



Stockholm, 21 December 2011

**Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Sweden**

OHCHR

*Department for International Law, Human Rights
and Treaty Law*

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour to transmit the following submission in reply to your note LW/MvG1S dated 15 November 2011:

QUESTION 1: What do you suggest be the priority focus area for the Working Group, in line with its mandate as per Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/17/4?

Bullet 1, 2, 3 & 8, i.e.:

- To promote the effective and comprehensive dissemination and implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework
- To identify, exchange and promote good practices and lessons learned on the implementation of the Guiding Principles and to assess and make recommendations thereon and, in that context, to seek and receive information from all relevant sources, including Governments, transnational corporations and other business enterprises, national human rights institutions, civil society and rights-holders
- To provide support for efforts to promote capacity-building and the use of the Guiding Principles, as well as, upon request, to provide advice and recommendations regarding the development of domestic legislation and policies relating to business and human rights
- To develop a regular dialogue and discuss possible areas of cooperation with Governments and all relevant actors, including relevant United Nations bodies, specialized

agencies, fund and programmes, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Global Compact, the International Labour Organization, the World Bank and its International Finance Corporation, the United Nations Development Programme and the International Organization for Migration, as well as transnational corporations and other business enterprises, national human rights institutions, representatives from indigenous peoples, civil society organizations and other regional and sub-regional international organizations

QUESTION 2: In addition to promoting and disseminating the Guiding Principles, the Working Group must ensure that they are effectively implemented by both governments and business, and that they result in improved outcomes for individuals and groups around the world whose rights have been affected by business activity. How do you suggest that it achieve this complex task?

- Gather information regarding how governments and companies are implementing the Guiding Principles and advise them in how to improve their implementation