

UN Human Rights Council

7th Session of Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises in the Context of Human Rights

Intervention by the Delegation of Ukraine

25 October 2021

Thank you Chair,

From the outset, our delegation wishes to take this opportunity to reiterate Ukraine's commitment to ensuring protection of human rights in the context of business activity.

Since 2011, when this Council had adopted the resolution 17/4, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights have become an undisputed reference point in this sphere.

In 2019, our country had formally committed to implementing the Guiding Principles and since then incorporated the relevant provisions into the National Human Rights Strategy.

Ukraine is also taking important steps on parallel track as a state adherent to the OECD Declaration on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises, notably through implementation of Strategy on Ensuring Responsible Business Conduct Until 2030.

While working on consistent realization of business and human rights agenda inside the country, we stand ready to support any meaningful international effort that aims to further promote this cause on a global scale.

We believe, though, that any such undertaking should be carried out in adherence to the universally accepted letter and consensual spirit of the Guiding Principles, serving the purpose of consolidation of existing normative frameworks and settlement of possible differences and divisions.

Ukraine appreciates the efforts of the Ecuadorian chairmanship to address the sharp divergence of views that have been accompanying the activities of this Intergovernmental Working Group throughout the years.

At the same time, as have been already evidenced in interventions by a considerable number of state delegations today, the debate is far from being settled with significant concerns remaining, including with regards to consistency of the latest draft with the UN Guiding Principles.

For this reason, our delegation counts on leadership of the chairmanship in further seeking a shared understanding by all stakeholders of state obligations and business responsibilities in the context of human rights, including by considering the possibility of consolidating its vision with viable alternative proposals.

It is our strong belief that further advances in the field of business and human rights, whether through elaboration of a binding instrument or other means, can only be considered successful if they enjoy a unanimous cross-regional support in development of the UN Guiding Principles, and our delegation stands ready to support working towards this goal.

Thank you Chair and we wish you every success in your work.