



Speaking points co-chair BIAC RBC Committee

Meeting of the OECD Working Party on RBC

Thursday 2 July 2026, OECD Conference Centre

Business at OECD speaking points for the items open to stakeholders (2, 3, 4 & 5)

9h00-12h15

Agenda Item 2 - Priorities for the OECD Working Party on Responsible Business Conduct

Speaking points

1. Looking back on a very successful RBC Week

- *Business at OECD* would first like to thank the OECD Secretariat and delegates for an excellent RBC Week.
- The discussions over the past few days demonstrated the continued relevance of the OECD Guidelines fifty years after their adoption.
- From the business perspective, they also confirmed one important point: the challenge today is no longer developing new principles, but ensuring that existing OECD standards are implemented effectively, consistently and pragmatically.
- This was precisely the message of our new report, **"Ten Lessons Learned from 50 Years of Responsible Business Conduct: A Business Perspective,"** which we were pleased to launch during the Global Forum this Tuesday.
- We hope this paper will contribute to the Working Party's reflections in the coming months. *Business at OECD* would welcome working with the OECD Secretariat to disseminate its findings among governments, National Contact Points and other stakeholders. Many of its recommendations directly support the implementation and continued relevance of the OECD Guidelines.

2. BIAC's priorities for the future work of the WPRBC

- Looking ahead, *Business at OECD* would like to highlight four priorities for the Working Party.
- **First, the priority should now be implementation.**

Over the past years, the OECD has developed a comprehensive suite of RBC instruments. The challenge today is no longer to develop new standards, but to ensure that existing ones are implemented effectively. Future work should therefore prioritise practical implementation tools, business scenarios, capacity-building and peer learning.



- **Second, ensure that the Inclusive Platform on Due Diligence Policy Co-operation delivers concrete outcomes for governments and businesses.**

Business strongly supports the Platform and welcomes its growing role. Looking ahead, we encourage the Working Party to prioritise practical deliverables, such as recommendations on policy coherence, interoperability and implementation challenges, that can directly support governments while also helping companies navigate an increasingly fragmented due diligence landscape.

- **Third, prioritise work on emerging implementation challenges.**

In particular, *Business at OECD* would welcome continued work on responsible disengagement, where companies continue to face significant operational uncertainty, as well as the forthcoming Guidance on Responsible Business Conduct and Development Co-operation, which has strong potential to improve capacity-building in developing economies and strengthen implementation on the ground.

- **Finally, continue disseminating the lessons learned from fifty years of implementation.**

One of the central conclusions of our *Ten Lessons* report is that effective RBC policies are **risk-based, proportionate and focused on outcomes rather than procedural compliance**.

We look forward to working with the OECD Secretariat to disseminate these lessons widely among governments, National Contact Points and businesses.

Agenda Item 3 - Strategy to Promote Implementation of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible AI

Speaking points

1. Welcoming the Guidance

- *Business at OECD* welcomes the finalisation of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible AI and the implementation strategy presented today.
- We appreciate the extensive engagement of the OECD Secretariat with institutional stakeholders throughout the drafting process.
- This Guidance comes at a particularly important moment.
- Around the world, governments are rapidly developing AI-related legislation, standards and governance frameworks. While these initiatives often pursue similar objectives, they also introduce different expectations, terminology and implementation requirements for businesses.



- Against this backdrop, there is a growing need for a globally recognised, practical and interoperable reference framework. The OECD Guidance is well placed to fulfil that role.

2. BIAC's priorities regarding implementation

- As reflected in our written comments throughout the drafting process, BIAC sees four priorities for successful implementation.
- **First, preserve the Guidance's risk-based, proportionate and voluntary character.**

The Guidance should help companies operationalise responsible AI in a manner proportionate to their size, role in the AI value chain and ability to influence risks. It should remain an implementation tool—not a new layer of requirements.

- **Second, ensure practical usability.**

Our members have consistently stressed that implementation tools must be operational and business-oriented. We therefore strongly welcome the OECD's intention to develop an interactive implementation tool. This will likely become the principal entry point for companies using the Guidance.

- **Third, maintain global interoperability.**

The OECD Guidance should continue serving as a bridge across different national and regional AI governance approaches, helping reduce fragmentation rather than adding to it.

- **Finally, preserve clear boundaries of business responsibility.**

Implementation should recognise the realities of AI value chains, including downstream use, dual-use applications and reasonably foreseeable misuse. Companies need practical guidance that reflects what they can reasonably influence.

3. Looking ahead: BIAC priorities for implementation

- Looking ahead, BIAC would welcome continued and structured engagement with businesses during implementation.
- In particular, BIAC welcomes the OECD's intention to develop an online implementation tool.
- As this work progresses, it will be essential that businesses remain closely associated with its development. BIAC understands that an informal group may be established for this purpose and would welcome participating.



- This is important to ensure that the online tool faithfully reflects both the spirit and the substance of the Guidance endorsed by 55 governments. Any significant deviation from the agreed text would risk undermining its legitimacy, credibility and global interoperability.
- Our member companies would also be pleased to contribute practical implementation scenarios illustrating how businesses apply the Guidance in real operational settings.
- Finally, *Business at OECD* would welcome being systematically associated with OECD, National Contact Point and national government events promoting implementation of the Guidance.

Agenda Item 4 - Continued Relevance of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Mineral Supply Chains

Speaking points

1. Critical minerals have become a strategic priority

- *Business at OECD* welcomes the Secretariat's review of the continued relevance of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Mineral Supply Chains.
- From BIAC's perspective, this discussion comes at a particularly important moment.
- Critical minerals have rapidly evolved from being primarily an RBC issue into a matter of economic and national security for many OECD countries. This evolution has been recognised by G7 Leaders, who recently committed to strengthening secure, diversified and responsible critical mineral supply chains while reducing strategic vulnerabilities.
- Secure, resilient and responsible mineral supply chains are now essential for the energy transition, digitalisation, defence capabilities and advanced manufacturing.
- This growing strategic importance is reflected internationally. At the recent Evian G7 Summit, political leaders committed to strengthening the resilience and diversification of critical mineral supply chains while promoting high environmental, labour and governance standards. They recognised that secure and responsible supply chains are now a strategic imperative for economic resilience and global security.
- This topic is also becoming an increasing priority for Business at OECD. Earlier this year, we organised a high-level dialogue on **"Critical Minerals, Critical Choices: What Business Needs from Governments"**, bringing together policymakers and business leaders to discuss how governments can strengthen supply security while maintaining open markets and predictable investment conditions.
- Looking ahead, Business at OECD is also preparing a report on economic security and investment, which will be presented during the celebrations of the 50th



anniversary of the OECD Investment Declaration later this year. In today's geopolitical context, responsible sourcing, supply chain resilience and economic security should be viewed as mutually reinforcing objectives rather than competing priorities.

2. BIAC's perspective on the Guidance

- Against this backdrop, BIAC welcomes the Secretariat's conclusion that the OECD Minerals Guidance remains highly relevant.
- We support the proposed approach of building on the existing Guidance rather than reopening negotiations on its content.
- The Guidance has become the global reference for responsible mineral sourcing.
- It is widely recognised by governments, businesses, financial institutions and downstream industries.
- Maintaining that stability is particularly important given today's geopolitical uncertainties.
- Rather than revisiting the text itself, efforts should focus on:
 - promoting consistent implementation;
 - strengthening capacity-building, particularly in producing countries;
 - developing practical implementation tools;
 - and ensuring coherence with other OECD instruments, including the cross-sectoral Due Diligence Guidance and the updated MNE Guidelines.

3. Looking ahead

- From BIAC's perspective, implementation should now become the primary focus.
- We therefore welcome the Secretariat's emphasis on outreach, practical supporting materials and engagement with implementation partners.
- Businesses would welcome opportunities to contribute practical experience and implementation case studies illustrating how responsible sourcing is being integrated into increasingly complex and evolving mineral supply chains.
- As governments increasingly pursue economic security strategies, it will also be important to ensure that **RBC objectives and economic security objectives remain mutually reinforcing**.