



UNITED NATIONS

*Mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General
on Human Rights and Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises*

**STATEMENT BY JOHN G. RUGGIE
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
FOR BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS
ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF THE
GUIAS COLOMBIA EN DERECHOS HUMANOS
14 July 2010**

I congratulate all stakeholders – the business community, civil society organizations and the government – on the launch of the Colombian Guidelines on Human Rights (Guías Colombia). You are joining together to engage in constructive dialogue and collective action on sensitive and critically important subjects, in a spirit of cooperation and with the aim of increasing respect for, and the promotion of, human rights.

It was my honor to participate personally in Bogota when the pilot for this initiative was first begun in January 2007. Since the scope of your ambitions has grown. The Guías Colombia now include not only security issues, but also labor rights, communities, transparency and anti-corruption, environmental concerns, institutional strengthening, and the establishment of grievance mechanisms.

You can count on the continued support of this mandate as you move forward to implement the Guías Colombia. I wish you every success in realizing your aim of becoming a national model within the business and human rights domain.