



The Geneva Office of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and  
the German Forum Human Rights  
cordially invite you to a public panel discussion on

## **Business and Human Rights – A New Approach at the UN?**

In its resolution 2005/69, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative, mandated to study the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises. Harvard Professor John Ruggie, who was appointed subsequently, embarked on the difficult journey of taking up a topic that had not previously been tackled directly by the Commission on Human Rights. Adopting an inclusive approach, Professor Ruggie tried to find new ways of dealing with the topic and reaching conclusions and recommendations on how the issue could evolve further. Yet, this task has not been fully accomplished in his latest report (A/HRC/4/35), so the mandate may be extended for one additional year. In this panel discussion we want to debate with key stakeholders the possible recommendations that Professor Ruggie may make at the end of his mandate, focusing on their feasibility and the political support they would receive.

**Wednesday, 28 March  
Room XXII  
1:00-3:00 p.m.**

Welcome and Moderation:

- **Theodor Rathgeber** – *FMR* ▪ **Felix Kirchmeier** - *FES*

Speakers:

- **Professor John Ruggie** – *Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises*
- **Dwight Justice** – *International Trade Union Confederation*
- **Auret van Heerden** – *Fair Labor Association*
- **Lisa Misol**– *Human Rights Watch*

☞ Sandwiches and light refreshments will be provided ☞