

27 January 2016

The Hon Julie Bishop MP  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
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Senator the Hon George Brandis QC  
Attorney-General  
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Copy to:           The Hon Scott Morrison MP, Treasurer  
                      The Hon Steven Ciobo MP, Minister for International Development and the Pacific

Dear Ministers

**National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights**

We write in relation to Australia's implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). As you are aware, Australia co-sponsored the 2011 Human Rights Council resolution endorsing the UNGPs, but has not yet developed a plan to bring Australia's laws, policies and practices into alignment with the UNGPs.

The primary way in which governments around the world are driving and guiding implementation of the UNGPs is through the development of National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights (NAPs). NAPs have been developed or are underway in more than 40 countries across Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia. In June 2014 the Australian Government supported a resolution in the Human Rights Council encouraging all states to develop a NAP or other such framework.

We also refer to Australia's Universal Periodic Review before the Human Rights Council in November 2015 and, specifically, to the recommendations of the Netherlands and Norway that call on the Australian Government to adopt a NAP.

The development of a NAP is a vital step towards Australia's implementation of its obligation to protect against adverse corporate human rights impacts and to provide access to remedy for those whose rights have been violated due to business-related activities. NAPs also promote transparency and accountability in the development of government policy and provide a platform for dialogue between government, business and civil society.

**The undersigned organisations call on the Australian Government to commit to working with all stakeholders to develop a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights:**

**Australian Lawyers for Human Rights**  
**Castan Centre for Human Rights Law**  
**Human Rights Law Centre**  
**Jesuit Social Services**  
**Jubilee Australia**  
**Plan International Australia**  
**Mineral Policy Institute**  
**Oxfam Australia**  
**Save the Children Australia**  
**The Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility**  
**The Australia Institute**  
**UNICEF Australia**  
**Uniting Church of Australia**  
**World Vision Australia**

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