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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: “Article 12 – Mutual Legal Assistance and International Judicial
Cooperation (Friday AM)”
October 29, 2021**

- Thank you Chair
- International assistance and cooperation are essential in promoting human rights and access to remedy. We call on States to increase their efforts to strengthen capacity through technical cooperation and peer learning.
- Article 12.5 includes a list of proposed actions for cooperation between States that is inappropriate and circumvents legal rights to due process. Mandating that States “execute searches and seizures”; “Examine objects and sites”; and “facilitate the freezing and recovery of assets” could also enable politically motivated and frivolous proceedings against businesses.
- We join with the many states objecting to Article 12 due to its overly prescriptive wording and infringement of state sovereignty.
- Thank you.