



Oral statement

Fourth session of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights (OEIGWG)

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Thank you Mr. Chairperson

Four years after the adoption of Resolution 26/9 which established this working group, the release of the draft Convention and of the draft Optional Protocol represent a significant step for our discussion process.

They provide a crucial opportunity for State delegations and civil society organizations to have substantial debates on the concrete content of the binding instrument, starting this week with a discussion on the draft convention, which has been available since early July.

Delegations, especially those who have repeatedly called for meaningful discussions to take place, are now expected to constructively engage in order to improve the existing text and make the protection of human rights more effective when faced with corporate abuse. It is a call that all those who have an interest in an economic development that is more respectful of people and of the planet cannot miss.

As we move out of general discussions and enter the negotiation process, we wish for a broad integration of the comments of involved parties on the draft, including those formulated by civil society organizations.

In this respect, and although FIDH acknowledges the positive aspects of the draft convention - such as the centrality of victims, the obligation to adopt mandatory due diligence legislation and the focus on liability - many other facets need further development, such as the provisions on scope, jurisdiction or the rights of victims.

FIDH is committed to providing precise observations and propositions during the week on these elements, drawing on its experience as an international federation of human rights organizations around the world.

Thank you.