Presentation by Sylvia Tuin of the Dutch National Contact Point
History:

- Start Dutch NCP: 1984
- Dutch NCP independent from Dutch government: 2007
- Government decree, the NCP establishment order, 2014

Structure:

- 4 independent members (additional job), appointed by Minister of Foreign Trade and Development
- 4 advisory members from 4 Ministries (FA, EC, ENV&INFRA, SOC)
- NCP+/Advisory Board: Trade Unions, Employers Organization, OECD Watch
- Secretariat (3) based at Ministry of FA
Tasks of the Dutch NCP (1):

- Raising awareness/promotion of the OECD Guidelines and NCP mechanism
- Complaints mechanism: handling of specific instances
- New tasks since Government Decree 2014:
  - Informal dialogue
  - Sector wide assessment on request of Dutch Government
- Other activities:
  - Advice on international RBC sector agreements
Tasks of the Dutch NCP (2):

- Raising awareness of the OECD Guidelines and NCP mechanism with businesses, trade unions and non-governmental organizations by:
  - Promotion by NCP events, presentations, workshops, website information, promote tools
  - OECD international work, peer learning, advice other NCP’s

- High need for explanation with Dutch enterprises:
  - Questions on the Guidelines and commitment
  - How to bring RBC frameworks together?
OEDC Guidelines for MNE’s
& Sustainable Development Goals
& Global Reporting Initiative
& UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
& UN Global Compact
& ISO 26000
& ....
**Survey on awareness and observance of the OECD Guidelines**, October 2016, by the Ministry of Foreign affairs

**Scope:** 60 Dutch ‘stock market listed’ multinational enterprises

**Results:** (public) commitment to the OECD Guidelines is **33%**

Awareness of OECD Guidelines is low

**Follow-up:**
- Letter of Dutch NCP to 39 mne’s, not publicly committing to the GLs
- Letter by the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development
- Meetings of the NCP with the mne’s

**Results follow-up:** commitment of **70%**
Tasks of the Dutch NCP (3):

- Complaints mechanism: handling of specific instances
  - Some 35 cases since 2000
  - On labour rights, freedom of association, environment, human rights
- Character of the procedure:
  - Solution-oriented handling of complaints
  - Constructive dialogue
  - Independent (NCP) mediators
  - Confidentiality during mediation
  - Long term perspective, forward looking recommendations
Tasks of the Dutch NCP (4):

- New task (2014): Sector wide assessment on request of the Dutch government

“Sector wide assessment Dutch Oil and Gas sector (2017)”

- explore if (and how) the OECD Guidelines are implemented by the Dutch ‘Oil and Gas sector’ and how this relates to international businesses abroad,
- find out if the important aspects of the OECD Guidelines, like Due Diligence and complaints mechanisms are embedded into the Oil and Gas sector
- suggest recommendations how the sector can perform better, according to the OECD Guidelines in the future.
Tasks of the Dutch NCP (5):

- Other activities: advice on international RBC sector agreements in the Netherlands
  - 5 agreements: garments & textile, banking sector, gold sector, sustainable forestry, vegetable protein
  - Upcoming: insurance, food industry, natural stone, metallurgy
  - NCP role: advisory role, questions on supervisory role/ regulator of these agreements? Advise on conformity with OECD guidelines of draft texts

More information: http://www.internationalrbc.org
Tasks of the Dutch NCP (6):

- International RBC Sector agreements opportunities:
  1. Voluntary agreements
  2. Multistakeholder approach
  3. OECD Guidelines are the basis
  4. structured peer- and stakeholders- learning
  5. consensus on sector base line standards/procedures
  6. develop process for continued sharing, learning, improving

More information: http://www.internationalrbc.org
How can the NCP mechanism help companies to address risks and meet their responsibilities?

“A complaint is a chance!”

- Non judicial, not about liability
- Not about right or wrong, but about learning for the future
- Problem solving approach more effective
- Learn how to deal with societal problems or NGO’s concerned
- Stimulates an open culture and transparency
- Confidentiality during the process
- NCP in an neutral facilitating role
Some landmark cases of the Dutch NCP:


More information on the work of the Dutch NCP:

» www.oecdguidelines.nl

Thank you for your attention!