

No. 4-7-313/2024

The Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, on behalf of the Chair-Rapporteur of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group established by Human Rights Council resolution 26/9 with the mandate to elaborate an international legally binding instrument to regulate, in international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises (OEIGWG), presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in its capacity as Secretariat of the OEIGWG, and has the honour to make reference to its Note Verbale 4-7-272/2024 of 19 September 2024, by which the Permanent Mission of Ecuador informed all Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva, and all relevant stakeholders, that the 10th session of the OEIGWG would take place in Geneva, exceptionally, from 16 to 20 December, 2024, in Geneva.

In that regard, the Permanent Mission of Ecuador wishes to inform that the Chair-Rapporteur of the OEIGWG, has taken very careful consideration of the concerns transmitted by an open-letter signed by several coalitions and organizations of the civil society regarding the postponement of the dates for the upcoming 10th session of the OEIGWG, including the logistical and financial challenges resulting from this exceptional change due to force majeure circumstances.

Upon the reception of that letter and under the principles of inclusiveness, transparency and constructive dialogue that have continuously characterized the work of the Chairmanship throughout the almost ten years of existence of the OEIGWG, the Permanent Mission of Ecuador conducted a number of informal bilateral meetings and intensive consultations with several Member States, the Friends of the Chair, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Office of the United Nations in Geneva (UNOG), as well as other relevant stakeholders, including of course, civil society organizations actively involved in the process, in order to collect all the elements of legal and budgetary feasibility, as well as specific preferences or circumstances, before making a final decision and announcement through OHCHR.

During those meetings and consultations, other alternatives were fully explored, but they would have implied extending the uncertainty about the dates for the 10th and the following regular session, subject to final approval from the United Nations General Assembly and the Secretariat in New York, therefore contributing to additional logistical and financial challenges for the participation from civil society organizations.

To the Honorable
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Geneva.-



In that regard, taking into account all the comments received during the consultations mentioned above, the different preferences but unanimous request for an urgent confirmation of the dates for the 10th session of the OEIGWG, and the reiterated responses from UNOG on the feasibility of room and conference services, including interpretation to all UN official languages, the Permanent Mission of Ecuador, on behalf of the Chair-Rapporteur of the OEIGWG, kindly requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to publish and circulate this Note Verbale to all Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva, and to other relevant stakeholders, confirming the dates for the 10th session of OEIGWG, from 16 to 20 December 2024, at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva. Similarly, the Permanent Mission of Ecuador kindly requests OHCHR to issue as soon as possible an invitation letter and open the necessary links to facilitate the expeditious processing of the registration from all States and other relevant stakeholders.

The Permanent Mission of Ecuador on behalf of the Chair-Rapporteur of the OEIGWG reiterates its full commitment to continue leading this collective effort, together with all States and other relevant stakeholders, including in particular civil society organizations and those affected by the issues under debate by the OEIGWG, towards the fulfilment of the mandate the Human Rights Council Resolution 26/9. In that regard, during the coming days, the Chair-Rapporteur of the OEIGWG, will issue an updated version of the draft Programme of Work and methodology of the 10th session, followed by the convening of the pending consultation with the assistance of legal experts, on the clusters for the intersessional thematic consultations to implement HRC Decision, adopted by consensus in July 2024, entitled “Enhancing the support capabilities of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights, established by Human Rights Council resolution 26/9”.

The Permanent Mission of Ecuador, on behalf of the Chair-Rapporteur of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group established by Human Rights Council resolution 26/9 with the mandate to elaborate an international legally binding instrument to regulate, in international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises (IGWG), avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in its capacity as Secretariat of the IGWG, the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 30 October 2024