

UNFSS at Workshop of the Centre for Responsible Business - New Delhi, India

The Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) organized a one-day seminar on Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) on 16 December 2014, at The Leela Ambience Gurgaon (Delhi-NCR), in which Mr. Arpit Bhutani from the UNFSS support team was a panellist under the topic 'CSR Mandate & Voluntary Sustainability Standards: Contribution to Business, Economy, Society and Environment in India'.

The event was attended by government officials, standard-setting organisations and a number of economic and business think tanks. The entire day was dedicated to discussing various aspects of engaging with CSR, standards and sustainability, in both the public sector as well as private sector businesses.

In the course of the seminar it was emphasized that the use and scope of VSS as a framework and tool for businesses/industry self-regulation was increasing, and standard-setting, as a trend, was gaining momentum in India. The use of VSS in the domain of sustainable development was much higher in developed economies, while awareness, usefulness and impacts of VSS in India were currently relatively low.

Mr. Bhutani gave a brief overview of the objectives, main clusters of activities and deliverables of the UNFSS, including a proposal for creating a UNFSS-supported national VSS platform in India. After the presentation, workshop participants welcomed the prospects of establishing such a platform and underlined that they were eagerly waiting for further UNFSS work in India.