

Arsht Research on Ethics and Community Grant

Environmental Rights and Corporate Obligation: Integrating the “Protect, Respect, & Remedy” Framework and Environmental Human Rights

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Abstract

Corporations are powerful actors in today’s global environment. They have the potential to create major impacts on human rights. The U.N. has recently adopted the “Protect, Respect, and Remedy” Framework, which lays out comprehensive and authoritative specifications of corporate responsibility with respect to human rights. In 2013, the U.N. Independent Expert on Human Rights and the Environment issued his first report. This report focuses almost exclusively on the obligations of states with respect to environmental human rights, while it says little or nothing about corporate obligations. We investigate the implications of the “Protect, Respect, and Remedy” Framework in relation to environmental human rights. Our findings will show that the Framework implies not just negative, but also positive, corporate duties with regard to such rights.

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