

Fouad Makhzoumi Keynote Speech
Hawkamah/ Rami Makhzoumi Corporate Governance initiative OSB
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It is always heart-warming to speak in events related to my beloved son Rami, and today, especially it is close to his 8th year memorial, next month.

Corporate Governance has been of major importance to Rami. He wanted to have our private company perform like a public company, having an independent advisory board and governance was the first step towards transparency and advancement. Second step was to incorporate CSR at the time, called corporate social responsibility. For him it meant carrying on the right procedures towards our employees, our customers, our board and our community. The task was not easy, especially when you operate in over 50 countries, where laws, traditions, languages differ.

Philanthropy for our family began in 1997 with the Establishment of MAKHZOUMI FOUNDATION, which was the group social strategic service to the Lebanese people, attaining to reach self-satisfaction and sustainability of communities. Accordingly, the group started implementing different activities across the countries we operate in, according to their needs, and proud to say that in UAE we are awarded for our work, and for the second time received the Dubai Chamber of Commerce *CSR Label* , since *FPI joined in 2018*.

CSR of FPI is structured around FOUR pillars, in line with our strategy: Stakeholder and Community, Economic, Environmental and People & Culture. Under each one of these pillars, we are addressing specific SDGs. As a business, we align ourselves to our strategic compass, which guides all we do. We are clear on our purpose and we put emphasis on our Values as they define who we are.

For FPI, Sustainability and CSR are about making a difference and being accountable for the impact of our operations on the environment and the wider community. We are committed to sustainable development to ensure a better quality of life for everyone; now and for generations to come.

We embrace the principles of Sustainability as laid down in the United Nations Global Compact. These principles are reflected in our strategy and the mechanisms and practices enabling us to achieve it. Our long-term sustainability is the responsibility of each employee at Future Pipe Industries.

Since 2015 when UNESCO announced the new 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the adaptation of the UN Global compact the SDGs for 2030, and having their members all in the business field, CSR now defined, as CORPORATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. Which calls on all Governments, Public and Private enterprises to aim to attain those 17 goals. It is a culture and a trend in all countries nowadays to compete on reaching the goals first... When we operate with proper governance, it will reflect on our performance at the company, on our employees and customer. As well as joining hands across with others to find ways of saving the environment, by all available means, and by empowering people and guiding them to good health, raising their awareness for sustainable cities and holding onto their legal rights and defending Human Rights we will reach our sustainability as a company and as country.

My wife May Makhzoumi is member of the National Commission of Lebanese Woman (NCLW) and as the President of the Makhzoumi Foundation, is member of the Global Compact Network Lebanese (GCNL) Board, and Goal Leader of SDG 5, Gender equality, at the GCNL Council. I am member of the Parliament committee for Sustainable Development, targeting all goals, but our first objective, is SDG 1, fighting Poverty.

Corruption is prevailing around the world and in many countries; the only way to defy it is by following GOVERNANCE in every way, governance in education, in health practice, in banking and financial institutions, in Philanthropy Foundations & NGOS, in government administration, IN ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE. It is then and only then, we will have sustainability through good governance. Since I became a member of the Lebanese parliament in 2018, I found out how deep rooted corruption is in the system. Unless we become transparent and force the elected parliament to exercise their duties holding the Government accountable, there is very little hope for a Better future for our youth whose aim is to immigrate for a better life; unfortunately, 75% of all youth believe so.

Life is about giving and not about taking. Giving LOVE, will give happiness, giving knowledge will give education, and working together will make us better people.

Rami had a vision, and he used to say “I tell you where we want to go and you have to find the way to reach the destiny”. He showed us the way to Governance and Philanthropy and it is our responsibility to carry on reaching our goals.

