



Australian Permanent Mission
to the United Nations
Geneva

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Reference AL AUS 4/2026

██████████
Officer-in-Charge
Special Procedures Branch
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
121 Geneva 10
SWITZERLAND

Dear Ms ██████████

Thank you for your correspondence of 9 April 2026 in relation to a Joint Communication from the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises; Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change; Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment; Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; Working Group on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas; Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes; and Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation.

Australia is strongly committed to protecting and promoting universal human rights. The Australian Government works to advance human rights globally through Australia's bilateral relationships, development assistance and engagement with civil society, as well as Australia's engagement in regional and multilateral fora, including the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly Third Committee.

Commitment to business and human rights

The Australian Government expects Australian businesses operating in Australia and abroad to act responsibly, including by following relevant laws and considering the human rights impacts of their operations. The Australian Government is committed to promoting responsible business conduct, recognising that businesses can play a major role in contributing to economic, environmental, and social progress.

Businesses domiciled in Australia and/or within Australia's jurisdiction must comply with all Australian laws and are expected to consider the human rights impacts of their operations. As a co-sponsor of the resolution that endorsed the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), Australia has been committed to supporting the UNGPs since their adoption in 2011. The UNGPs provide an important framework for enhancing standards and practices by states and businesses regardless of their size, sector, location, ownership, and

structure. The Australian Government encourages businesses operating in or from Australia to apply the UNGPs and reinforces this through its support for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct (OECD Guidelines) and its implementation of the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (Cth) (MS Act).

Australia, as an adherent to the OECD Guidelines, expects multinational enterprises to act responsibly and consistently with the principles and standards for responsible business conduct reflected in the OECD Guidelines. These standards include conducting effective human rights due diligence, as appropriate to the size of an enterprise, the nature and context of its operations, and the severity of the risks of adverse human rights impacts.

The MS Act is Australia's centrepiece legislative framework to improve supply chain transparency, driving business and government action to identify and address modern slavery in global supply chains and operations. The MS Act requires entities based or operating in Australia, with an annual consolidated revenue of at least \$100 million, to report annually on modern slavery risks in their operations and supply chains, and actions to assess and address those risks. A unique feature of Australia's MS Act is that, in addition to requiring businesses to report risks of modern slavery in their supply chains, the Government must also submit an annual Commonwealth Statement on its actions to assess and address modern slavery risks in its operations and supply chains.

Modern Slavery Statements provided under the MS Act are published on the Modern Slavery Statements Register – which was a world first. The Register provides visibility to the public of what large businesses, and the Australian Government, are doing to assess and address risks of modern slavery in their operations and supply chains. It increases awareness of modern slavery risks among the Australian business community and assists investors and consumers to make informed decisions. As of 19 May 2026, the Register houses over 17,000 statements, covering more than 27,000 entities with headquarters in 70 countries, and has been searched over 9.7 million times.

To further strengthen our efforts to combat modern slavery in Australia, the Government appointed Australia's first independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Mr Chris Evans, who commenced his five-year term on 2 December 2024. The Commissioner works collaboratively with government, business, civil society, and the broader community to improve transparency in supply chains.

Guidance to business and dispute resolution mechanisms

The Australian National Contact Point for Responsible Business Conduct (AusNCP) leads the Australian Government's work to raise awareness and increase uptake of the OECD Guidelines among multinational enterprises operating in or from Australia. It does this by maintaining a website (ausncp.gov.au), engaging with businesses and Australian Government agencies responsible for supporting investment, holding webinars, publishing statements, and promoting the OECD Guidelines and related due diligence guidance. The AusNCP is the primary mechanism managed by the Australian Government to implement the third pillar of the UNGPs (access to remedy) for business-related human rights impacts.

The AusNCP also provides a dispute resolution mechanism for complaints about multinational enterprises operating in or from Australia whose conduct is alleged to be inconsistent with the OECD Guidelines. This includes situations where a multinational

enterprise has allegedly, through its own activities or through a business relationship, caused, contributed to, or been directly linked to adverse human rights impacts. The AusNCP complaints process provides enterprises with a non-judicial, non-adversarial, and efficient means of resolving issues with key stakeholders, supporting their social licence to operate. The most recent OECD peer review of the AusNCP found that stakeholders were increasingly relying on the mechanism to resolve issues related to the implementation of the OECD Guidelines and expressed satisfaction with the AusNCP's performance.

The Australian Government's endorsement of the OECD Guidelines, and its expectation that multinational enterprises operating in Australia or overseas be aware of and adhere to them, is also conveyed by the Australian Trade and Investment Commission, Australia's trade promotion agency, and a key source of information for Australian businesses in Peru. Further, the Australian Government promotes and provides access to publications and tools developed through the OECD National Contact Point system on conducting human rights due diligence, such as issue- and sector-specific guidance and an [OECD Due Diligence Checker](#). This is done through various channels, including government websites (such as those of the AusNCP, Export Finance Australia, Austrade, and several diplomatic missions) and webinars. For example, Austrade's landing pages for Australian exporters, international investors and buyers, and its 'Go Global Toolkit' on all market profiles, outline the Australian Government's expectation that Australian businesses operating domestically and overseas adhere to the OECD Guidelines.

In addition, Austrade's client services agreement requires all businesses it supports to adhere to the OECD Guidelines and to ensure that their subcontractors and other associates do the same. Material published or promoted by the Australian Government through these channels directs enterprises to due diligence resources available on the [AusNCP's website](#), including information on, and links to, the [OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct](#) (OECD Due Diligence Guidance).

Australian engagement in responsible mining

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring the application of high environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards, including regulatory and legislative frameworks, in the resources industry, and mining equipment, technology and services (METS) sector. Australia has a long history of working with partner governments, international organisations, civil society, and the private sector to maximise the development potential of extractives sectors, including through our membership in:

- the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) which promotes open and accountable management of oil, gas, and mineral resources;
- the Kimberley Process, a certification scheme that aims to prevent conflict diamonds from entering the global market;
- voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPI) that guides companies in maintaining security while respecting human rights in extractive operations; and
- the Australian Embassy in Peru has been closely engaged with VPI's In-Country Working Group for over 10 years. The Embassy has hosted events on behalf of the VPI and contributed to dialogues among companies, civil society and government representatives.

Engagement with stakeholders in Peru

Periodically, the Australian Embassy in Lima meets with Australian companies operating in Peru to discuss a range of issues, including human rights. Additionally, alongside a range of Australian companies and institutional partners, the Embassy is implementing the 'Women for Sustainable Mining Fellowships', a program that will provide training and professional development opportunities for Peruvian women in the mining sector. The fellowship will provide training for twenty women and will focus on gender equality in the mining industry, innovation and sustainability, and reducing the environmental impacts of mining. The Embassy has also provided Direct Aid Program funds to support projects across Peru, including in areas where the extractive sector plays a significant role in the local economy.

As set out in this response, Australia implements practical and targeted guidance to encourage Australian-domiciled businesses to consider the human rights impacts of their operations. Notwithstanding, Australia would like to note that the Joint Communication refers to a number of human rights that are not yet established under international law and that there is not a shared understanding by States of all the obligations contained therein.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



H.E. Ms Clare Walsh
Permanent Representative and Ambassador
Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations and Conference on Disarmament in
Geneva