly mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence, modern slavery, and sustainability disclosure requirements, and import bans; and *ACKNOWLEDGE* potential implications these developments present for States and businesses in the Arab States region;
8. *RECOGNIZE ALSO* the transformative opportunities presented by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies for sustainable development in the Arab States region; and *ACKNOWLEDGE* the need to identify, prevent, mitigate, and address associated human rights abuses through appropriate transparency, governance, oversight, human rights due diligence, and effective remedy measures;
9. *EXPRESS CONCERN* over the heightened risks of business-related human rights abuses in conflict-affected contexts and occupied territories across the Arab States region, particularly for groups in situations of heightened vulnerability or marginalization; and *RECOGNIZE* the importance of responsible business practices, accountability, and compliance with applicable international law;
10. *EXPRESS CONCERN* over the potential repercussions of the recent military escalation in the Arab States on development gains in the region; and *RECOGNIZE* its adverse human rights impacts, including related to heightened risks of instability, economic disruption, and business performance;
11. *UNDERLINE* the growing role of large-scale infrastructure, urban development, renewable and non-renewable energy, tourism, sporting, and cultural projects in advancing sustainable development in the Arab States region; and *EMPHASIZE* the importance of ensuring that such projects are planned and implemented in a manner consistent with international standards on responsible business practices;
12. *RECOGNIZE* that children are uniquely and often disproportionately impacted by business activities and relationships, including in the context of digital transformation, emerging technologies, and large-scale development projects; and *EMPHASIZE* the importance of identifying, preventing, mitigating, and addressing business-related adverse impacts on children through rights-based approaches, including meaningful engagement, child rights due diligence, and access to effective remedy;
13. *RECOGNIZE* the increasing significance of investment flows, development finance, sovereign wealth funds, and other financial actors in shaping responsible business practices and sustainable development outcomes in the Arab States region; and *STRESS* the importance of integrating responsible business considerations into investment and financing decisions;
14. *REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT* to advancing responsible business practices at the national and regional levels across the Arab States;
15. *AGREE* to prioritize awareness-raising and capacity-strengthening initiatives for governments, businesses, NHRIs, labour organizations, CSOs, and other relevant stakeholders to support the implementation of international standards on responsible business practices; and *RECOGNIZE* the important role of the UN System and the OECD in supporting these efforts;

16. **UNDERSCORE** the importance of sustaining the Dialogue on Business and Human Rights in the Arab States region as a key multi-stakeholder platform for reviewing progress, identifying challenges and opportunities, exchanging experiences, and advancing collective action to strengthen responsible business practices across the region;

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We **RECOMMEND AND PLAN TO**:

1.1 Encourage **States** in the Arab States region to strengthen the implementation of international standards on responsible business practices, particularly by:

- a) Raising awareness among public authorities and the business community of the evolving global regulatory landscape relating to responsible business practices, particularly mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence, and assessing their potential implications at the national and regional levels;
- b) Convening regular and inclusive national dialogues on business and human rights allowing for broad participation of stakeholders, including CSOs;
- c) Undertaking context-specific National Baseline Assessments on Business and Human Rights and developing National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights through whole-of-society approaches, informed by the guidance of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, the Toolkit of the Danish Institute for Human Rights, and other relevant international good practices;
- d) Where applicable, integrating responsible business requirements into public procurement processes, public-private partnerships, and the governance of State-owned enterprises;
- e) Promoting policy and regulatory frameworks that encourage the design, development, procurement, and use of AI and other emerging technologies in a manner consistent with international standards on responsible business practices;
- f) Promoting policies, public-private partnerships, and investment frameworks that strengthen human capital development, workforce readiness, skills certification, and responsible labour mobility, particularly in sectors facing significant workforce shortages;
- g) Promoting human rights-based approaches to the planning, financing, implementation, and legacy management of large-scale development and event projects, including through meaningful rights-holder engagement and access to effective remedy;
- h) Encouraging investment promotion agencies, sovereign wealth funds, financial institutions, and development finance actors to integrate human rights due diligence considerations into investment policies and decision-making processes;
- i) Ensuring that reconstruction, recovery, and development efforts in conflict-affected and post-conflict contexts are designed and implemented in ways that prevent, mitigate, and address business-related human rights abuses and contribute to sustainable peace and social cohesion;
- j) Strengthening the capacity of State-based judicial and non-judicial grievance mechanisms to provide an effective remedy for victims of business-related human rights abuses, including in cooperation with NHRIs and NCPs;
- k) Encouraging cooperation with the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights in the fulfilment of its mandate, including by replying favourably to its requests for country visits;
- l) Promoting sustained stakeholder engagement to enable and support the development of a regional movement to advance responsible business practices and corporate accountability.

1.2 Encourage **businesses** in the Arab States region to strengthen the implementation of international standards on responsible business practices, particularly by:

- a) Adopting commitments to human rights and conducting ongoing human rights due diligence in line with the UNGPs, ILO MNE Declaration, and the OECD Guidelines;
- b) Undertaking *heightened* human rights due diligence in conflict-affected contexts including occupied territories, taking into account the increased risks of severe human rights abuses associated with such environments;
- c) Ensuring meaningful engagement with affected rights-holders throughout (heightened) human rights due diligence processes, with particular attention to individuals and groups in situations of heightened vulnerability and marginalization;
- d) Support access to effective remedy for individuals and communities affected by business-related adverse human rights impacts by providing and maintaining operational-level grievance mechanisms that are consistent with internationally recognized effectiveness criteria, enabling the early identification, resolution, and remediation of grievances;
- e) Supporting capacity-strengthening efforts and the provision of practical guidance for SMEs within their value chains and business relationships;

1.3 Empower **NHRIs, labour organizations, CSOs, and NCPs** to strengthen the implementation of international standards on responsible business practices, particularly by:

- a) Conducting and disseminating research on business and human rights developments at the regional, national, and sub-national levels;
- b) Monitoring and documenting business-related human rights abuses, including those associated with AI systems, large-scale development and event projects, investment activities, business activities and relationships in conflict-affected contexts, including occupied territories;
- c) Actively participating in State-led National Baseline Assessment and National Action Plan processes and advocating for their alignment with international standards on responsible business practices;
- d) Advising and supporting affected rights-holders in accessing remedy and strengthening the effectiveness, accessibility, and responsiveness of complaint-handling and grievance mechanisms available to victims of business-related human rights abuses;
- e) Raising awareness of international standards on responsible business practices among different stakeholders such as businesses, government institutions and rights-holders, particularly those in situations of heightened vulnerability or marginalization, including through regional networks such as the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions;

1.4 Support the organization of the 4th Dialogue on Business and Human Rights in the Arab States Region, while ensuring meaningful and representative participation of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.