

Organization of the 7th session of OEIGWG on TNCs and OBEs (25-29 October 2021)

Technical note

The purpose of this note is to provide information on the proposed modalities and organization of the 7th session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights (OEIGWG), in full compliance with the risk assessment undertaken by UNOG and health regulations of the Swiss federal and cantonal authorities with regard to combatting the spread of COVID-19.

DATES AND VENUE OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE OEIGWG

The seven session of the OEIGWG will take place from **25 to 29 October 2021 in hybrid format – in person in room XX, Palais des Nations, and online via the Zoom platform**. In-person participation is very much encouraged in light of the State-led negotiations on the draft text of a legally binding instrument during the seventh session.

Registration is mandatory (to participate in person or remotely) and needs to be done through [Indico \(https://indico.un.org/event/20213/\)](https://indico.un.org/event/20213/). Please consult the [7th session accreditation page](#) for information on registration requirements. Participants should register even if they possess a valid UN badge. Due to physical distancing measures in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of participants in Room XX is limited. The Secretariat may limit the number of participants per non-State delegation with access to the plenary room.

REMOTE PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS

Please consult the [7th session participation page](#) for more information on how to make interventions during the 7th session.

Remote participation through the Zoom platform: Those who are accredited to participate in the 7th session but who are unable to attend the meeting in person will receive an email with a link and instructions on how to join the meeting.

Remote participation through video message (for general statements only): In light of the format of the session and the dynamics of the negotiation, those who are accredited to participate in the 7th session have the possibility to deliver statements by pre-recorded video messages only for the General Statements segment of the Programme of Work (on Monday, 25 October). Videos will need to be sent 24 hours in advance. There will not be the possibility to participate through video message during the other portions of the programme.

Accessibility of the meeting through webcast and live audio: All participants will have access to the [UN webcast](#), and the possibility to [listen to the audio feed of the meeting](#), both live and on demand after the meeting, in all UN languages.

SIDE EVENTS

As a result of the current COVID-19-related restrictions, **side-events cannot take place inside the Palais des Nations** during the 7th session of the OEIGWG. Stakeholders are free to organize virtual side events or events outside of the Palais des Nations. At the request of side event organizers, and at the discretion of the Secretariat, the Secretariat may be able to share side event details on the 7th session website provided:

- The side event is organized by an entity entitled to attend and participate in the public meetings of the OEIGWG (i.e., UN Member and Observer States, specialized agencies and other international organizations, national human rights institutions with "A status" accreditation, and NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status);
- The side event is connected to the 7th session of the OEIGWG; and
- The side event meets United Nations standards (e.g., contains no profane or inflammatory language).

HEALTH AND SECURITY

All persons physically present in the Palais des Nations will be required, for their safety and the safety of others, to **be free of COVID-19 symptoms** and to maintain the recommended **1.5 meter physical distancing** at all times. The wearing of **face covering masks** remains mandatory **for everyone**. Please note that there is no requirement for a COVID certificate for UN official meetings. To ensure physical distancing when entering and exiting the conference rooms, separate doors have been assigned as either entrance or exit doors. Within the conference rooms, participants will be asked to circulate clockwise only and to respect the required physical distance at all times. Two seats must remain unoccupied between delegates.