



Statement by *Jerry Mika*, 7th session of the Open-Ended IGWG on Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with respect to Human Rights, Geneva, 25 October 2020

Thank you Chair,

Namibia joins others in congratulating you on your assumption of the role as chairperson-rapporteur and wish you success with your task.

May we also take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude for your tireless efforts in ensuring that we continue with the important mandate bestowed upon us by Human Rights Council Resolution 26/9. We particularly thank you for the early release of the third draft, which in our view succinctly incorporates some the views expressed during our discussions at the 6th Session of the intergovernmental Group last October. Ofcourse there is room for improvement, but the third draft represents progress, and it is a strong basis for further discussions on how we can address the challenges surrounding human rights violations or abuses induced by the business activities and our attempts to provide remedies to those who have suffered harm as result of the human rights abuses.

We further welcome the initiative to appoint a Group of Friends of the Chair, we believe this is a positive step towards building consensus in this process.

Mr. Chair,

The Working Group, notwithstanding the work ahead, has indeed made progress since its inception and we must jealousy guard against attempts to

undermine or undo this process. We have witnessed over the years the number of States, NGOs and other stakeholders who have thrown their weight behind this process which underscores the importance these intergovernmental negotiations. We therefore welcome the participation of accredited NGOs and CSOs during this session of the Working Group and look forward to constructive and fruitful discussions with all participants. Namibia as per usual practice will constructively engage in the negotiations.

I thank you.