



Oral Statement by FIAN International to item 4: General Statements during the OEIGWG on a Binding Instrument on TNC and OBEs with Respect to Human Rights – Geneva 23 of October 2017

Speaker: Hanne Flachet

Thank you Mr. Chair:

My name is Hanne Flachet, representing FIAN Belgium. I speak on behalf of FIAN International, member of the Treaty Alliance, the ESCR-Net, the Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power and the Consortium on Extraterritorial Obligations.

During its over 30 years of work, FIAN has documented cases of violations and abuses of the right to food and nutrition linked to activities of Transnational corporations within food systems.

Unfortunately, the development of voluntary standards has not been sufficient to stop the impunity resulting of transnational business activities and ensure access to remedy, especially for those affected beyond the borders of the States where the capital originates or where the companies involved in the abuses are based.

FIAN welcomes the elements paper elaborated by the Chair which reflects the diverse contributions of the first two sessions. It will constitute a good basis to begin the negotiations, with the main aim to ensure human rights effectiveness and to recover the regulatory power of States over TNCs and OBEs to guarantee that people prevail over profit. We also welcome the voice given to social movements, NGOs and other civil society actors working for human rights in this process and recall the importance to preserve this inter-governmental process from corporate capture.

We urge States to participate proactively on content matters during this session. In our view, such contributions should serve as a basis for the preparation of a draft treaty to be negotiated in the next session in 2018.

We will be observing States' performance, contributing with inputs to strengthen the proposed elements and informing our partners in more than 60 countries

We wish this working group a collaborative week of work.

Thank you.