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Thank you very much, Chairman. Good morning. I am happy and excited to be speaking to you today on International Human Rights Day, the 63rd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as we heard yesterday from President Fischer and others. My copy is a little bit battered, but I want to come back to it in a moment.

As a former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, I am going to invite each of you to stand and then say to the person on the left and right of you, 'Happy Human Rights Day.' While you are enjoying that, I have another reason for us to be happy and to celebrate because, as we know, later today three incredible women will be honoured with the Nobel Peace Prize - President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, Leymah Gbowee of Liberia, who I also know very well, and somebody that I do not know personally, but we will all be hearing a great deal more of in the future, Tawakkol Karman, a wonderful human rights activist from Yemen.

Those of us who were here may recall the discussion yesterday about the issue of women in the Arab world. There are some extraordinary women working for the empowerment of women and women's rights, and she has been honoured in a way that I think will both protect her and give her a platform. She will be able to make her activities and her views and her sense of women's rights and empowerment for Arab women and indeed, women in the wider Muslim world, much more known. She will join with Shirin Ebadi, for example, who has been speaking out as a Nobel Laureate, and Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar in Burma. We have the opportunities to listen to extraordinary women who are given that particular platform.

Just because I am standing up here does not mean I am going to make a long speech. I just wanted to encourage you about International Human Rights Day. In that respect, I have warned Thierry that I am going to take him on from yesterday. Probably because he was speaking in his second language English, promoting values, which I totally share, he downgraded a little bit the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and said it was not really universal. I have to take you on about that. You are correct that 63 years ago on 10th December 1948 in Paris, there were not as many countries represented, of course, and there were colonial powers and others.

Despite the efforts of Eleanor Roosevelt to make the declaration as universal as possible at the time, with the support of René Cassin of France, John Humphrey of Canada, China, the Lebanon, Chile and so on, there was that sense. The only complaint I have, actually, about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is that it is not gender sensitive. This was 1948 and Eleanor could not quite achieve that, but apart from that, I think it is a remarkable document, both of its time and remains so.

I became UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in September 1997, just as we were about to embark on 10th September 1997 on the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration. One of the things that we did in the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on our new toy or gadget - imagine, the office had only just become computerised when I took over in 1997 - was that we compiled the language versions of the Universal Declaration. Towards the end of 1998, I received a *Guinness Book of Records* prize for the most translated document in the world. At that time, the Universal Declaration had been translated into about 325 languages. Now it is much more and they are available on the website of the offices of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

We do not judge the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from 1948. It is a living document. It was endorsed in Tehran in 1968. It was endorsed in the World Conference on Human Rights here in Vienna in 1993. It is the root of the Millennium Declaration, which gave us the Millennium Development Goals, again a very good international human rights instrument of the General Assembly. It is not the Universal Declaration, but the covenants and conventions which flow from it that are the important part. The trouble, of course, is implementation.

Before I move to corporate responsibility and global governance, I just want to refer very briefly to three articles of the Universal Declaration to show how incredibly visionary this document was. The first is the first part of Article 1. 'All

human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.' Dignity comes before rights, and if we remember what happened in the Arab Spring, Arab Awakening, Arab Revival, whatever we want to call it, earlier this year, people came out into the street with the help of social protection. They knew social media. They knew that others would come out. What did they call for? Human dignity, human rights, democracy, participation and jobs. There is such high unemployment in that region and very frustrated youth.

Take Article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Would we write this today in 2011, going onto 2012? Would we write this into an instrument? Article 23 says, 'Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment. (2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work. (3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration, ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity and supplemented if necessary by other means of social protection. (4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.'

63 years ago, that was quite an affirmation. The third area of the Universal Declaration that I feel compelled to refer to because it is another way of looking at values, is about duties. People sometimes try to say the Universal Declaration is a sort of liberal Western document, but it is not. It drew on the great religions and traditions of the world of the time. Article 29 says, 'Everyone has duties to the community, in which alone the free and full development of his' and I have to add or her 'personality is possible.'

I had to get that off my chest because I believe that we should talk more about values, but never undermine the Universal Declaration because it is an extraordinary instrument and it has been accepted by every country in the world, not necessarily implemented, but accepted. We need to talk about values because I have just come from the COP17 conference in Durban about climate change. We are not linking the worlds of environment, human rights and climate change very well. In the Rio document, which we will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of next June in Rio+20, there was no reference to human rights and Agenda 21. Here in Vienna in the 1993 Declaration and Plan of Action for Human Rights, there is no reference to the environment.

We do not have just human rights and the environment - we have this element of a world where we need to think about the ecosystem. We need to think about the carbon budget, and that presumes and needs values, including justice. Mr Chair, you kindly introduced me, but my current preoccupation is a foundation in Ireland on climate justice, which links human rights development and climate change.

However, I will now come briefly to what I wanted to talk about, and I think it is important that I distinguish what I am going to say from the excellent words of introduction of our Chair and the reference that he made to the definition of corporate social responsibility, which is that it is over and above the legal obligations of companies and it is voluntary. What I am going to talk about in talking about the Ruggie principles goes beyond that now and is actually the beginnings of global governance for corporate responsibility in the area of human rights, which is not intended to be voluntary. It is intended to be part of corporate responsibility and to be mainstreamed into corporate work.

For those of you who perhaps have not closely followed international developments in the business of human rights agenda, let me first say how truly important it is that the United Nations Protect, Respect and Remedy framework and the guiding principles for its implementation, the product of Professor John Ruggie's work as UN Special Representative over the last six years, were unanimously welcomed by the UN Human Rights Council in June of this year. The fact that the Human Rights Council endorsed the principles unanimously testifies to the global consensus that has formed around the framework. A new UN expert working group has since been constituted, which will take forward the process of disseminating and implementing the framework in cooperation with all actors.

We now have soft law, the beginnings of global governance in the area of corporate responsibility for human rights. I believe the central challenge ahead is to turn the progress of the past decade into new actions that will move governments and markets sufficiently to make respect for human rights part of mainstream business practice around the world. Clearly, we are still at the very early stage of addressing private sector roles and responsibilities in ensuring respect for human rights. Much of the work ahead will involve applying these new internationally agreed principles to difficult challenges facing specific industry sectors in specific operating contexts.

However, the good news is that we now have a global standard to begin that work in earnest. The UN framework affirms, as our Chair has said, state duties to protect human rights against violations involving non-state actors,



including corporations. It also establishes that all businesses have a responsibility to respect human rights and that all must be able to demonstrate that they are meeting this responsibility through due diligence and positive actions, irrespective of local contexts and government capabilities. Even in countries with weak or corrupt governance, these principles still apply to corporations.

We know that making faster and deeper progress will not be easy. Many governments are still not prioritising the approach of the UN framework. For some governments, strengthened capacity is needed to ensure that they fulfil their duty to protect people from rights abuses involving corporations. For others, more effective accountability for achieving results must be brought to bear. Equally, many companies still have a great deal of work to do to make human rights due diligence part of their operations and to ensure that at a minimum, their actions do not undermine respect for rights and indeed, contribute to realising rights in people's lives.

I look forward to the kind of conversation that we will have when I step down and we start our Q&A with you. I am wearing a hat that I am about to hand over to Professor John Ruggie. I chair the Institute for Human Rights in Business, which operates out of London, and I would encourage any of you who really want to follow the business and human rights agenda more closely and who have not been following it to look at two websites. The first is the website of that institute, www.ihrb.org, and the other is a very good website on business and human rights, which covers John Ruggie's mandate, how it developed, the principles, the whole backdrop to it, and that is www.business-humanrights.org.

I will mention three things that the Institute for Human Rights has been doing recently. One is the Dhaka Principles for Migration with Dignity. This is a set of human rights-based principles being developed by IHRB to enhance respect for the rights of migrant workers from the moment of recruitment, during overseas employment and through to safe return to home countries. This is a huge issue in many parts of the world, as you know.

The second thing is the Guidelines on Business, Land Acquisition and Land Use. IHRB has recently released draft guidelines for business acquisition and use of land, drawing on the human rights framework and principles of rights-based approaches to developments. These were developed in consultations in India, in Columbia and in South Africa.

The third one, which went on the website of IHRB yesterday, is the top 10 emerging business and human rights issues for 2012. We did this last year and the year before, so this is the third annual top 10 list of emerging issues. I will give you the first two issues of those 10 - combating casualization of labour and erosion of workers' rights. The second is providing legal redress for business participation in human rights violations. It goes on to name other challenges that are emerging as key issues.

My point, and I think it is an important one, is that when we talk about corporate responsibility in the area of human rights, we drop the social, we drop the voluntary and we say, 'Now we have global governance. We have soft law. We have a lot to do to implement it, both the responsibility of governments to protect and the responsibility of corporation to respect, and the remedy is that we need better remedies.'

It really is a pleasure to take part in this discussion on such a special day. Thank you very much.