

This Programme: East & Horn of Africa Business and Human Right Dialogue

DAY 1		
Time	Session title	Session objective
Moderator: Joanne Kirimi, DanChurchAid		
8:30	Welcome & Registrations	
9.00	<p>Opening Remarks “Key developments at a glance”</p> <p>Karen Poore, Country Director, DanChurchAid Kenya</p> <p>Ononuju Okwaraogoma, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Africa</p> <p>Judy Ninjo, Executive Director, Global Compact Network Kenya</p> <p>Gilbert Sebihogo, Executive Director, Network of National African Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI)</p> <p>Omer Saleh Qaid Al-Shareqi, Business and Human Rights Focal Point for East Africa, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)</p> <p>Moderator: Joanne Kirimi, DanChurchAid</p>	<p>During this session we receive welcoming remarks from the co-convenors of the conference, who will also share highlights and key Business and Human Rights related developments in the East African region. The session looks back at the outcomes, learnings and commitments shared in the first subregional convening in Kampala in 2023 and forward towards necessary progression and action for all stakeholders.</p>
9.20	<p>Welcome Remarks</p> <p>EU Special Representative (online)</p> <p>The Royal Danish Embassy in Kenya</p>	

9.30	<p>High level key note</p> <p>Dr. Damilola Olawuyi, Chairperson of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises</p>	<p>The Working Group on Business and Human Rights holds an international mandate to promote the effective dissemination and implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). Dr. Damilola S. Olawuyi represents Africa and focus on natural resources, energy, environment, and business and human rights law, with a regional focus on Africa and the Middle East.</p>
9:50	<p>Discussion panel “Race to the top: Gains, Gaps and Growths in social and environmental sustainability for businesses”</p> <p>Nushin Ghassmi, Global Head Sustainability, Frigoken</p> <p>Katrine Blaabjerg Sørensen - Regional Head of Sustainability, Danish Industry</p> <p>James Mwenda, Senior Human Rights Officer, KNCHR</p>	<p>This session will explore how responsible business conduct (RBC) can serve as a strategic advantage, moving beyond compliance toward long-term value creation. Focusing on practical examples, it will examine how businesses can integrate human rights into core operations through innovative models, including investments in traceability and approaches that address fragmented value chains. The discussion will highlight how accountability can be operationalised in practice, demonstrating the business case for RBC and how it can drive resilience, profitability, and sustainable growth.</p>
11.05	Coffee & Tea	
11:20	<p>Keynote speech “High stakes, high responsibility: the role of Business and Human Rights in fragile settings”</p>	<p>During this keynote intervention, we will explore the diverse contexts that the east and horn of Africa encompass and how that ‘high stakes’ trigger ‘high responsibility’ when it comes to ensuring a just transition for all.</p>
11.30	<p>Discussion Panel “Pathways to a Just Transition across East and the Horn of Africa”</p> <p>Enid Muchiri, Sales Engineer (Business Development) East Africa, Danfoss</p>	<p>The transition to low-carbon economies depends heavily on sectors such as renewable energy, extractives and critical minerals, agriculture, infrastructure, and manufacturing, all of which are embedded in complex</p>

	<p>Andrew Byaruhanga, Director, Resource Rights Africa</p> <p>Pan African Youth Alliance on Business and Human Rights (PAYA-BHR)</p> <p><i>Moderator: Joseph Kibugu, Africa Regional Manager, Business & Human Rights Centre</i></p>	<p>value chains that can generate adverse human rights and environmental impacts if not adequately governed.</p> <p>This panel explores pathways to a just transition in the context of resource-rich East Africa, with a focus on how responsible business conduct (RBC) can drive systemic transformation. Grounded in a transformation-oriented approach, the discussion will examine how policies and frameworks can translate into tangible, rights-respecting outcomes for communities and affected stakeholders.</p> <p>Panellists will reflect on practical experiences and emerging models that demonstrate how policy commitments are being implemented on the ground, highlighting lessons learned and scalable solutions. Particular attention will be given to the inclusion and empowerment of vulnerable groups—including Indigenous Peoples, women, and youth—as well as the role of the private sector in enabling equitable and sustainable transitions.</p>
<p>13.00</p>	<p>Lunch</p>	
<p>14.00</p>	<p>Breakout intro</p> <p>Joanne Kiriimi, DanChurchAid</p>	
<p>14.10</p>	<p>Breakout Discussions “Transformational and operational due diligence models”</p> <p>- Room 1: Cultivating Justice in the Agribusiness Sector</p> <p>This session is hosted by the “Cultivating Justice” partners Pamoja Trust, Center for Education Policy and Climate Justice (CEPCJ) and DanChurchAid and explore the barriers to access remedy in the Kenyan agribusiness sector and how multistakeholder dialogue</p>	<p>These breakout sessions will explore how due diligence can be applied in practice to drive equitable and sustainable outcomes across sectors. Focusing on agribusiness, conservation, extractives and energy, and land-based investments, participants will examine approaches to strengthen community engagement, address human rights risks, and move from coexistence toward meaningful participation and shared value. The</p>

	<p>can advance uptake of positive impact practices. The learnings from Kenya will be used to create perspectives and share from across the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Room 2: From Coexistence to Co-Leadership: Empowering Communities in Conservation <p>This session is hosted by the Kenya Wildlife Trust</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Room 3: From Commitment to Action: Making Due Diligence Operational and Transformative in the Extractive and Energy Industries <p>This session is hosted by Resource Rights Africa and Witness Radio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Room 4: A Structured Framework for Community–Investor Engagement in Land-Based Investments <p>This session is hosted by Landesa and presents a practical Community–Investor framework that structures engagement across the full investment lifecycle, demonstrating how clearer roles, processes, and decision-making can reduce conflict, strengthen due diligence, and support implementation of the UN Guiding Principles in real land-based investment contexts. The session will also share perspectives from private sector and government actors (TBC).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Room 5: Heightened Human Rights Due Diligence in Practice: From Risk Identification to Action <p>This session is hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</p>	<p>discussions will highlight practical models and tools that support more inclusive, accountable, and transformative business practices on the ground.</p> <p>Parallel sessions will open with short presentations, setting the stage for in-depth, participant-driven discussions.</p>
15:40	<p>Mini panel</p> <p>Reports from breakouts</p>	
16:10	<p><i>Soft Drinks and networking</i></p>	

DAY 2

Time	Session title	Session objective
Moderator: Joanne Kirimi, DanChurchAid		
09.00	Opening remarks and highlights from Day 1	
09.20	<p>Setting the scene “Regional Progress, Challenges, and Perspectives”</p> <p>Dr. Damilola Olawuyi, Chairperson of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises</p>	International perspective to regional progress and assessment of key developments and opportunities for progress.
09.35	<p>Discussion Panel “Advancing Policy, Practice and Action on Business and Human Rights in the East and Horn of Africa”</p> <p>Claris Ogangah, Chair Kenya National Commission on Human Rights</p> <p>Harriet Asibazuyo, National Coordinator, Business and Human Rights in Uganda, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development</p> <p>Hawi Asfaw, Director, Socio-economic Rights Department - Ethiopian Human Rights Commission</p> <p>Oumalkaire ATTEYE Wais, Experte National en "Business and Human Rights – Droit International des Droits de l'Homme</p> <p>Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) of Tanzania</p>	This session will take stock of progress in advancing Business and Human Rights across East and the Horn of Africa, a region that has seen growing momentum between 2023 and 2025 through National Action Plan processes and strengthened governance frameworks. Building on regional developments since the 2023 East Africa BHR Conference, the discussion will examine how policy commitments are translating into practice, highlighting both achievements and persistent implementation gaps. It will also explore emerging policy, regulatory, and market trends shaping responsible business conduct, including the role of regional cooperation and international frameworks. Bringing together diverse stakeholders, the session will foster dialogue, share lessons, and help shape priorities for

	<i>Moderator: Ononuju Okwaraogoma, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Africa</i>	strengthening implementation and transformation across the region.
11.00	Video presentation	
11.15	Breakout intro	
11.20	Coffee and Tea	<i>Refreshments can be picked and brought to the break out sessions</i>
11.30	<p>Breakout session “Inclusive policy development and concrete implementation mechanisms”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Room 1: COUNTRY CAUCUS: Kenya <p>This session is coordinated by DanChurchAid, Pamoja Trust, and Center for Education Policy and Climate Justice (CEPCJ).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Room 2: COUNTRY CAUCUS: Uganda - Room 3: COUNTRY CAUCUS: Tanzania - Room 4: COUNTRY CAUCUS: Ethiopia <p>This session is coordinated by the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Room 5: THEMATIC DEEP DIVE: Faith actors as business and human rights defenders <p>This session is hosted by the ACT Alliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Room 6: THEMATIC DEEP DIVE: Young people as key ‘architects’ of the BHR agenda 	<p>These breakout sessions provide a platform for in-depth dialogue on advancing inclusive policy development and translating commitments on business and human rights into concrete implementation. Through country caucuses (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Ethiopia) and thematic deep dives, participants will explore national progress, shared challenges, and emerging priorities, alongside cross-cutting perspectives on the role of faith actors, youth, and evolving regulatory frameworks. The sessions aim to foster peer learning, amplify diverse voices, and identify practical pathways to strengthen rights-based governance and impact across the region.</p> <p>The parallel sessions will open with short presentations, setting the stage for in-depth, participant-driven discussions.</p> <p>NB. additional country caucuses can be arranged upon request.</p>

	<p>This session is hosted by the Pan African Youth Alliance for Business and Human Rights (PAYA-BHR)</p> <p>- Room 7: THEMATIC DEEP DIVE: Beyond the Compliance Checklist: Rethinking CSRD and CSDDD as Spaces for Rights-Centred Governance in East African Land-Based Investments</p> <p>This session is hosted by Roskilde University</p>	
13:00	Lunch	
14.00	<p>Mini panel</p> <p>Reports from breakouts</p>	
14:30	<p>Panel Discussion “Reporting and Action: Strengthening Accountability and Rights-centered supply chains in East Africa”</p> <p>Private Sector Representative</p> <p>Joseph Byomuhangyi, Chair of the African Coalition for Corporate Accountability and coordinator of Uganda Consortium for Corporate Accountability</p> <p><i>Moderator: Furaha Charo, Business and Human Rights and Sustainable Oceans lead, Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI)</i></p>	<p>This session gathers the commitments and reflections from the dialogue to be able to identify key action for all actors. It will address transformational opportunities provided by RBC and BHR lenses and concrete tools and address opportunities for joint approaches to a just transition for East and the Horn of Africa.</p> <p>Furthermore, it will provide an outlook towards the greater African region and opportunities within new international streams of policy and innovative business models, where rights-holders, including climate and the environment.</p>
16.00	Closing remarks	