

July 2025

## Joint statement

The OECD is a leading standard-setter in the Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) space. The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct (the MNE Guidelines) have had an influence on national, regional, and international mandatory due diligence legislation adopted in the past decades: 75% of OECD Members have introduced some form of regulation that references or draws on the MNE Guidelines and its Due Diligence Guidance.

*Business at OECD* (BIAC), the Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC), and OECD Watch, representing respectively the views of business, workers and non-governmental organizations, are therefore very keen to take full part in policy discussions within the OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct (WPRBC) and the Network of National Contact Points for Responsible Business Conduct. As stakeholders whose role is recognized within the Guidelines, we bring to these discussions substantive practical knowledge about achievements, opportunities, limitations, and barriers to RBC. Without this knowledge, policymakers will struggle to design and enforce policies that drive real and positive impact on the ground.

To ensure the stakeholders are consistently enabled to assist the OECD in promoting and developing evidence-based international RBC policies, we ask that the following practices be put in place:

1. ***Business at OECD, TUAC and OECD Watch should be invited to participate in almost all of the discussion items during the WPRBC meetings.***

While we understand that some discussions must be held amongst governments only, we believe that the large majority would strongly benefit from stakeholder participation. To this end, we ask that inclusiveness be the norm, with stakeholders invited to participate in all but a small minority of discussion items. As a secondary priority, we additionally ask that a short “open consultation” item be added into each agenda to enable stakeholders to raise priorities not otherwise reflected in the other discussion items.

2. ***Business at OECD, TUAC and OECD Watch should be given greater time to comment in writing on all OECD draft documents.***

We understand that the full workload of the WPRBC often prompts short review deadlines for stakeholders and governments alike. Yet in the past, insufficient consultation time, occasionally occurring over or near holiday periods, has limited stakeholders’ ability to provide meaningful comment. We therefore request that the general norm for consultation period to be set at 4 weeks.

Furthermore, we ask that the draft agenda of the WPRBC and NCP meeting be delivered a minimum of 6 weeks before the meeting.

3. ***Business at OECD, TUAC and OECD Watch should be able to participate more extensively in the Inclusive Platform on Due Diligence Policy Cooperation.***

With its emphasis on finding solutions to advance sound policies and regulatory coherence in the RBC space, the Inclusive Platform is a key OECD initiative to offer constructive solutions to promote policy coherence in the RBC space and ensure that such initiatives are effective and practical. As stakeholders, we have vital first-hand experience to share from our members on the matters at hand. To ensure our input informs governments' decision-making, we ask again that the norm be to favor inclusiveness and in-person participation on site, with closed-door discussion being the exception.

4. ***Business at OECD, TUAC and OECD Watch should be consulted on their priorities when the WPRBC sets the agenda.***

We would like to be given the opportunity on a regular basis and at an appropriate time to share our priorities and proposals for issues to be addressed on the WPRBC agenda when the agenda is discussed and set up.