

Oral contribution on the third revised draft of the legally binding instrument:

to the seventh session of the "open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights", 25-29. October 2021, Room XX, Palais des Nations

The session during which the oral intervention is to take place: Monday Afternoon, Agenda Item 4, Article 1 Definitions

How the intervention will take place: in person delivery

The type of stakeholder speaking: NGO with ECOSOC status

Name of the State or organization(s): Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik

Name of the speaker: Bettina Rosenberger

Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik (Südwind Austria), Laudongasse 40, A-1080 Vienna, Austria represented by

Ms. Bettina Rosenberger, bettina.rosenberger@nesove.at

Among others

By e-mail to igwg-intervention@ohchr.org and ohchr-igwg-intervention@un.org

As declared in our opening statements we, Südwind and the other members of the Treaty Alliance Austria, a coalition of 15 Austrian NGOs and trade unions, highly welcome the "Third revised draft"..

Specifically we want to contribute with this statement to Article 1.1: and 1.2:

In Article 1.1 the terms "affected individuals and communities" and "right-holders" should be used instead of the term victim. Furthermore the article. should consider the circumstance, that persons have suffered harm because of supporting victims. Therefore it should use a broader definition of victim, a wording which already existed in Article 1.1 of the "Second Revised Draft".

- The following definition was used in the 2nd Draft: " persons who have suffered harm in intervening to assist victims in distress or to prevent victimization."

We welcome the inclusion of the right to a healthy, safe, clean and sustainable environment in Article 1.2 . The latest Global Witness report underlines the importance of this inclusion. It shows that 227 people were murdered in the previous year because they were engaged in environmental activism. So it was, again, the most dangerous year on record for people defending their rights, their lands and protecting the environment..This clearly underlines the urgent need for a Binding Treaty

Especially against the background that Austria is a member of the UN Human Rights Council, Austria should take up its responsibility and constructively engage in this and upcoming sessions of the intergovernmental Working Group.

(sent by Mr. Stefan Grasgruber-Kerl, stefan.grasgruber-kerl@suedwind.at , +4369910040079)