Thank you Mr Chair,

I speak on behalf of the Brazilian AIDS Interdisciplinary Association. We coordinate a group of 17 NGOs in Brazil working to remove patent barriers to the access to health. We are also part of the Global Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power, which comprises more than 600 organizations, movements and networks, at national, regional and global levels.

We have been following the TNCs and Human Rights debate for a few years now. This is fundamental for us, because struggle daily to mitigate the actions by pharmaceutical transnational companies that undermine access to medicines in the world. It is estimated that more than 2 billion people don’t have access to life-saving treatment.

Since 2011, a voluntary code designed for pharmaceutical companies is in place at the UN level. Nonetheless, a number of gross right to health violations by those same companies that now for seven years operate under this voluntary code have taken place.

We have shared a number of these cases in our oral statements over the last three sessions. It is because of those serious right to health violations committed under this voluntary code that we consider the resolution 26/9 historical and its mandate to the adoption of a binding treaty to hold TNCs accountable for human rights violations a great opportunity. In this sense, we welcome the presentation of the “Zero Draft”, considering it an important first step. However, we have a big challenge in this 4th session to improve this draft by incorporating the perspective of civil society and affected communities.

From what we live daily in Brazil, we consider the adoption of a biding treaty an urgent need in order to bring justice to people that had access to treatment denied and to prevent other right to health violations from happening. Mr. Chairperson Rapporteur, we call states to engage in substance discussion, having as its only goal to bring justice to affected people, by holding TNCs directly responsible for their human rights violations and having in mind the primacy of human rights.

Thank you

But we call states to have as the base principles during the next five days, the primacy of human rights, the direct responsibility of TNCs, a mechanism of social participation