



**UN Secretary-General's Special Representative  
for Business and Human Rights, John Ruggie:  
Post-Mandate Plans**

On June 16, 2011 the United Nations Human Rights Council endorsed the Guiding Principles (GPs) for business and human rights developed by Professor John Ruggie. The decision, reached by consensus, marked the first time the Council (or its predecessor, the Commission on Human Rights) “endorsed” a normative text that governments did not negotiate themselves. The GPs were informed by 47 international consultations and extensive research over the course of a six year mandate.

The Human Rights Council also decided to establish an inter-regional expert Working Group to promote, support the implementation of, and build on the GP's.

The GPs outline steps that governments and businesses should take to implement the UN ‘Protect, Respect and Remedy’ Framework that Professor Ruggie presented to the Council in 2008—comprising the state duty to protect against human rights abuses by third parties, including business enterprises; the business responsibility to respect human rights; and the need for affected individuals and communities to have greater access to effective remedy.

Key elements of the UN Framework and GPs have been incorporated into the updated OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and into ISO26000, a new social responsibility standard adopted by the International Organization for Standardization. The International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank, has updated its policy and performance standards for clients to recognize explicitly the business responsibility to respect human rights.

With attention now shifted to the implementation phase, Professor Ruggie will stay actively engaged in the rapidly evolving business and human rights agenda. He is pleased to share that he plans to:

- Chair the Board of a non-profit being established by members of his UN team, with Caroline Rees as President and Rachel Davis as Managing Director. This will be a collaborative learning project with the purpose of building and disseminating practical understanding of how business and governments can implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;
- As of January 1, 2012, chair the International Advisory Board of the Institute for Human Rights and Business ([www.ihrb.org](http://www.ihrb.org));

- Chair the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on business and human rights, which will also focus on aspects of implementing the GPs;
- Advise the corporate social responsibility practice of a leading law firm working with business enterprises, governments and other stakeholders;
- Write a book on business and human rights as seen through the lens of his mandate. Entitled *Just Business*, it will be published by W. W. Norton in 2012.

John Ruggie will continue as the Berthold Beitz Professor in Human Rights and International Affairs at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and Affiliated Professor in International Legal Studies at Harvard Law School.

Professor Ruggie is immensely grateful to the hundreds of individuals and the many organizations in dozens of countries across the world who gave generously of their time, ideas, and indeed their hearts, to make this mandate the unprecedented success it became.

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