

This statement is made on behalf of the on behalf of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies, Lawyers for Human Rights, the African Coalition for Corporate Accountability, the Centre for Human Rights, the South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights and International Law (SAIFAC), and the Uganda Consortium on Corporate Accountability.

Access to remedies is one of the focal areas which necessitated a legally binding instrument to regulate transnational corporations. It is therefore crucial that this provision is strengthened and made effective for victims and potential victims of human rights violations.

We welcome the improvements made to article 7 from the previous draft, however we continue to call for a stronger provision. This can be done by making the following amendments:

In Article 7.2, the inclusion of 'discovery' after access to information.

For Article 7.3 Access to information should also be extended to human rights defenders. Human rights defenders are integral to affected communities' struggle for justice and accountability and they play a pivotal role in assisting victims to access courts and other non-judicial legal mechanisms.

Furthermore, access to information for victims should also include any other information necessary for a victim to assert their right to access just and equitable remedies.

In article 7.6, we recommend the addition of 'human rights abuses' after 'human rights violations.'

These amendments could go a long way in overcoming existing barriers to achieving effective remedies for victims of human rights violations and abuses.

Thank you