

# Open letter to members of the OECD Responsible Business Conduct Committee

June 2026

We – a broad range of Indigenous Peoples’ organisations, Afro-descendant Peoples’ organisations, territorial and human rights defenders and rights-holders directly affected by corporate activities, along with our local and international civil society allies – write to you ahead of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development’s (OECD) Inclusive Platform for Due Diligence Policy Cooperation meeting, taking place in Paris during the Responsible Business Conduct week (RBC week), 29 June – 2 July 2026.

We welcome the OECD’s efforts and Recommendation of the Council on the Role of Government in Promoting Responsible Business Conduct, and in the 50th year of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct (OECD Guidelines) **we collectively call for greater ambition by OECD member states to adopt and enforce binding measures to hold multinational companies to account for individual and collective human rights violations and environmental destruction, and to ensure the provision of remedy.**

Such measures must be aligned with international human rights law instruments, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and jurisprudence protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples to self-determination, lands, territories and resources, and to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). They should also be aligned with instruments and jurisprudence protecting the collective rights of other land-connected communities and peoples with collective customary tenure systems, which they govern wholly or partially under customary law, and who maintain their own political, social, cultural, and economic institutions. It is also key that the rights of women within these groups are clearly articulated in any binding measure.

**We further call for such requirements to be a condition of accession to the OECD.**



For centuries, the dominant models of extraction, production, transnational trade and multinational businesses have had profoundly negative impacts on human rights, cultures, lands, wellbeing and the environment. Too often, these models have been imposed without meaningful participation or consent, undermining human rights, governance systems, and ability of peoples to determine their own futures.

Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples and other land-connected communities are experiencing increasing violence, intimidation and killings, and the alarming closure of civic space, including the repression of protest and use of Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation. We are also highly concerned about the increasing use of state-backed and/or state-encouraged private security who are operating with absolute impunity to protect the business interests of multinational companies, often at the expense of the rights, safety and well-being of affected peoples and communities.

With this year's RBC week focusing on 'responsible business in a world of transition', we urge you to consider the cumulative impact on these diverse peoples and communities of an increasingly unstable geopolitical context, the deliberate erosion of international human rights law, the rapidly expanding investment in militarisation and escalation in wars and conflicts, the global energy and food security crisis and the related increasing demand for transition minerals, biofuels and renewable energy projects which frequently require resources from within their territories.

Across many regions, these transitions are being pursued without adequate safeguards for Indigenous Peoples, for Afro-descendant Peoples or for other affected land-connected communities, creating new pressures on lands, territories, resources and traditional livelihoods, particularly for women and girls. The threats to their cultures, land, territories, resources and governance systems continue to grow, while the space for exercising human rights is increasingly constrained.

**Our message to OECD member states is that adopting measures that impose binding obligations on multinational businesses, including financial institutions, is not only long overdue but is crucial to ensure the prevention of imminent human rights and environmental abuses, as well as to ensure effective remedy for harms. Such measures must create clear accountability for corporate actors throughout their value chains and ensure that affected rights-holders can access justice when harms occur.**



The OECD Guidelines are an influential reference point for OECD member states when developing binding measures on multinational companies, and whilst we recognise that the revision of the OECD Guidelines in 2023 strengthened references to Indigenous Peoples' human rights in some respects, we take the opportunity to underscore that there are still crucial elements that need to be strengthened to align them, and the corresponding necessary mandatory measures, with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, other relevant international human rights law including UN Treaty Body jurisprudence.

A set of key principles (annexed) have been developed to support OECD member states - and states seeking OECD accession - to ensure future binding measures on multinational companies encourage positive outcomes on the ground, rather than procedural human rights and environmental due diligence measures alone. Together, these principles aim to strengthen the protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, of Afro-descendant Peoples, and of other land-connected communities.

**We call on you to ensure these principles, and the need to align OECD Guidelines with international human rights law, form the basis of discussion during the Inclusive Platform for Due Diligence Policy Cooperation meeting, and other relevant discussions held during the RBC week.**

**We further underscore that the proposals and processes relating to national-level corporate accountability laws must be undertaken through meaningful and effective consultation with the concerned Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples or other land-connected communities in line with the relevant international human rights law, including Article 19 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.**

If the OECD member states, and states wishing to join the OECD, do not consult with and centre the perspectives, experiences and rights of those most affected by harmful business practices - and if they fail to address business models that increase inequality and perpetuate discrimination - policy commitments and binding measures will continue to fall short of their intended objective of preventing harm, protecting rights, ensuring accountability, and providing effective remedy.



# List of signatory organisations

1. Accountability Counsel
2. Action for Southern Africa – ACTSA
3. ActionAid UK
4. African Law Foundation – AFRILAW (Nigeria)
5. Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma – ALTSEAN (Myanmar)
6. Amnesty International
7. Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development – FORUM-ASIA
8. Asia Indigenous Peoples Network on Extractive Industries and Energy – AIPNEE
9. Asociación de mujeres Sinchi Warmikuna (Ecuador)
10. Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname (Vereniging van Inheemse Dorpschoofden in Suriname) – VIDS (Suriname)
11. Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos – APRODEH (Peru)
12. Asociación Pro Purús (Peru)
13. Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos de España – APDHE (Spain)
14. Association for Sustainable Development INKINGI – ASD-INKINGI (Uganda)
15. Association Marocaine des Droits Humains – AMDH (Morocco)
16. Association Mpo'ong ya nkwano (Cameroon)
17. Autonomous Territorial Government of the Wampis Nation – GTANW (Peru)
18. BankTrack
19. Benet Mosop Indigenous Community Association – BMCA (Uganda)
20. Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan (Kyrgyzstan)
21. Botswana Centre for Human Rights – DITSHWANELO (Botswana)
22. Business and Human Rights Centre – BHRC
23. Cañamomo and Lomaprieta Indigenous Reserve (Colombia)
24. Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales – CELS (Argentina)
25. Center of Economic and Law Studies – CELIOS (Indonesia)
26. Centre for Human Rights and Development – CHRD (Mongolia)
27. Centro Interdisciplinario de Investigación y Desarrollo Alternativo U Yich Lu'um (Mexico)
28. Centro de Políticas Públicas y Derechos Humanos – EQUIDAD (Peru)
29. Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations – SOMO
30. Coffee Watch
31. Colectivo de abogados y abogadas Jose Alvear Restrepo – CAJAR (Colombia)
32. Comisión Ecuémica de Derechos Humanos – CEDHU (Ecuador)
33. Comisión Intereclesial de Justicia y Pa – CIJP (Colombia)
34. Conectas Direitos Humanos (Brasil)
35. CooperAcción
36. Corporate Justice Coalition (UK)
37. Dayak Voices for Change (Indonesia)
38. Defence of Human Rights and Public Services Trust – DHR (Pakistan)
39. EarthRights International
40. Earthsight (UK)
41. Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights – EIPR (Egypt)
42. European Coalition for Corporate Justice – ECCJ
43. Environmental Investigation Agency – EIA
44. ETOs Watch Coalition (Thailand)
45. Federación por la Autodeterminación de los Pueblos Indígenas – FAPI (Paraguay)
46. Federación de Comunidades Nativas del Ucayali y Afluentes – FECONAU (Peru)
47. Federação do Povo Huni kui do Estado do Acre - FEPHAC (Brazil)
48. Federación de Pueblos Indígenas Kechwa Chazuta Amazonía – FEPIKECHA (Peru)
49. Forest Peoples Programme
50. Front d'Action Amazigh -Amyaway Imazighen (Morocco)
51. Fundación Ecuémica para el Desarrollo y la Paz – FEDEPAZ (Peru)
52. Fundación Libera contra la Trata de Personas y la Esclavitud en Todas sus Formas (Chile)
53. Global Rights Advocacy
54. Green Development Advocates – GDA (Cameroon)
55. Green Advocates International (Liberia)
56. Homa – Instituto Brasileiro de Direitos Humanos e Empresas (Brazil)
57. Indigenous Peoples Rights International – IPRI
58. Instituto Cordilheira (Brazil)
59. Institute for Community Studies and Advocacy – ELSAM (Indonesia)
60. Instituto de Defensa Legal – IDL (Peru)
61. International Federation for Human Rights – FIDH
62. International Roundtable for Sustainable Tea – THIRST
63. Jamaa Resource Initiatives (Kenya)
64. JPIC Kalimantan (Indonesia)
65. Kaoem Telapak (Indonesia)
66. Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law (Kazakhstan)
67. Kenya Human Rights Commission (Kenya)
68. Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group (Ukraine)
69. Korean House for International Solidarity – KHIS (Korea)
70. Korean Transnational Corporations Watch – KTNC Watch (Korea)
71. Lembaga Bantuan Hukum - LBH ANGSANA (Indonesia)
72. League for the Defence of Human Rights in Iran – LDDHI (Iran)
73. Lembaga Bentang Alam Hijau -LemBAH (Indonesia)
74. Ligue Burundaise des droits de l'homme / Ligue Iteka –LBDH (Burundi)
75. Ligue des droits de l'Homme – LDH (France)
76. Manushya Foundation (Thailand)
77. Migrant Forum in Asia – MFA
78. MiningWatch Canada
79. Minority Rights Group
80. Movimento Nacional de Direitos Humanos – MNDH (Brasil)
81. Observatorio Ciudadano (Chile)
82. OECD Watch
83. Organisation Guinéenne de Défense des Droits de l'Homme et du Citoyen – OGDH (Republic of Guinea)
84. Organisation Nationale des Droits de l'Homme du Sénégal (Senegal)
85. Organización Venezolana de Jóvenes para las Naciones Unidas (Venezuela)
86. Oxfam
87. Oyu Tolgoi (OT) Watch (Mongolia)
88. Partners for Dignity & Rights
89. Partners in Change

## List of signatory organisations

90. Pastoralists Alliance for Resilience and Adaptation Across Nations – PARAAN (Kenya)
91. Peace Brigades International - PBI
92. Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates – PAHRA (Philippines)
93. Plataforma de Sociedad Civil sobre Empresas y Derechos Humanos de Perú – PSCDEH (Peru)
94. Prilaka Community Foundation (Nicaragua)
95. Programa Laboral de Desarrollo – PLADES (Peru)
96. Proyecto de Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales – ProDESC (Mexico)
97. Proyecto sobre Organización, Desarrollo, Educación e Investigación – PODER (Latin America)
98. Public Association “Dignity” / Kadir-kasiyet (Kazakhstan)
99. Public Eye (Switzerland)
100. Rainforest Foundation UK
101. Red de mujeres defensoras de la vida – REMUDEV
102. Red Peruana por una Globalización con Equidad - REDGE (Peru)
103. Red Yaku Warmikuna defensoras y guardianas del agua (Peru)
104. Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit – RMMRU (Bangladesh)
105. Rencontre Africaine pour la Défense des Droits de l’Homme – RADDHO (Africa)
106. Resource Justice Network Madagascar - RJN MG (Madagascar)
107. Réseau des Défenseurs des Droits Humains en Afrique Centrale – REDHAC (Central Africa)
108. Sawit Watch (Indonesia)
109. Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund - SCIAF
110. SIRGE Coalition
111. Social Entrepreneurs for Sustainable Development – SESDev (Liberia)
112. Swedwatch
113. Taiwan Association for Human Rights – TAHR (Taiwan)
114. Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition – THRDC (Tanzania)
115. Terra de Direitos (Brazil)
116. Transparency International – TI-MG (Madagascar)
117. Vereniging van Saamaka Gemeenschappen - VSG (Suriname)
118. Vietnam Committee on Human Rights – VCHR (Vietnam)
119. Voices for Minorities and Indigenous Peoples (Switzerland)
120. Water Witness International

# Annex: Key principles for effective corporate accountability law

## Corporate accountability laws should:

- Require Business enterprises to respect all internationally-recognised human rights, including individual and collective human rights of Indigenous Peoples articulated in international human rights law, such as the right to self-determination, right to lands, territories and resources, right to culture, right to self-governance, and right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), amongst others.
- Require respect for the rights of Afro-descendant Peoples and other peoples or communities with collective customary land tenure in accordance with applicable international human rights law.
- Require respect for customary laws, governance systems and decision-making institutions.
- Apply to all sectors and business enterprises, including financial institutions, and activities across the value chain, ensuring that all human rights and environmental impacts connected to supply chains, direct and indirect operations and finance are in scope of the law.
- Require a gender-responsive approach to assessing impact, and require respect for the rights of women and girls.
- Address historical and ongoing violations, by requiring corporate actors to identify, address and remediate unresolved historical harms linked to their operations, products or value chains.
- Mandate protection of victims, witnesses and whistleblowers, paying particular attention to territorial, environmental and human rights defenders faced with threats, reprisals, intimidation and violence.
- Impose heightened due diligence and accountability requirements in conflict zones and other areas of high risk for human rights defenders (including environmental and Indigenous defenders).
- Include requirements to prevent, address and remedy harm to nature and climate, and the environment more broadly, including protection of sensitive and endangered ecosystems and species. In this sense, a corporate accountability law must require businesses to ensure compliance with international environmental protection standards at all points in the value chain, both nationally and internationally for products and services.
- Include an independent monitoring mechanism and/or community alert system and be accessible to affected communities, so that authorities can be made aware in a timely manner of claims of human rights abuses associated with the operations of companies selling products and services. Such mechanisms should be accessible through culturally appropriate procedures and engagement with representative institutions.

- Require companies to provide grievance mechanisms that meet appropriate effectiveness criteria (e.g. the criteria proposed under UNGPs principle 31), and should complement, rather than replace, access to judicial and other State-based remedies. Rightsholders, including affected peoples and communities, should be able to participate meaningfully in the design and monitoring of operational-level grievance mechanisms.
- Ensure laws are not merely tick-box or compliance-based, but designed to achieve meaningful outcomes that result in the respect of human rights and environmental protection in practice.
- Require corporate baseline assessments that can be used to evaluate if the company's actions are effectively preventing harm, respecting rights and contributing to improved outcomes over time.
- Ensure companies collect and transparently share baseline and updated information, to enable their progress to be tracked effectively.
- Require companies to disclose/provide information to affected or potentially affected Peoples and communities about business activities they are linked to that are having or may have an impact on human rights or the environment. Affected peoples and communities should be able to obtain information of this nature without needing to resort to litigation.
- Mandate greater transparency of corporate activities in general, especially related to corporate (and corporate group) ownership, financial flows, full traceability of value chains (to the production unit, and including the entities providing finance), rightsholder mapping and methodologies relating to saliency and prioritisation, including the methodologies used to identify affected communities and assess risks.
- Ensure that companies cannot avoid liability by changes in ownership, corporate restructuring, divestment, acquisition or the use of shell companies and other corporate vehicles.
- Ensure exit or divestment (i.e. ending business relationships) should be a last resort, and engagement for improving human rights should be the first step. Any disengagement necessary must be done responsibly, in line with OECD Guidance on responsible disengagement.
- Offer multiple avenues of accountability: including government monitoring and verification via a regulator, criminal liability, civil liability as well as other more accessible justice mechanisms. Accessing international courts is very costly and difficult, so any future corporate accountability laws must take the approach of incentivising action and remedy on the ground. Where this isn't achieved, it should ensure that legal, procedural and financial barriers in accessing justice are minimised.
- Ensure companies have responsibilities in relation to the production and end of life of their packaging.
- Have a global socialisation strategy to ensure rightsholders understand the law and how it can be used to resolve their cases.