UN VIRTUAL FORUM ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS  
**CONCEPT NOTE | BUSINESS SESSION**

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**Title of session**: Business session: overcoming human rights challenges posed by COVID-19

**Short description of what the session is about**: The agenda for the Virtual Forum includes a timely focus on the role of business in managing a broad range of human rights risks related to the COVID-19 pandemic. These sessions will likely provide much food for thought and discussion among business participants concerning the human rights challenges they should be aware of and working to manage, stakeholders’ expectations of business and the changing operating environments they will need to navigate over the coming months (and years).

This session will provide a safe space for business participants to reflect on these discussions, discuss the challenges they are working to overcome and share practical experiences and approaches. It recognises that there will likely be experiences that business participants will be reluctant to speak about openly during multistakeholder sessions, and that space for business participants to share practices with one another can help improve and speed up effective management of human rights challenges.

**Session objectives**: To create a safe space for business participants to:

* Reflect on discussions during earlier sessions focused on COVID-19.
* Share practical experiences and approaches to – as well as insights and lessons learned from – managing COVID-19-related human rights risks across their value chains.
* Discuss challenges and explore ways of overcoming these.

**Key discussion questions**:

* What are the key human rights risks and issues presented by COVID-19 for your company?
* What steps has your company taken to manage human rights risks across its value chain? How is COVID-19 impacting your day-to-day human rights risk management?
* What challenges are you facing, and how could these be overcome? What questions would you like to ask other business participants?
* What reflections do you have from earlier sessions on COVID-19? What was helpful, thought-provoking or concerning? Did you hear anything that you would like to discuss further?

**Speakers and moderators**: Catie Shavin will moderate this discussion. Speakers TBC.

**Format of the session**: This session will focus on facilitated group discussion. A small number of participants will be invited (ahead of time) to help kick-off the discussion.