2024 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development – Side Event

MOBILIZING THE FINANCIAL SECTOR AGAINST MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING: NEXT PHASE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION

Monday, 8 July 2024, 1:15 – 2:30 pm EDT
Conference Room 9 at the UNHQ and online¹

BACKGROUND
Globally, approximately 50 million people live in conditions of modern slavery. Despite a customary international law norm outlawing such practices, modern slavery remains a big business, generating at least US$236 billion in illegal profits per year. Financial institutions are often connected to this issue via their own operations or business relationships.

SIDE EVENT
The Side Event will mark the launch of Phase 3 of the “Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking” (FAST) Initiative, which in 2024 is transitioned from the UNU Centre for Policy Research to UNDP. Phase 3 will continue implementing the Blueprint for Mobilizing Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking, prioritizing the impact at the field level, leveraging the existing UNDP presence in more than 170 countries and territories, and expertise on sustainable finance and business and human rights.

Participants of the Side Event will gain insights on the role of the financial sector in preventing and combating modern slavery and human trafficking from diverse speakers, including the UN, national regulatory authorities, investors, INGOs, and survivors, whose lived experiences inform all the FAST Initiative’s activities, including on anti-slavery laws, human rights due diligence, and innovative prevention strategies.

The Side Event will provide a platform for stakeholders, long-standing partners, and interested delegations to engage in meaningful exchange on how to drive forward the priorities of the FAST Initiative through 2030.

FLOW

Welcoming remarks: David Passarelli, Director, UNU Centre for Policy Research
Keynote speakers: Dominique Hasler, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein
Achim Steiner, Administrator, UNDP
Moderation: Thomas Beloe, Director of the Sustainable Finance Hub, UNDP
Panelists: Anita Ramasastry, Member, Global Commission on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
Malaika Oringo, Founder and CEO, Footprint to Freedom
Eliza Huger Eubank, Managing Director and Global Head, Environmental and Social Risk Management, Citi Bank
Closing remarks: Christian Wenaweser, Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein to the UN

REGISTRATION
Please confirm your participation through the link: bit.ly/24HLPF-FAST
- By COB (EDT) 7 July 2024 if you attend in person and have an access badge;
- By COB (EDT) 7 July 2024 if you attend online.

The registration for in-person participants without access badges was closed on 2 July 2024.

¹ The Side Event is open to Member States, UN, INGOs, financiers, businesses, survivors of modern slavery and human trafficking, other affected rights-holders, and organizations working with them, incl. CSOs, trade unions, National Human Rights Institutions, and academia.

For additional information or queries, please contact Olga Nilova (she/her) at olga.nilova@undp.org.