Professor John Ruggie  
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25 May 2011  

By Email: john_ruggie@harvard.edu  

Dear Professor Ruggie  

The Corporate Social Responsibility Committee (CSR Committee) of the International Bar Association welcomes the release of the draft Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights (the Guiding Principles) on 24 March 2011.  

We understand the Guiding Principles will be the subject of consideration by the UNHRC in June 2011. It is beyond the scope of this letter to provide a specific commentary on each of the proposed Principles. However, as noted in the introduction to the Guiding Principles, the Guiding Principles have been developed following extensive consultations with representatives of Government, civil society groups, business and other interested stakeholders. It is also important to note from the introduction that the Guiding Principles have already been the subject of internal testing by a number of corporations, as well as having been reviewed by corporate law professionals practising in excess of 40 international jurisdictions.  

The CSR Committee fully supports the Guiding Principles. The CSR Committee believes that the Guiding Principles represent timely, practical guidance on many complex issues of business and human rights. This unique resource will be of significant value to lawyers practising in this area, and to their clients. Accordingly, the CSR Committee urges the UNHRC to endorse the Guiding Principles.  

The CSR Committee also wishes to acknowledge and commend the extraordinary work which you have undertaken during the currency of your mandate, culminating in the development of the Guiding Principles.  

About the CSR Committee  

The CSR Committee forms part of the Public and Professional Interest Division of the International Bar Association. The CSR Committee is dedicated to the promotion, education and implementation of best practice CSR principles to benefit legal practitioners and advocates, including those representing the human rights, corporate and private practice sectors. The CSR Committee presently has a membership of in excess of 500 legal professionals.  

Yours sincerely  

Craig Phillips  
Co-Chair  
IBA CSR Committee  

Kenneth Thompson II  
Co-Chair  
IBA CSR Committee