

## INVITATION

### Breaking the Silos –

### Bringing a Human Rights Perspective into the IIA reform debate

**Date: Monday, 18 July 2016, 1:30 – 3 p.m.**

**Venue: Kenyatta International Conference Centre, CSO Forum Tent, Nairobi**

The current system of investment treaties is broken. A system that grants foreign investors unilaterally the right to sue governments for the loss of future profits in front of private arbitration tribunals. A system that unduly restricts the ability of governments to do what they are supposed to do: making laws and regulations for the sake of all its citizens. Today, there is no question whether a reform of international investment agreements (IIA) is needed but rather what kind of reform.

Within such a reformed system, a balance between foreign investor rights' and responsibilities' has to be found.

The issue of investor responsibilities is extensively dealt with in another context, namely within the UN human rights system (UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights; IGWG to elaborate a legally binding treaty on transnational corporations)

To what extent are investor responsibilities and obligations part of the current IIA reform debate? How are investor responsibilities currently discussed in the two human rights work streams dealing with the issue? How could a link between the IIA reform debate and the human rights debate provide a way forward towards a new system of just and balanced investment agreements and investment contracts?

**Speakers:** Hubert René Schillinger (FES), Aldo Caliari (CoC), , Elisabeth Tuerk (UNCTAD), Prof. Jane Kelsey (University of Auckland), Yorgos Altintzis (ITUC); *Moderation:* Yvonne Theemann (FES).

**Organiser:** Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Geneva Office