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The scope of Sustainability management has continuously expanded since it was first defined 10 years ago. From environmental management, to product life cycle assessment; from social responsibility and health and safety, to climate change and focus on human rights.

ABB defined the programmes with the support and partnership of several non-profit organizations and, in the area of human rights, adhered to the Business Leaders Initiative on Human Rights (BLIHR) project.

According to the general presentation of the BLIHR initiative the following concepts are applicable to ABB and to the other members of BLIHR project.

“As a companies involved in this project ABB recognises the essential role of human rights as part of good corporate governance. Business can fulfil a role in supporting greater respect for human rights around the world. The intention of BLIHR partners is to find practical ways of applying the aspirations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights within a business context and to inspire other businesses to do likewise.

In this process, it is fundamental the support of the United Nations, Governments, Trade Unions and Nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) activities in protecting and promoting universal human rights.

Members of BLIHR recognise that, although the role of business should in no way undermine or replace the fundamental human rights responsibilities of governments, there is much that can be done by companies to help fulfil and uphold these rights. NGOs and other non-state actors also have important roles to play and the BLIHR members should aspire to abide by the principles of accountability and transparency that are central to social responsibility.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides a common framework within which responsible business can address these important issues and helps shed light on where the respective responsibilities of government, business and wider civil society lie.

Working in all regions in the world, ABB and the other members of BLIHR will identify some of the critical dilemmas and challenges facing business.

As members of the Business Leaders Initiative on Human Rights, the claim to leadership is based on the role that can be played in encouraging wider business interest in supporting the greater realisation of human rights around the world.”