**IGWG 6th Session - Global Union Comments:**

**General Statement (1)**

Thank you, Chairperson. I speak on behalf of the over 200 million members of the following global trade union organisations:

* International Trade Union Confederation
* Building and Wood Workers’ International
* Education International
* IndustriAll Global Union
* International Transport Workers’ Federation
* International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations
* Public Services International; and
* UNI Global Union

With the COVID-19 pandemic once again exposing the fragility of global supply chains and business models built on non-standard forms of employment and informality, the Legally Binding Instrument represents a unique opportunity to end the impunity for corporate human rights abuses.

Over the coming days, we will offer targeted comments on the second revised draft with a view to impressing upon governments the urgent need to make significant progress in these negotiations.

Overall, the second revised draft has introduced further conceptual clarity, alignment with the UNGPs, a more coherent structure, and a text that is politically viable for States and non-State actors alike. We welcome, among other things, the strengthening of the gender dimension throughout the text. We also believe that the second revised draft provides a sound basis for effectively addressing existing accountability and liability gaps arising from the complex structures of transnational companies and their supply chains dominating the global economy.

Another significant improvement in the second revised draft is a provision that *explicitly* requires States to ensure that any existing or new trade and investment agreements are compatible with the human rights obligations under the Legally Binding Instrument.

Chairperson,

The second revised draft is definitely ‘negotiation ready’, but there are several areas that merit further attention. These include the need to explicitly recognise trade unionists as human rights defenders and an acknowledgement that trade unions are an integral part of human rights due diligence processes.

While we welcome the expanded scope of human rights protected under the Legally Binding Instrument, it is essential that respect for *fundamental principles and rights at work* is divorced from the requirement to ratify Core ILO Conventions.

The second revised draft also limits the avenues for redress in a victim’s home state, which would inevitably hinder the options of returning migrant workers. Finally, the international enforcement mechanisms of the Legally Binding Instrument continue to fall below our expectations. We reiterate our call for a complementary international mechanism to oversee compliance.

Chairperson,

We will expand on these and other points in the coming hours and days. Our full position paper is also available on the ITUC website.

In closing, on behalf of the global trade union movement, I wish you good luck and every success for this 6th session.

Thank you.