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.

Currently in the world, billions of people don’t have access to life saving treatment, because of high medicines prices. Pharmaceutical companies charge those prices because they have patent monopolies over those drugs. The result is that State cannot implement public health policies, consumers cannot purchase the medicines in private pharmacies. The pharmaceutical companies – US and EU-based – and their CEOs have left people to die in name of profits and in name of greed. Therefore, it is fundamental that the binding instrument regulates the obligations of TNCs in respect to human rights, as clearly state in the resolution 26/9.

In this sense, the Treaty needs to establish direct legal obligations for TNC, regardless of the legal framework in effect in Host, Home or Affected States, directly or through their supply chains.”. Moreover, the Treaty shall incorporate the double imputation in legal liability, that of the company and that of its managers. The TNCs shall also be held responsible by the competent authorities for the adverse impacts of their activities As legal persons and in order to close the gap by which they escape their responsibilities, TNCs must comply with International Human Rights Law, International Environmental Law and international labour standards.

 Thank Mr. Chairperson