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28 February 2017

Dear members of the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights, dear Michael

On behalf of the Thun Group of Banks I would like to thank the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights for the commentary it has provided on our most recent Discussion Paper.

We appreciate that the Working Group finds that our Discussion Paper provides some useful practical considerations for banks in certain situations where they may be directly linked to human rights impacts through the financial products or services they provide to third parties which themselves may be contributing to or causing a human rights abuse. Equally, we acknowledge the concerns the Working Group expresses about some elements in our Discussion Paper.

We view both the Working Group's positive remarks and its concerns and criticisms as a valuable basis for the constructive dialogue that we explicitly seek out in our Paper and the Statement that accompanied the publication of the Paper in January 2017. In the spirit of said dialogue and with reference to your kind invitation to continue to engage, we would like to offer a meeting between representatives of the Thun Group and the Working Group during the latter's session in May.

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We would also be honored if members of the Working Group were to participate in the multi-stakeholder discussions at the annual meeting of the Thun Group on 19 June in Thun, Switzerland.

We look forward to continuing our dialogue with the Working Group at either or both of the aforementioned occasions or at an earlier point, should this be more convenient for you.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Leitz', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr Christian Leitz

Convener of the Thun Group of Banks