



Joint Civil Society Statement to the 17th Session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Human Rights and Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises May 30, 2011

Thank you, Mr. President.

This is a key moment, at the conclusion of a six-year mandate on business and human rights, for the Council to recommit to its goal of advancing the protection of human rights in relation to business activity. As it considers the final report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG), Prof. John Ruggie, the Council should take note of the progress achieved under his mandate but it also must recognize that much important work remains to be done to adequately protect individuals from abusive practices, hold those responsible for abuses to account and provide effective remedies to victims. We urge the Council to establish a robust follow-on mechanism to build on and complement the SRSG's efforts in this area and in order to ensure that major gaps in protection are addressed.

In a written statement submitted to the Council on May 16, 2011, our six organizations called for a follow-on special procedure with the ability to perform key functions. That statement has subsequently been endorsed by 49 additional organizations from around the world.

In the brief time allowed, we would like to highlight three priority recommendations.

First, we consider that the Council should base its continued engagement on this topic on the "Protect, Respect, Remedy" framework put forward by the SRSG and adopted by the Council in 2008. In his final report, the SRSG proposes a series of "Guiding Principles for the Implementation of the UN 'Protect, Respect, Remedy' Framework." The proposed Guiding Principles provide some useful indication of how states and companies can begin to apply the UN Framework. However they do not adequately reflect or address some core issues, including extraterritorial obligations and responsibilities, the need for more effective regulation,