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On April 9, I had the pleasure of attending our citizenship Stakeholder Advisory Panel in New York City. The Panel's responsibilities include helping advance the quality of GE's annual Corporate Citizenship Report through ongoing dialogue with the Company. The panel is comprised of Nick Robins, head of HSBC Climate Change Centre for Excellence, Rachel Kyte, director of IFC Environmental and Social Development Department, Isabel Hilton, CEO of China Dialogue, Salil Triphani, director of Institute for Human Rights and Business, and Valdemar de Oliveira Neto, regional representative for Brazil at Avina.

Hosted by Bob Corcoran, vice president of corporate citizenship and facilitated by AccountAbility, the discussion also included participation by GE functional leaders in EHS and labor relations.

The full day meeting, which focused considerably on the effect of the current financial crisis and the global recession, also provided the panel an opportunity to comment on the draft of GE's annual citizenship report, to be released in June 2009. The discussions included recommended strategic and tactical directions for GE sustainability reporting.

Over the next few weeks, we will summarize the recommendations of the Panel and identify how we can advance our reporting disclosure and processes to reflect those recommendations. This year's report will, as in the previous two years, include an edited letter from this Panel commenting on our reporting only and feedback on aspects of GE citizenship performance.

It was an opportunity to discuss not only GE's citizenship performance and reporting, but also to hear from global thought leaders on key issues in the area of corporate social responsibility, including human rights, environment, economic development and healthcare. It was truly an interactive session and the Company is proud to have ongoing engagement with such experts.

Providing a one-year snapshot of a constantly moving business is a significant challenge for any company, a challenge that is even more difficult for GE whose global business is extremely diverse and complex. Our stakeholder engagement enables us to further enhance our reporting and ensure our discussions are relevant to global issues and GE's role in solving some of the world's most complex problems.