

Press Release

Geneva, 29 November 2018

Communication on the **publication by the FDFA and SECO of the sector-specific Guidance for the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (‘UNGPs’) in commodity trading, and the parallel session of the Human Rights Due Diligence for Commodity Trading within the United Nations Business and Human Rights Forum.**

The Swiss Trading and Shipping Association (‘STSA’) **welcomes the publication of the Guidance for the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) in commodity trading, which has had the active participation of the Association.**

The new Guidance is an **important milestone in the dialog process in which STSA has engaged since 2013, and since the publication of the Background Report on Commodity Trading by the Federal Council.** This continuous dialogue which has had the involvement of all stakeholders (companies active in commodity trading, STSA, representatives of civil society, and the federal and cantonal authorities), **has enabled a better understanding of the commodity trading activity and the challenges related to human rights.**

The new Guidance responds to a key priority for companies in the field of human rights, namely the **illustration of practical examples on what is expected of companies in the implementation of the UNGPs.**

STSA is fully committed to the promotion of the UNGPs, including through this new Guidance, the introduction of dedicated training courses such as the new STSA Certificate on Business and Human Rights, and the facilitation of a platform for exchange on best practices for companies active in commodity trading.

What STSA representatives say about it:

"We welcome the publication of this Guidance which offers a useful tool for companies active in the procurement of commodities, many of which are already mindful of their broader responsibilities and already actively engaging with multiple stakeholders worldwide."

David Franssen, President, STSA

"This guidance is the fruit of a long process, involving discussions with various stakeholders of civil society. Although the concepts are not new, it basically codifies existing practices in our supply chains. Its publication places Switzerland and Swiss commodity traders on the forefront in the area of business and human rights; it is our desire that this guidance provide a common language between the Swiss trading industry and its business partners around the world." Ramon Esteve, Vice-President STSA

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The Swiss Trading and Shipping Association (STSA) is an umbrella association which brings together three regional associations: GTSA (Geneva Trading and Shipping Association), LCTA (Lugano Commodity Trading Association) and ZCA (Zug Commodity Association). STSA's mission is to provide a neutral platform of exchange to all companies active in commodity trading to support their activities, defend their interests, and improve the understanding of the activity amongst the public at large.

STSA counts amongst its members over 170 companies across Switzerland active in commodity trading, shipping, inspection and certification, trade finance, and other associated services. This economic activity is one of the most important in the country, representing 3.9% of Swiss GDP and employing around 35,000 professionals in Switzerland.