



EUROPEAN UNION
Permanent Delegation to the United Nations Office
and other international organisations in Geneva

**United Nations Human Rights Council
UN Forum on Business and Human Rights**

Closing remarks of the European Union

5 December 2012

Mr Chair,

On behalf of the EU, I wish to thank the OHCHR for its support to this Forum, the Working Group for the organisation of the Forum, and all the facilitators of all the parallel sessions for leading us through a constructive two days of discussions.

Together we have enjoyed valuable exchanges of a unique scope.

Now the key thing is implementation looking forward. In this regard, the EU takes away a number of important messages.

Work will need to continue on all three pillars on the UN Guiding Principles, that is to say the State duty to protect, the corporate responsibility to respect, as well as the access to remedy.

We shall continue sharing experience with other countries and regions. It is important that there is continuing full support to the UN Working Group and its valuable cross-regional approach.

It will be equally important to set clear priorities, and to continue to apply the evidence based approach of Prof. Ruggie, so as to learn from the very practical experiences of businesses, human rights defenders, governments and trades unions.

The full involvement of civil society in activities organised by the Working Group will be required to maintain a true multi-stakeholder approach.

The EU remains fully committed in this phase of implementation of the Guiding Principles: the EU will continue to take tangible steps to further develop its policy. The EU will play an active role in the regional forums to be organised under the aegis of the Working Group.

And finally, we must keep in mind the ongoing urgency of addressing the very real problems, affecting real lives that we heard about in the opening session and the sessions on judicial and non-judicial remedies.

Our collective ability to implement the UN Guiding Principles will be measured against the capacity to prevent human rights violations, and ensure prompt and effective access to remedy when such violations occur.

I thank you Mr. Chair