

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I speak on behalf of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

We have listened carefully to the proposals made by several delegations to limit art. 3.1 to transnational corporations and other business enterprises of a transnational character. In our view, doing so would be a major step back to ensure accountability of all businesses. While many provisions apply both to domestic and business activities of a transnational character, it is in relation to the latter that they have the most impact and added value. We hence concur with the comments made by our colleague from the ICJ and the ECCHR on keeping the approach taken in relation to the material scope of the draft in article 3.1.

The draft also importantly seeks to strike a balance by acknowledging in art. 3.2, 6.3 and 6.6 the possibility for States to exempt certain companies, including SMEs from certain obligations. These provisions could be further developed to alleviate the concerns of certain States regarding overburdening smaller companies. We reiterate however that all businesses regardless of size, sector or whether it is a public company must be held accountable for abuses under the LBI.

Thank you.