RE: VCGP response to the 8 March 2022 UN Communication from the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

Dear Mr. De Schutter,

Thank you for your communication dated 8 March 2022, (AL OTH 20/2022) which follows on from previous exchanges dated 26 March and 25 May 2021 respectively regarding the Mandalika urban development and tourism project (Mandalika project).

As described in my 25 May 2021 response to the UN Joint Communication (UNJC) of 26 March 2021, VINCI has committed publicly to respect human rights as elaborated in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). Accordingly, as previously stated, allegations of human rights violations or abuses in connection with any project involving VCGP is of urgent concern. We wish, therefore, to reiterate our appreciation for the continued vigilance of the Special Rapporteurs regarding allegations of adverse human rights impacts connected to the Mandalika project.

In the interests of responding more pointedly to the 8 March 2022 communication, I refer to my 25 May 2021 letter, which contains a description of Vinci Construction Grands Projets (VCGP), VCGP’s role in the Mandalika Project, VCGP’s human rights policies and processes as well as VCGP’s next steps to manage human rights risks in the Mandalika project.

Turning to the “proposed ways forward” described in the 8 March 2022 communication, VCGP appreciates the constructive approach of the Special Rapporteur, and the concrete proposals to resolve identified areas of concern. VCGP supports the idea that addressing and resolving allegations of adverse impacts on people related to the Mandalika project is in the interest of all parties concerned, and in the interests of a successful project going forward. It would be expected that any process established to resolve outstanding allegations would comport with the expectations set out in the UNGPs.

The Special Rapporteur also describes that he would welcome an invitation to carry out an informal visit to the Mandalika project. VCGP is aware that Special Procedures regularly carry out country visits to deepen their understanding of human rights issues and to formulate recommendations.
VCGP believes that such a request is in line with the regular functioning of the office of the Special Rapporteur and is therefore favorable to such a request being granted.

Furthermore, VCGP is confident that the Indonesia Tourism Development Corporation and other public and private project participants would also support the ability of the Special Rapporteur to carry out his duties guided by insights gathered through such a visit.

*Next steps for VCGP on Mandalika*

I refer once again to my letter dated 25 May 2021 for the complete description of VCGP’s plans for managing human rights risks in the Mandalika project. However, I am pleased to write that, after some delays due to the health risks and restrictions due to the current pandemic, we have begun the process of assessing human rights impacts - including those related to the allegations contained in the UNJC and in the Special Rapporteur’s 8 March 2022 communication - as they relate to VCGP’s possible future activities in the Mandalika project, in line with our commitment to respect human rights as elaborated in the UNGPs.

VCGP welcomes continued engagement with human rights organizations, experts and the UN Special Procedures.

We aim to be transparent and open in our correspondence and hope that you find our reply responsive to your requests. We would be pleased to respond to further questions you may have.

Respectfully,

Patrick Kadri
Chairman of Vinci Construction Grands Projets