

**Joint Declaration of Commitment
On the Development and Promotion of
The Field of Business and Human Rights within the Legal Profession**

WHEREAS the undersigned bar associations and legal organizations:

RECOGNIZING that protection of, and respect for, human rights and the rule of law, and effective remedies for human rights violations, are fundamental to well-ordered societies and to the realization of human potential;

WELCOMING the development of frameworks on business and human rights, in particular, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), to ensure human rights are protected and respected in the conduct of business activities;

EMBRACING the integral role of lawyers in promoting and defending human rights and the rule of law in all contexts;

THEREFORE DO COMMIT to undertaking the following activities, individually and jointly:

1. PROMOTING the realization of human rights in the business context, including through dissemination and implementation of the UNGPs and other frameworks on business and human rights locally, regionally, nationally, and globally;
2. EDUCATING lawyers about human rights in the business context, including about the UNGPs and other frameworks on business and human rights and their relevance to legal practice and counseling;
3. DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING further policy initiatives, including industry standards and metrics, that build upon the UNGPs and other frameworks on business and human rights and promoting the realization of human rights in the business context across diverse sectors and industries; and
4. MEETING REGULARLY as a growing group of bar associations and legal organizations to assess progress in realization of human rights in the business context, including the implementation of the UNGPs and other frameworks on business and human rights by this group and by the legal profession generally.

SIGNED this 9th day of June 2015 in Geneva, Switzerland, to become effective for each entity upon approval by its governing body, and to remain open to additional signatories.

Original Signatories (in alphabetical order):

American Bar Association

Bar Council of England and Wales

Bar Council Malaysia

Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales

Conseil National des Barreaux

DeutscheAnwaltVerein

International Bridges to Justice

The Law Society of England and Wales

Union Internationale des Avocats

Additional Signatories (in order of signature):

Spanish National Bar (October 2015)

LAWASIA, the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific (December 2015)