



GLOBAL BUSINESS INITIATIVE ON HUMAN RIGHTS INTERVENTION
UNITED NATIONS WORKING GROUP ON BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS
20 JANUARY 2012, UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA

Summary text of verbal submission

The Global Business Initiative on Human Rights (GBI) would like to thank the Working Group for the opportunity to engage in this session. GBI is a business-led initiative focused on advancing human rights in a business context around the world with a particular focus on emerging and developing markets. Our work includes building a community of business leaders sharing good practices; identifying barriers to corporate respect for human rights in diverse contexts, and inputting into international policy developments.

In addition to working in collaboration with the UN Global Compact Office we are supported by the Swiss Government and currently have 14 corporate members from 11 industry sectors and representation from Latin America, Asia, Europe, North America, and the Middle East.

GBI would like to encourage the Working Group to focus on consistency of interpretation and application of the Guiding Principles on business and human rights across multiple geographies, business sectors and stakeholders and also to engage with all parties from all geographies in this implementation phase, with a focus on increasing awareness and capacity. We further encourage you to use the annual forum to discuss good practices *as well as* common shortfalls and challenges encountered by both business and states.

We would like to invite the Working Group to make use of the multi-sector composition, size and geographic diversity of the GBI membership as a platform to discuss implementation of the Guiding Principles on business and human rights, and to benefit from, and engage with, a wider business audience through the GBI Regional Roundtables on business and human rights.

GBI is keen to engage with the Human Rights Working Group closely, as we did with the mandate of Professor John Ruggie, and our companies are interested in engaging with you on what works in practice and to provide an honest, practical business perspective.

Thank you.

Intervention made by Joanna Clark, Programme Manager, Global Business Initiative on Human Rights