



**October 25<sup>th</sup> 2021**

**Item 4. 4. Plenary discussions in accordance with the programme of work**

**General statement (Monday, AM)**

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

I speak on behalf of the Brazilian AIDS Interdisciplinary Association. We are also part of the Global Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power.

In access to medicines field, it is widely recognized that transnational pharmaceutical corporations, using patent monopolies, violate the right to health. The COVID-19 vaccine apartheid tragedy is not different from other health emergencies.

The FDA issued the first emergency use approval for a COVID-19 vaccine on December 11th. Until then, 1,65 million people had died from COVID. Currently, almost five million people have lost their lives. That means that nearly 3,3 million people died after the vaccine was made available. The only reason for that is the certainty of impunity. Transnational pharmaceutical corporations use intellectual property rights to block global access and make huge profits.

Mr. Chair, we are here in the spirit of making improvements to the 3rd Revised Draft. During this 7th session, we have two big challenges: one is to make changes in the draft so that this binding instrument truly works in favor of peoples and affected communities; the second, to fill the gaps separating the affected populations by TNCs activities to proper access to justice.

The treaty must include the primacy of Human Rights as a fundamental principle. Thus, interests included in trade and investment agreements must be subordinated and be subjected to mandatory respect for Human Rights.

Adopting a Binding Treaty is urgent to bring justice to people who had access to health technologies denied, and their lives were taken away by corporate greed. Mr. Chairperson Rapporteur, we would like to call states to engage in substance discussion, recalling the mandate given by the 26/9 resolution.

Thank you,