



**CHRISTOPHE DE MARGERIE'S KEY NOTE SPEECH, UNITED NATIONS
"SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON BUSINESS
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It is absolutely essential for every socially-responsible company to respect human rights.

This requirement should constantly guide our behaviour towards our employees, subcontractors and stakeholders. It demands that we remain vigilant and supportive of the women and men with whom we work, especially in countries where their rights are poorly observed.

Since the year 2000, Total has made reference to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the main international standards related to human rights within its Code of Conduct, which the Group considers its internal Constitution, and through special policies and procedures.

We are also actively involved in UN campaigns on business and human rights, especially the work of Professor John Ruggie, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on these topics. The three pillars described by Ruggie, "*Protect, Respect and Remedy*", reiterate that it is for States to **protect** human rights and for businesses to **respect** them, while both have a shared responsibility to **remedy** their adverse impact on human rights. Total fully supports this approach for several reasons. First, because it provides a *fair* and clear division of the respective roles and responsibilities of States and companies. Taking a *consensual approach*, it also ensures the broad support of all stakeholders, i.e. States, companies and NGOs. Based on a risk analysis and management policy similar to those practised, in particular, in the safety and environment fields, it is above all *operational*. Lastly, it is *universal*, because the countries in which we operate are members of the UN.

Total is in favour of developing international and multilateral initiatives based on consultations of and cooperation with all stakeholders involved.

We do not believe that unilateral laws with extra-territorial effect, imposed on companies and third-party countries by some other single state, such as the U.S. "Alien Tort Claim Act" or "Dodd Frank Act", will prevent human rights violations or improve governance in developing regions.

Professor Ruggie, whose immense contribution we gratefully acknowledge, is about to complete his second term. He is expected to present his final report to the UN in June 2011. In the future, we intend to continue working in close cooperation with the UN, which, we believe, should increase the involvement of state-owned companies in this debate.

We are keen to stress that human rights are a set of principles that contribute to improving our social "acceptability", particularly among communities in the poor countries where we operate. With that in mind, human rights should be primarily understood as a set of ethical values, and not merely viewed as risks to be managed.