



**Open-ended intergovernmental working group for the elaboration of an
International Legally Binding Instrument on Transnational Corporations and
other Business Enterprises with respect to human rights**

Fifth Session

**Statement
delivered by Ambassador Vaqif Sadiqov,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and
other International Organizations in Geneva**

October 14, 2019

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset I would like to congratulate you on your election as the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the 5th session of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group. I would also like to thank you and your team for preparing and submitting the revised draft of the International Legally Binding Instrument.

Azerbaijan continues to be actively engaged in the process of elaborating this important document aimed at regulating in the framework of the international human rights law the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises as mandated by the HRC Resolution 26/9. We remain ready to support this process until the fulfillment of the mandate of this working group.

We are of the view that this Legally Binding Instrument should serve to fill the existing gaps in protecting human rights from violations and abuses by transnational corporations and other business enterprises in the course of their activities around the world.

Today we start the second reading of the draft which has been substantially improved, and you, Mr. Chairman, can rely on our support in approximating this draft closer to the expectations of the Member States. This year we expect to engage in

concrete negotiations with the view to further improve and strengthen the draft and accelerate its subsequent adoption.

Mr. Chairman,

The principles of sovereign equality and territorial integrity are the primary principles of the international law setting the basis for any further engagement whether political or economic. We therefore welcome and strongly support the upholding of these principles in the revised draft of the Legally Binding Instrument.

It is against this backdrop that we are deeply concerned with the increasing number of corporate human rights violations when already miserable situation of victims is intentionally abused by transnational corporations, especially when such violations take place in the affected territories during occupations or in the course of armed conflicts, as well as in times of natural and man-made disasters, terror acts and other instances leading to large-scale human sufferings. Although the revised draft has made a substantial progress in referring to such situations, we believe that they require proper reflection in the draft document with the relevant language to be further improved and strengthened.

Throughout the drafting process we have shared with the Chairmanship our concrete proposals for the revised draft of the Legally Binding Instrument. During this session we intend to put forward new proposals for the revised draft and to continue our constructive engagement with the Chairmanship and interested parties.

We look forward to fruitful and constructive deliberations and wish the Chairmanship success in the negotiations.

Thank you.