

Bogotá D.C., May 24, 2011

Professor  
John Ruggie  
Special Representative of the UN Secretary General  
for Business and Human Rights  
Palais des Nations

Dear Professor Ruggie:

Cerrejón wishes to thank you and your team for the work developed in previous years synthesized in the “Protect, Respect, and Remedy” framework. We believe the framework is a valuable contribution to responsible and respectful company human rights behavior and it offers companies, States, and civil society a set of clear, broad, and comprehensive principles to promote and respect human rights. But also these guidelines are a constructive and integrated working tool useful for different social actors. We appreciate the extensive consultation process you lead, the practical spirit of the recommendations, and the wisdom and patience that allowed reaching these principles.

It has been gratifying for us at Cerrejón, one of the largest open pit coal mines in the World that operates in a complex context and which is enriched by the presence of Wayuu and other indigenous populations, to participate in the pilot project of local operational offices applying the remedy principle. This experience resulted in the establishment of a rights-based Grievance Office and innumerable learning for our company; but most of all it provided us with a new means of engagement and better knowledge of neighbor communities and our impacts.

Professor Ruggie, your work has not been in vain and you and your team have left an important legacy. Cerrejón is committed to the principles and they will definitely help us to improve our work. We invite other companies and civil society throughout the World to develop these principles creatively and we hope that the Human Rights Council finds the right ways to enhance them based on experience and help companies to improve their human rights performance. We wish to reiterate our belief that competitiveness does not exclude human rights but it adds value to our products.

Kind regards,



**Julián B. González**

Vice President for Sustainability and Public Affairs