

IGWG 7th Session - Global Union Comments:

General Statement (1)

Thank you, Chairperson. I speak on behalf of the over 200 million members of the following global trade union organisations:

- ITUC
- BWI
- EI
- IndustriAll Global Union
- ITF
- IUF
- PSI; and
- UNI Global Union

With the COVID-19 pandemic once again exposing the fragility of global supply chains and business models built on non-standard forms of employment and informality, the Legally Binding Instrument represents a *unique* opportunity to end the impunity for corporate human rights abuses.

The 2020 ITUC Global Poll found that 66% of citizens wanted their governments to adopt new rules for multinational corporations to end human rights abuse through their supply chains. A YouGov poll conducted just *last week* revealed that 80% of citizens in the European Union supported laws to hold companies accountable for harms to people and planet.

Chairperson,

The people have spoken. It's now time for ALL governments to listen to their citizens and engage meaningfully in this process. Now is *not* the time to look at alternatives. Now is the time to focus on the 3rd revised draft and deliver a strong a Treaty without delay.

Chairperson,

Overall, the third revised draft has introduced further conceptual clarity and a text that is politically viable for all concerned. We welcome, among other things:

- The better overall gender integration;
- acknowledgement of the importance of health and safety;
- recognition of the right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment;
- the reference to *obligations* of business enterprises to respect human rights;
- the requirement that human rights due diligence should be informed by meaningful engagement with trade unions; and
- the inclusion of the domicile of the victim as a basis for jurisdiction.

Chairperson,

We said last year that the second revised draft was 'negotiation ready'. The minor, but significant changes reflected in this third revised draft puts us in an *even* better position for meaningful negotiations.

Over the course of the week, we will present our proposals for textual amendments, which aim to, among other things:

- Better articulate the scope of labour rights;
- Ensure that the Treaty has a strong social justice dimension;
- Provide clarity on the internationally recognized human rights applicable to States by virtue of *ratification* and those to which they are *otherwise* bound; and
- perhaps most importantly, ensuring that the provisions on liability for corporate human rights abuse better reflect the types of liability applicable to the different supply chain business models relied on by corporations.

Chairperson,

We will expand on these and other points in the coming hours and days. Our full position paper is also now available on the ITUC website.

In closing, on behalf of the global trade union movement, I wish you good luck and every success for this 7th session.

Thank you.