

International Conference on Banking & Human Rights

5 November 2019

Eye Film Museum in Amsterdam

Responsible business conduct is key in contributing to more positive impact on the ground. Banks finance many clients in various sectors around the world. Banks respect human rights and bring them further through their financial products. Some dilemmas cannot be solved by banks individually, therefore, the Dutch banks participate in various multi-stakeholder settings.

One of these initiatives is the cooperation of the Dutch Banking association and banks in the [Dutch Banking Sector Agreement on International Responsible Business Conduct regarding Human Rights \('DBA'\)](#) together with the Dutch Government, trade unions and NGOs to work on different themes of responsible business conduct. Building on the lessons of the DBA and other initiatives undertaken, this conference will exchange best practices on implementing responsible business conduct, exploring new approaches. Subsequently identifying what is needed at European/International level in furthering responsible business conduct in line with the UNGPs and the OECD Guidelines.

We are honoured to have Dante Pesce (member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights) as one of the key note speakers to deliver a speech.

Dante Pesce stated in his opening speech at the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights 2018:

'We need to be humble and open to learn from others' lessons, build on what works and together plug the gaps. Together we should reinforce the key message that respect for human rights is possible and a major contribution to realizing sustainable development.'

Programme

08.30 - 09.00 *Registration and welcome with coffee*

09.00 - 09.10 **Opening**

Moderator: Sharon Gesthuizen, Entrepreneurial Manager

09.10 - 12.00 **Plenary session**

Jacqueline Cramer, Chair Dutch Banking Sector Agreement

Dante Pesce, Member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights

Drs. Christiaan Rebergen, Treasurer-General Dutch Ministry of Finance

10.25 - 10.45 *Coffee and tea break*

10.45 - 10.55 **CEO movie**

10.55 - 11.50 **Panel discussion**

Chris Buijink, Chair Dutch Banking Association

Arend van Wijngaarden, Chair CNV Labour Union

Bahia Tahzib-Lie, Human Rights Ambassador

Dr. Paul Tang, MEP - Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats European Parliament

Maarten de Vuyst, Private Sector Lead Oxfam Novib

11.50 - 12.00 **Movie**

12.00 - 13.00 **Lunch**

13.00 - 14.00 **Break-out sessions part 1**

Lessons learned of the implementation of the UNGPs and the OECD Guidelines

Break-out session A

How to make grievance mechanisms effective and enabling remediation for affected stakeholders

Moderator: Mariëtte van Huijstee, PhD, Senior Researcher SOMO

Dr. Maartje van Putten, Dutch National Contact Point OECD

Dr. Jennifer Zerk, Legal Expert OHCHR

David Kovick, Senior Advisor Shift

Robin Willing, Senior Sustainability Officer NIBC

Break-out session B

Human rights in practice and dilemma's

Patricia Nicolau, Senior Environmental and Social Officer FMO

Break-out session C

Which actions does the financial industry already take on the topic of living wage?

Moderator: Robert Jan Prins, Policy Advisor Financial Markets & Retail Dutch Banking Association

Henk Hofstede, Sector Banker Retail ABN AMRO

Irina van der Sluijs, Senior Advisor Human Rights Volksbank / ASN Bank

Femke den Hartog, Manager Corporate Social Responsibility INretail

Florian Reuter, Senior Manager at True Price / Impact Institute

14.00 - 14.30 **Coffee and tea break**

14.30 - 15.30 **Break-out sessions part 2**

Cooperation and the role of other stakeholders

Break-out session A

How can Banks make use of the expertise of NGOs and what information about these processes need to be shared with NGOs for them to be able to contribute?

Moderator: Mariëtte van Huijstee, PhD, Senior Researcher SOMO

Ryan Brightwell, Researcher and Editor BankTrack

Jan Willem van Gelder, Director Profundo

Break-out session B

Role of states and other institutions in supporting the private sector on responsible business conduct

Moderator: Lucas Simons, Founder / CEO NewForesight

Daniel Bouzas, Policy Advisor European Banking Federation

Adriana Espinosa González, Policy Officer ECCJ

Break-out session C

How to gain better insight into value chains by bringing in different actors in advance

Moderator: Alexandra van Selm, Program Director International Responsible Business Conduct SER

Sonia Lehmann, Advisor GIZ

Dr. Birgit de Vos, Senior Researcher Human Rights in Supply Chains WUR

Juultje van der Wijk, Managing Director Commodity Finance ING

15.45 - 16.15

Plenary conclusion

Wrap up by **Dante Pesce** and **Sharon Gesthuizen**

16.15 - 17.00

Drinks and bites
