Dear Professor Ruggie

Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework (the "Guiding Principles")

We write to express our support for the Guiding Principles, and our appreciation for your work and achievements over the last six years under your mandate as Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

The "Protect, Respect, Remedy" Framework (the "Framework") that you proposed and which was unanimously affirmed by the UN Human Rights Council in 2008 has been instrumental in not only focussing the attention of States on their international obligations in the field of human rights, but also focussing the attention of business on the role it can play in ensuring the protection and promotion of human rights in today's increasingly inter-connected world.

As a firm, we welcomed the Framework and the extension of your mandate to "operationalize" the Framework, and have been honoured to be involved in a number of consultations as part of that work.

We believe the Guiding Principles that you have produced, whilst not (as their introduction makes clear) creating new international law obligations, provide welcome and useful guidance to States, businesses and their respective professional advisers on the steps that they can and should take to comply with their existing obligations to protect and respect human rights.
The Guiding Principles bring together in one comprehensive and coherent document the implications for both States and business of the Framework and current human rights norms. The Principles do so in a practical and accessible way such that both the Guiding Principles and their commentary can be readily understood by all.

We are confident that the Guiding Principles will prove an invaluable contribution to the understanding of actors, whether States or business, of their responsibilities in this field. They will also assist States, businesses and their advisers in the design and implementation of practical and effective processes to identify and address potential adverse human rights impacts resulting from business activities. The concept of human rights due diligence in particular is one that will, we believe, be particularly instrumental in this respect.

We hope that the Guiding Principles will be welcomed by the Human Rights Council and thank you for all your efforts and achievements over the past six years.

Yours sincerely

Stéphane Brabant
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