



Bob Corcoran
Vice President
Corporate Citizenship

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Professor John G. Ruggie
Special Representative of the Secretary-General
On the issue of Human Rights and Transnational Corp
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais Des Nations
8-14 Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 10 - Switzerland

May 20, 2011

Dear Professor Ruggie,

When General Electric Company joined the Business Leaders Initiative on Human Rights (BLIHR) in 2006, it was with a desire to participate in a multi-party dialog to enable us to form a deeper understanding of the interconnections between human rights and business. In the context this membership, we had the opportunity to confer with you and your team about business and human rights, and learned much from the discussions and, hopefully, contributed as well. We are pleased to have had that opportunity, which we know you have likewise provided to representatives from States and civil society to contribute to the very important work you have pursued over the past six years. Your collaborative and transparent outreach has been evident in all of your work as the UN Special Representative on Business and Human Rights.

Having established the UN "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework for Business and Human Rights, you have helped clarify the distinct, interrelated roles and responsibilities of States and business entities in this area. This Framework enables corporations, civil society and governments to better assess and address their respective roles at the interface of business and human rights. GE has gone on to become a founding member of the BLIHR successor organization, the Global Business Initiative on Human Rights, whose purpose is to help advance the business community's understanding of its responsibility to respect human rights in this context.

The Guiding Principles will further help business entities and governments operationalize their respective approaches to human rights in a business context, as well as respond to the need for remedies where deprivations nevertheless occur. This is an enormously complex topic but one of great importance to ethical business development and sustaining the dignity of each individual. The Guiding Principles reflect the "principled pragmatism" that has characterized your laudable work as UN Special Representative.

While additional work lies ahead as States and businesses seek to measure up to both the practical guidance and aspirational elements of your work, the Guiding Principles will no doubt serve as a lasting beacon for business entities seeking grow their service and product offerings while respecting human rights. Thank you for the clarity, skill, and dedication you brought to bear in this vital area of public service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Corcoran', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.