

*Ambassador Hans Corell*

Stockholm, 10 February 2008

Mr. Georg Kell  
Executive Director  
The Global Compact  
New York

Dear Mr. Kell,

I am writing to you upon my return from a Conference, entitled "Human Rights in the International Arena: Means of Protection and Prevention". The Conference was organised in London last week jointly by the British Institute of International and Comparative Law and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. In the final session of the Conference several suggestions were made, among them the following.

It was noted that we are now celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the Declaration was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948.

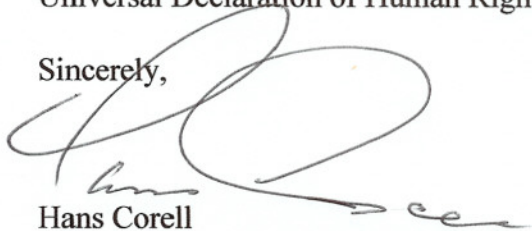
We discussed how one could make this instrument of fundamental importance for the protection of Human Rights accessible to as many people as possible worldwide, in particular in countries where the government is not taking initiatives to make the Declaration known. It was suggested that the business community might assist in raising awareness of Human Rights. In particular, it was thought that the business community should be encouraged to celebrate the Anniversary by printing and disseminating the text of the Declaration in as many languages as possible.

There are over 335 different language versions of the Declaration available in different forms on the web page of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights at <http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/index.htm>. This means that there would be no difficulties in getting hold of the text, and the Preamble and the 30 Articles of the Declaration would not cost much to print locally, in particular not for transnational companies.

I believe that the Global Compact is best placed to engage the business community worldwide in this endeavour. But before you proceed you may wish to consult Louise Arbour, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

I might add that I am also trying to engage newspapers and similar media in a worldwide manifestation through publishing, on 10 December 2008, the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Sincerely,



Hans Corell  
Former Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and the Legal Counsel of the  
United Nations