Online course on United Nations Human Rights Responsibilities
Module on Learning From the Past: Human Rights Up Front

*Transcript: Video message from United Nations principals on United Nations Action to prevent and respond to human rights violations*

**Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General**
“The inability of the United Nations and member States to prevent huge violations of human rights has had disastrous consequences. That is what we really wanted to change.”

**Jan Eliasson, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General**
“I am tired of saying, ‘Never again.’ If you repeat saying, ‘Never again,’ then it’s already an admission of failure. We must be serious about this. In the past, there have been situations where the UN has left and not even thought about staying behind and by that, providing international eyes and ears.”

**Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator**
“Rwanda in 1994 was a pretty sobering experience for the UN, when people were turned away from its compounds when they were fleeing from genocide. And then there was the review of performance in Sri Lanka, where again it was felt that the UN had pulled its punches, and more could have been said and done.”

**Ban Ki-moon**
“To prevent any such massive human rights violations from happening again, I decided to launch [the] Human Rights Up Front.”

**Jan Eliasson**
“I don’t think we have seen initiatives of this kind before. I think this initiative is a qualitatively new step but it is a step that is taken on the basis of the whole premise for this Organization, and on the values and principles and purposes for which it stands. It is also in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.”

**Valerie Amos, former Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator**
“Human rights is a key pillar of the UN’s work. It is essentially what we are about. People across the world expect the United Nations to be the Organization that protects them when their human rights are violated.”