



**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY SOUTH AFRICA**

**OPEN-ENDED INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON THE  
ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT ON  
TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS ENTERPRISES  
WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS**

**PANEL VI: ENHANCING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TNCs AND OTHER  
BUSINESS ENTERPRISES TO RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING  
PREVENTION, MITIGATION AND REMEDIATION**

*Check against delivery*

**08 July 2015**

Chairperson,

Transnational Corporations and other business enterprises are active in some of the most essential sectors of national economies such as, amongst others, communication, improved technology, employment opportunities, skills development, infrastructure development and extractive industries and therefore, play a positive role towards the economy.

Nonetheless, development is not only economic; it is also about human development, hence the increased threat to human rights by the operations of these

entities cannot be ignored. In its operational activities TNCs and other business enterprises should ensure safe working conditions, fair wages, environmentally friendly projects and emancipation of trade unions. This would certify adequate measures for prevention, mitigation and remediation. The enhanced responsibility of TNCs and other business enterprises would lead to improved livelihoods of people living in the areas where they operate in.

Chairperson,

The prominence of the responsibility of the corporate sector is also illustrated under Pillar II of the UNGPs, which indicates that corporations should “address adverse human rights impacts with which they are involved”. This lays the ground for liability and accountability for these entities in international human rights and humanitarian law.

Due to the fact that operational activities of TNCs and other business enterprises can interfere in the practical enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, it is therefore imperative to ensure universality of application of uniform standards, on a global scale. This approach would ensure equal protection and effective remedies for all.

I thank you.