



„Norms on the responsibilities of transnational corporations and other enterprises with regard to human rights”

In August 2003, the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights approved the *Norms on the responsibilities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises with regard to human rights*. The Norms constitute a concise and comprehensive global document reaffirming and reinforcing human rights' obligations of business enterprises. Major support derives from NGOs whereas private business in its majority rejects the Norms' "authoritative recommendations" on a responsible and accountable corporate conduct. Governments have been remaining reluctant in supporting the Norms so far.

The panel discussion will give opportunity to discuss the Norms from different point of views. Are the Norms a suitable instrument for guiding the globalisation process? Are they against or in companies' interest? What are the current positions with regard to the Norms? What are the pros and cons and who is behind? Is there need to review, change or amend the content? How to proceed?

Thursday, 25 March

1:00 – 3:00 PM

Palais des Nations, Room XXVII (Door 40)

Panellists:

- **David Weissbrodt**, Professor University of Minnesota
- **Dwight Justice**, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)
- **Lee Swepston**, International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- **Tricia Feeney**, amnesty international (ai)
- **Chris Sidoti**, International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)
- **Joseph Rajkumar**, Pax Romana

Moderation: **Erfried Adam**, Friedrich Ebert Foundation Geneva Office

- Sandwiches and light refreshments will be provided -