



PRESS RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPACT OF BUSINESS ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

LIMA, 8 August 2013 – Lima's mayor Susana Villarán closed the international seminar "**The impact of business on children's rights**" on 7 August 2013. The two-day seminar was co-organized by Empresarios por la Educación, Perú 2021, Save the Children and UNICEF.

The seminar emphasized that business practices should not violate children's rights. Recommendations for business enterprises included assessing their impact on children and taking necessary measures to protect children.

The event's organizers noted that business activities can have long-lasting and even irreversible effects. In order to respect and ensure children's rights, business enterprises should take preventive measures and actively seek to protect the interests of children.

Role of the State

The seminar featured a discussion of General Comment No.16 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Approved in February this year, the document aims to provide States with guidance on how to:

- ensure that their activities and the operations of business enterprises do not adversely impact on children's rights;
- create a favourable environment for business enterprises to respect children's rights; and
- ensure access to effective remedy for children whose rights are violated by a business enterprise.

Ten business principles

The seminar also included the presentation of Children's Rights and Business Principles, a document developed by the United Nations Global Compact, Save the Children and UNICEF. The Principles provide a general framework for understanding and dealing with the impact of the business sector on the well-being of children.

According to Lennart Reinius, Country Director of Save the Children in Peru, and Paul Martin, UNICEF Representative in Peru, the hope is that the ten principles will inspire and guide all business enterprises in their interactions with children.

Four thematic panels

There were four thematic panels during the seminar. The first panel dealt with extractive industries and their role in respecting and promoting children's rights. The main speakers were Beatriz Merino, President of Peru's Hydrocarbons Society, and Alfonso Tolmos of the Ministry for Development and Social Inclusion.

The second panel considered the business sector's role in preventing sexual exploitation of children. The main speakers were Ana María Márquez, Director of Programmes at Save the Children in Peru, and Alejandro Delgado, Director of the Protection of Fundamental Rights for Governability at Peru's Interior Ministry.



The third panel addressed the role of media in respecting and promoting children's rights. The main speakers were Jorge Baca, Technical Secretary of Peru's National Radio and Television Society (SNRTV) and Guilherme Canela, Communications Adviser at UNESCO.

The fourth panel discussed business policies and marketing to promote child nutrition. The main speakers were Carlos López, Senior Legal Advisor to the International Commission of Jurists, Mario Tavera, Health Specialist at UNICEF Peru, and Miguel Humberto Aguirre of Grupo RPP.

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