



**United Nations Responsible  
Business and Human Rights  
Forum, Asia-Pacific**

# Call for Proposals

## Sessions Led by Collaborating Partners

### Overview

The 2024 UN Responsible Business and Human Rights (RBHR) Forum invites partner organizations to submit proposals for sessions. The Forum will convene stakeholders to explore solutions for realizing access to effective remedies and wider justice in the Asia-Pacific region. This event offers a unique opportunity for your organization to contribute to critical discussions and showcase innovative approaches to addressing business-related human rights impacts.

This year, the Forum will focus on remedy under the theme “The Remedy Blueprint: Bridging Gaps and Accelerating Access.

### Venue

The Forum will be held in person at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, and will be live-streamed online.

### Dates

The Forum will be held from 24-27 September 2024.

### Session Themes

Proposals linked to remedy are strongly encouraged, though there will also be limited space to discuss other relevant responsible business issues. The session may address, but are not limited to, the following topics:

1. National and transnational remedies for human rights abuses
2. Innovative strategies to facilitate access to remedy, including shareholder activism, investor stewardship, and investigative journalism
3. Sector-specific challenges and solutions, including manufacturing, agriculture, technology, energy, and extractives
4. Intersectional human rights impacts and tailored remedies for specific groups, such as women, children, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, migrant workers, and displaced persons
5. Just transitions, climate change, and environmental justice
6. Enhancing the effectiveness of grievance mechanisms

## Proposal Guidelines

Each session will be 60 minutes long (e.g., panel, roundtable, workshop, fireside chat, debate, etc.) or 90 minutes long (e.g. consultations, workshops etc) and should be interactive, engaging, and designed to foster dialogue among participants. Innovative formats are highly encouraged.

Proposals should be submitted via this [form](#) and included the following information:

1. **Session Title:** A clear and concise title for the session.
2. **Session Description:** A brief overview of the session's objectives, key topics, and relevance to the theme of Access to Remedy (max 500 words).
3. **Format:** Description of the session format (e.g., panel discussion, roundtable, debate) and how you plan to engage the audience.
4. **Session Outcomes:** Expected outcomes and key takeaways for participants.
5. **Technical Requirements:** Any specific technical needs or requirements for the session.

## Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Relevance to the Forum's theme and objectives
2. Clarity and coherence of the session description and objectives
3. Innovativeness and interactivity of the session format

*Please note that organizations submitting proposals may be asked to collaborate.*

## Submission Deadline

**20 June 2024**

Note: The UNRBHR Forum Secretariat will review applications and respond the week of 15 July, following which full concept notes will be requested.

## Support for Session Organizers

The Forum co-organizers will provide collaborating partners with facilities (e.g. rooms and overall IT support) and guide them on the steps they need to take to successfully organize a session. Side session organizers will be responsible for all logistics pertaining to their session, including concept note development, session delivery, coordination with speakers, visa, travel, accommodation, and managing their sessions on Zoom (e.g. sharing presentations, highlighting speakers, monitoring Q&A).

## Queries

For more information on the forum and how to submit proposals, please visit our [website](#). For general queries, please reach out to the Forum Secretariat at [unrbhrforum@undp.org](mailto:unrbhrforum@undp.org) with cc. to [amy.sellmyer@undp.org](mailto:amy.sellmyer@undp.org) and [suparerk.wesarat@undp.org](mailto:suparerk.wesarat@undp.org).

## Guidance for Session Organizers and Moderators

All organizers and moderators of sessions at the annual Forum are requested to bear in mind the mandate of the Forum to promote dialogue and cooperation on issues linked to business and human rights and the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Collaborating partners have an important role to play in stimulating respectful dialogue and a participatory approach in the sessions they are leading. This does not mean avoiding contentious topics, reducing divergent views or censoring inputs, but rather taking extra care to create a space for meaningful multi-stakeholder engagement. With this in mind, the organizing team has developed the following guidance for session organizers and moderators.

### Guidance for session organizers

Session organizers are requested to take the following into account:

1. Forum sessions should in general strive to achieve **multi-stakeholder dialogue** to the greatest extent possible. Some sessions may have an emphasis on lessons learned and experiences of one particular group of stakeholders. However, the interaction with the audience should aim to achieve multi-stakeholder dialogue and engagement.
2. Sessions should also allow for **gender and geographic diversity**.
3. **If presentations are expected to address specific cases** involving named States and/or enterprises and/or non-governmental organizations, session organizers should seek to involve the relevant parties in the session in a constructive manner.
4. Moderators and session organizers should communicate the content of the present note to speakers participating in their session, and ensure that the content is acknowledged and has been understood.

### Guidance for moderators

The aim of the Forum is to facilitate dynamic and substantively focused discussion. Sessions should be focused on discussing the issues at hand and tapping into the broad range of expertise present at the Forum. Lengthy presentations should be avoided. Session moderators have an important role in helping to achieve this.

Session moderators are expected to assist with the following:

1. **Facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue:** Moderators may want to emphasize the unique multi-stakeholder character of the Forum and that all participants in the audience participate on an equal footing. The spirit of the Forum is to hear a range of perspectives and explore forward-looking lessons learned and practice-oriented solutions to business-related human rights challenges, through respectful and constructive dialogue.
2. **Acting as stewards:** Moderators are encouraged to embrace the neutral role of being the steward or guide for the conversation based on (a) what panellists, kick-off speakers and participants express as important and (b) the overall intent of the Forum.
3. **Constructive dialogue:** In sessions that involve specific case studies (to provide practical insights into real-life experiences and challenges faced), or other situations where speakers refer to allegations against specific entities (for example, Governments, individual companies or non-governmental organizations), moderators should ensure that the latter, if present and requesting the floor, are given an opportunity to share their perspective during the session. In such instances, moderators should remind all participants about the overall principles guiding the Forum, namely, that of constructive, forward-looking solution-oriented dialogue and respect for diverse views.

4. **Balanced and pertinent discussions:** Moderators may use their discretion in the management of the interventions from the floor in order to achieve participatory and balanced discussions that are pertinent to the topic of the session. This includes interrupting, if required, any derogatory or irrelevant interventions, and actively encouraging interventions from different stakeholder groups.
5. **Dynamic exchanges:** With the exception of sessions where prepared statements are being encouraged, moderators should remind speakers (both from podium and in the audience) to avoid reading from prepared written statements, documents or published texts. Written statements may be sent to the Forum secretariat for posting on the Forum webpage. Participants in the audience should also be encouraged to make short, relevant interventions or to ask questions relevant to the topic of the session.
6. **Timekeeping:** Given that time for every item on the Forum programme is limited, moderators are asked to assist with session timekeeping and ensure that the sessions stays within the scheduled time. Introductory speakers and panellists should stay within the time indicated to them, in order to allow time for others to participate. Moderators are asked to remind all participants to limit their speaking time, as necessary.

**-END-**