Dear Ladies and Gentleman, distinguished representatives,

I am representing a Labour Rights Organisation from Hong Kong partner of the Austrian NGO Südwind.

I am coming directly from Hong Kong, where millions of people fight for their human rights against state repression at this very moment. Also regarding the UN-Treaty, Human Rights must have the primacy over trade and investment rules and the current article 12 paragraph 6 fails clearly to establish this primacy of Human Rights over trade and investment rules. That is why we request a specific clause on the primacy of human rights obligations. It would better clarify this relationship, adding to regulatory certainty and a stable legal environment. Such a clause should require human rights and sustainability impact assessments prior to the start of trade negotiations. It should also include a clear obligation to secure the primacy of human rights obligations in Investor-State Dispute Settlements mechanisms, as long as they exist.

Such an article would support the rights of millions of Chinese workers engaged in Transnational supply chains. Currently Transnational Companies structurally abuse human rights standards and labour rights standards to maximise their profit. This is not acceptable and the poorest and weakest persons in the supply chain suffer most, sometimes they suffer from physical and psychological illnesses for their whole life.

That is why a stronger article 12, paragraph 6 clearly establishing the primacy of human rights is needed. Thank you.