

Open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other  
business enterprises with respect to human rights

Seventh session (25-29 October 2021)

Item 4: Article 5.

Thank you Mister Chairperson. I speak on behalf of the Feminists for a Binding Treaty.

In Article 5(2): We recommend this be amended to provide explicitly that States Parties' measures to guarantee a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders be 'gender-responsive' in addition to being adequate and effective. While women human rights defenders are exposed to similar risks as other defenders, they also face additional gender-specific threats and violence and a higher risk of being subject to prejudice, exclusion, and stigma than their male counterparts.

Finally, in line with our general position on the text, we recommend adding after "abuses", "the term "violations" in 5.3 as States should investigate both abuses committed by business and violations committed by the State itself or its agents.