

Note 4-7-189/2018

The Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, presents its compliments to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, H.E. Michelle Bachelet, and has the honour to refer to the process of Resolution 26/9, which established the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group (OEIGWG) with the mandate to “*elaborate an international legally binding instrument to regulate, in international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises*”

Inspired by previous experiences on the elaboration of International Human Rights instruments, the Permanent Mission of Ecuador on behalf of the Chairmanship of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group (OEIGWG) in charge of the elaboration of an international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to Human Rights, has the pleasure to enclose a Zero Draft Optional Protocol to the Zero Draft “*Legally binding instrument to regulate, in international Human Rights Law, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises*”, circulated by the OHCHR on July 20th, 2018.

The Zero Draft Optional Protocol is an annex to the Zero Draft legally binding instrument, and it is centered on mechanisms of access to remedy for victims of abuses committed in the context of business activities; it concretely focuses on the possibility of presenting individual or collective complains.

In the same manner as it was done for the preparation of the Zero Draft legally binding instrument, the Zero Draft Optional Protocol has been prepared after having carefully analysed the inputs provided by States and other stakeholders in the framework of the three first sessions of the OEIGWG, as well as in several spaces to this end, since the very beginning of the process.

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of Ecuador kindly request the Office of the High Commissioner to circulate this Zero Draft Optional Protocol to all Permanent Missions and other relevant stakeholders, with a view that this document could be considered together with the Zero Draft legally binding instrument in the framework of the Sessions of the OEIGWG.

The Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, H.E. Michelle Bachelet the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 04 Septiembre 2018

To all the honorable
H.E. Michelle Bachelet
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Geneva.-

