



UK Mission
Geneva

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Note Verbal No. 072

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour to submit its response to communication AL GBR 1 2025, further to the letter dated 14 January 2025 from the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises; the Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment; the Special Rapporteur on the right to food; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the Working Group on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas; the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation.

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 14 March 2025

Special Procedures Branch
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights



UK Mission
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United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Response to Special Procedure communications AL GBR 01/2025 of 14 January 2025 sent by the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, the Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, the Working Group on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation.

Thank you for your letter of 14 January 2025 regarding the Chatree gold mine.

- 1. Please provide any additional information and/or comment(s) you may have on the above-mentioned allegations.**

The UK Government remains committed to promoting and respecting human rights. As set out in the UK's National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, the UK Government is clear that it expects all UK businesses, including those domiciled in the UK, to respect human rights throughout their operations, in line with the UN Guiding Principles (UNGPs). Concerns regarding the operations at Chatree mine will be monitored by the UK Government.

- 2. Please advise the steps taken to ensure Your Excellency's Government encourages business respect for human rights in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) including by requiring businesses, including investors, to conduct human rights due diligence that addresses how to prevent, mitigate and remediate the adverse human rights impacts that business may cause or contribute to through its own activities, or which may be directly linked to its operations, products or services by its business relationships.**

The UK Government expects, encourages, and supports UK businesses, including investors, to undertake human rights due diligence to respect human rights in their operations and supply chain relationships, in line with the OECD Guidelines for Responsible Business Conduct and the UNGPs.

As a signatory to the OECD Guidelines for Responsible Business Conduct, the UK is legally required to operate a [UK National Contact Point](#) (NCP). This is an independent function within the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) responsible for promoting the OECD Guidelines and managing a non-judicial grievance mechanism to resolve complaints where a stakeholder alleges a breach of the Guidelines by a UK business.

The UK recognises the importance of ensuring UK businesses do not cause or contribute to human rights abuses or violations. The UK Government will review the best ways to prevent human rights abuses in both private and public sector supply chains.

3. Please provide information on any steps taken by Your Excellency's government to set out clearly the expectation that all business enterprises respect human rights throughout their operations.

The UK Government is clear that it expects all UK businesses to respect human rights throughout their operations, in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). The UK Government has consistently supported the UNGPs, which are widely regarded as the authoritative international framework to steer practical action by Governments and businesses worldwide on this important agenda. Implementation of the UNGPs will support access to justice and remedy for victims of business-related human rights abuses, wherever these occur, and encourage businesses to adopt due diligence approaches to respecting human rights.

In response to the UNGPs, the UK was the first State to produce a National Action Plan (NAP), and we continue to develop our approach. This year, the FCDO will be carrying out a National Baseline Assessment (NBA) on the implementation of the UNGPs. An NBA will contribute to the evidence base to inform the UK's approach to tackling business-related human rights abuses, including in global supply chains.

In the UK, under the Companies Act 2006, all directors of a company are required to consider the impact of a company's operations on a range of factors including the community and environment when making decisions to promote the success of a company. Since 2019, large companies are required to disclose how they have done that in their Annual Report. In addition, certain other companies (quoted companies and large public interest entities) are required to report on social matters and respect for human rights as part of their annual reports and accounts.

The UK also has clear legislation to combat forced labour in supply chains. Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 requires commercial businesses who operate in the UK and have a turnover of £36m or more to report annually on the steps they have taken to prevent modern slavery in their operations and supply chains. Detailed best practice guidance can be found on gov.uk pages, including statutory guidance from the Home Office with links to external resources to help businesses publish their annual modern slavery statement.

Businesses can access the overseas [business risk pages](#), managed by the UK's trade and diplomatic network, which include information on human rights risks when trading overseas.

4. Please provide information on the measures Your Excellency's Government is taking or considering taking to ensure that persons affected by the activities of business domiciled in your jurisdiction have access to redress in your country, through judicial or extrajudicial State mechanisms.

The UK has a range of judicial and state-based non judicial mechanisms that help to support access to remedy for human rights abuses by business enterprises both in the UK and overseas.

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The Government continues to keep the UK provision of remedy under review.

5. Please indicate the steps that Your Excellency's Government has taken or is considering taking, to ensure that business enterprises domiciled in your territory and/or jurisdiction establish and participate in effective operational-level grievance mechanisms in line with UNGP 31.

The UK Government is clear that it expects all UK businesses to respect human rights throughout their operations, in line with the UNGPs. This includes establishing or participating in effective operational-level grievance mechanisms for individuals and communities who may be adversely impacted, in line with UNGP 31.