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**Seventh session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on
transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect
to human rights**

**Item 4: “General Statement (Monday AM)”
October 25, 2021**

- Thank you, Chairman Rapporteur.
- This year marks the 10th anniversary of the unanimous adoption by the UN Human Rights Council of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights – or the UNGPs. We join with the many delegations in the room in pausing to recognize the late Professor John Ruggie for this global achievement.
- The UNGPs remain the globally recognized framework on business and human rights, and its protect, respect and remedy framework has successfully aligned stakeholders around an important common language and shared understanding upon which many advancements have been made in its first decade.
- A core reason for the success of the UNGPs and its broad support is that it was thoughtfully developed over a 6-year and authentically inclusive and consensus-driven process.
- The Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Transnational Corporations to develop a binding treaty has NOT enjoyed consensus support.



- Already today – and as has been the case in every one of the 6 preceding sessions of this working group – many States and stakeholders have expressed disagreement with the most basic aspects of the text – such as definitions, scope, jurisdiction and applicable law. These fundamental questions remain unanswered - rendering this proposed instrument for all practical purposes unenforceable and widely unsupported.
- We refer you to the paper submitted by the International Organization of Employers, Business at OECD and BusinessEurope, which provides a substantive and thorough analysis of the many continuing problems with the text as observed by business. We share the concerns highlighted in this paper.
- Chair, because of the many concerns voiced by States and delegations here today, we join together with them to again call for a pause, a step back from this flawed text and process, and a fundamental rethink of this of this entire exercise.
- As has been stated by governments in the room today, to advance progress on this critical topic, a wide, consensus-based and cross-regionally supported approach is paramount.
- We have that with the UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights.
- The work to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Human Rights is advancing with broad and truly cross-regional global support. We are pleased that a UNGPs 10+ roadmap is soon to be released by the UN Working Group on Business & Human Rights and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- We look forward to contributing meaningfully to the work of implementing the UNGPs even further into its 2nd decade, and we urge delegations in this meeting and the stakeholders beyond to join in this critical effort.
- Thank you.

