



UK Mission to the
United Nations
in Geneva

UK Mission Geneva
Avenue de la paix 5-7
1202 Genève
Switzerland

+41 79 865 57 68

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Geneva, 21 November 2025

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 04/2025, further to the letter dated 3 July 2025 from the Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment; the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change; the Special Rapporteur on the right to development; the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; the Special Rapporteur on the right to food; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection on 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 right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living; and on the right to non-discrimination in this context; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons; 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, 21 November 2025
Special Procedures Branch
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights



UK Mission
Geneva

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Response to Special Procedure communication AL GBR 04/2025 of 3 July 2025 from the Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment; the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change; the Special Rapporteur on the right to development; the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; the Special Rapporteur on the right to food; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection on 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 right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living; and on the right to non-discrimination in this context; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons; the Special Rapporteur 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.

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

The UK opposes the arbitrary arrests and detention of all individuals in all circumstances, as a matter of principle. The UK also opposes gender-based violence, in all circumstances and against all individuals, recognising that it is an abuse of human rights and that it has significant adverse impacts on economies and on biodiversity. The UK fully recognises that human rights defenders play an essential role in promoting and protecting human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. It is crucial that they are allowed to work and live in safety, without fear of harassment or harm, and without fear of gender-based violence.

- 2. Please indicate what steps your Excellency's Government has taken, or is considering to take, to uphold its duty to protect against human rights abuses by the EACOP project, ensuring that business enterprises domiciled in its territory and/or jurisdiction conduct human rights due diligence to identify, prevent, mitigate and account for how they address their impacts on human rights, including the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment throughout their operations (including abroad), as set forth by international law and standards, including the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).**

The UK Government is committed to the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), which are widely regarded as the authoritative international framework to steer practical action by Governments and businesses worldwide on this important agenda. The UK has a range of measures in place to promote human rights across the economy.

The UK Government supports voluntary due diligence approaches taken by UK businesses to identify and prevent human rights abuses and environmental harms across their operations and supply chains, in line with the UNGPs and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. The UK is legally required to operate a National Contact Point (NCP) to promote the OECD Guidelines and provide a non-judicial grievance mechanism for complaints of non-observance by UK businesses. As part of the Trade Strategy, the Department for Business and Trade established the Office for Responsible Business Conduct to replace the UK NCP. This strengthened office will better reflect the importance of its mission to this Government.

The UK Government also has clear legislation to combat forced labour in supply chains. Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 requires 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. The Home Office has also recently updated the Transparency in Supply Chains statutory guidance. This guidance is more comprehensive, practical and ambitious.

In the UK, under the Companies Act 2006, all directors of a company are required to consider the impact of a company's operations, including on 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, 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.

In the UK Trade Strategy, the Department for Business and Trade launched a review into the UK's approach to responsible business conduct. The review will aim to

understand the effectiveness of the UK's current regime and alternative means of supporting responsible business practices. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office is also carrying out a National Baseline Assessment (NBA) on the implementation of the UNGPs. The 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.

- 3. Please describe the guidance, if any, that your Excellency's Government has provided to EACOP Ltd, and its subsidiary companies on how to respect human rights throughout its operations in line with international law and standards, including international environmental law and the UN Guiding Principles. Measures to be implemented include, inter alia, guaranteeing effective access to information, public participation and access to justice, conducting human rights due diligence, consulting meaningfully potentially affected stakeholders, and remediating any negative impacts.**

The UK Government supports voluntary due diligence approaches taken by UK businesses to identify and prevent human rights abuses and environmental harms across their operations and supply chains, in line with the UNGPs and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

In addition to the legislation and guidance set out above, businesses can also 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. The Overseas Business Risk service is intended to support and guide businesses, and should be viewed alongside other sources of information. The UK government does not advise on, or undertake due diligence for individual companies.

Tackling climate change and environmental degradation is a foremost priority of the UK. The UK has a cohesive framework designed to protect the environment and is committed to respecting our human rights obligations in the context of environmental action. The UK will continue to engage internationally on the importance of a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, and the implications it may have on the full enjoyment of human rights.

- 4. Please kindly provide information on how your Excellency's Government ensures that business enterprises under its jurisdiction do not impact negatively the work of human rights defenders, specifically in light of the recommendations provided to States in the report of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises on the adverse impact of business activities on human rights defenders (A/HRC/47/39/Add.2) recalling for States and business the normative and practical implications of the UNGPs in relation to protecting and respecting the vital work of human rights defenders**

The UK is clear that it expects businesses to respect human rights and the environment across their operations and supply chains. Businesses should avoid infringing on the human rights of others and should address adverse human rights impacts with which they are involved, including on human rights defenders

The UK supports human rights defenders and their work through the bilateral engagement of our global network of Embassies and High Commissions and through multilateral organisations. Staff in our diplomatic network regularly engage human rights defenders, and also monitor cases, observe trials, and raise issues with host governments.

5. Please indicate what measures your Excellency's Government has taken, or is considering taking, to ensure that victims of business-related human rights abuses and human rights defenders which have been affected by the operations of business enterprises domiciled in the United Kingdom have access to an effective remedy through judicial or non-judicial State-based mechanisms, in line with the UNGPs.

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.

As adherents to the 1976 OECD Declaration on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises, the UK has a legally binding international obligation to maintain a National Contact Point (NCP) for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (the Guidelines). The UK NCP is independent from Ministers, promotes the Guidelines and operates a non-judicial complaints mechanism arising from alleged non-observance of the Guidelines. It also offers a platform for mediation and conciliation. In the 2025 Trade Strategy, the Government refreshed the UK's National Contact Point, to the Office for Responsible Business Conduct (ORBC), to more accurately reflect the mission and improve its visibility with industry. To file a case, please visit [gov.uk here](https://www.gov.uk).