

Feminists for Binding Treaty
4th Session Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group Side
Event

Urgent and Needed:
Making the Binding Treaty Work for Women's Human Rights

Co-sponsoring organizations

1. ActionAid International
2. ALTSEAN-Burma
3. APWLD
4. AWID
5. CIEL
6. DAWN
7. ESCR-Net
8. FIDH
9. IWRAW Asia Pacific
10. PODER
11. WILPF

This event aims to articulate feminist demands to make the Binding Treaty work for and protect women's human rights. Feminist and women's movements have identified the strong convergence of state power with corporate power enabled by the current global forces - patriarchy, misogyny, racism, neo-colonialism, fundamentalisms, globalisation, financialisation, militarism, suppression of any dissent or democratic voices. Women human rights defenders, often indigenous women, are at the forefront to defend human rights, their territories and people's sovereignty that are increasingly threatened and stolen by large, multinational corporations - often with the complicity of States. By sharing concrete examples of corporate abuses of women's human rights and centering women's lived experiences and resistance to corporate power, this event will aim to provide specific and concrete language suggestions to strengthen the draft treaty by providing feminist perspectives and ways to systematically remove barriers to corporate accountability.

Context

We welcome the advancements towards a legally binding instrument to end corporate abuses and impunity with the release of the draft text of the Binding Treaty and its Optional Protocol. It is certainly an important step in the right direction for feminist, social justice and peoples' movements who have too long struggled with the devastating effects of human rights violations by corporations, and corporate interest groups. However, we note that there are consistent coordinated efforts from some governments and private sector lobby corporations to undermine this treaty process as it will negatively affect their 'profits' and privileges. It has never been more important to galvanise the movements' power and solidarity to ensure there will finally be an international regulatory framework to ensure states obligations to regulate transnational corporations and other business enterprises and protect human rights of all persons.

Join us for a discussion about corporate power and feminist political economy, and on the urgent quest to end corporate impunity and protect women's human rights.

Objectives

- To identify structural barriers in holding corporates accountable for rights violations, abuses and environmental degradation; and its impact on women's human rights.
- To articulate feminist demands and provide specific language recommendations, based on the lived realities of women and WHRDs affected by corporate activities and rights violations, to strengthen the legally binding treaty incorporating feminist and women's rights concerns.
- To facilitate cross-movement collaborations and strengthen support for a feminist approach to the treaty process from diverse stakeholders.

Time and Date

Monday 15 October, 13:00-15:00

Location:

Palais des Nations, Room XXIV

#Feminists4BindingTreaty