

Rules of procedure for the Swedish National Contact Point for Responsible Business Conduct (NCP)

Organisation and tasks

The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct (the Guidelines) are joint recommendations on responsible business conduct from governments to multinational enterprises regardless of where they operate. The Guidelines contain non-binding principles but the countries adhering to the Guidelines make a binding commitment to apply them. Adherents include both OECD member countries and a number of non-member countries. The Guidelines were most recently revised in 2023.

The Governments of the adhering countries have also undertaken to promote the Guidelines by establishing a National Contact Point for Responsible Business Conduct (NCP) to which different stakeholders can report enterprises they consider have breached the Guidelines. The NCP is also required to provide information on and promote the implementation of the Guidelines, and to serve as a forum for dialogue on issues related to their implementation. The NCP cannot review court decisions but can give recommendations and mediate between parties.

Sweden's NCP is a tripartite collaboration between the State, the business sector and trade unions. The business sector is represented by The Confederation of Swedish Enterprise, Technology Industries of Sweden and The Swedish Federation of Business Owners. The trade unions are represented by The Swedish Trade Union Confederation, The Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations, The Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees, Unionen, IF Metall and The Swedish Association of Graduate Engineers. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs is the NCP Convener. The Ambassador for sustainable business (CSR) is the chair of the NCP.

How to file a complaint

According to the Guidelines a complaint that is filed with the NCP should be substantiated and the party filing the complaint should explain its interest in the matter. For the case to be eligible under the guidelines there should be a link between the MNE guidelines and the issues raised in the case (reference OECD guidelines). The complaint should be made in good faith.

The NCP should acknowledge receipt of the complaint and inform the respondent about the complaint as well as requesting information from the respondent. Further information might also be requested from the complainant. The NCP expects both parties to be constructive in the process.

An initial assessment should be made by the NCP if the case merits further examination. Just because the case merits further examination it does not imply that the company has breached the guidelines. The NCP should collect information about the case and consult

with the parties. If needed the NCP should try to mediate a solution. Confidentiality shall be observed in consultations and meetings.

The NCP should act in an impartial manner. At the end of the process the NCP should publish a final statement with its recommendations. For further information, please refer to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct.