



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: TESPRDD/DESIB/BHRU/NS

Subject: Open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights: Update and invitation for written inputs

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights presents its compliments to all Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva, intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions, civil society, business organizations, trade unions, and all other relevant stakeholders and has the honour to inform of the following:

- In line with the Chair-Rapporteur's recommendation in paragraph 25(d) of the report on the eighth session of the working group (A/HRC/52/41), the Chair-Rapporteur convened a meeting of the friends of the Chair, reflecting all regions, in February 2023 to discuss and agree on a workable way forward in relation to the legally binding instrument.
- At that meeting, the Chair-Rapporteur requested that the friends of the Chair convene and lead intersessional consultations among States to advance work on the draft legally binding instrument, within their respective regional groups. There will be two such consultations per region, between April and mid-June 2023, with the first consultation focusing on Articles 1-7 and the second consultation focusing on Articles 8-14.
- Following these consultations, the Chair-Rapporteur will convene another meeting of the friends of the Chair before the end of June 2023, to consolidate the outcomes of the intersessional consultations as reported by the friends of the Chair.
- These outcomes, along with the concrete textual proposals and comments submitted by States during the eighth session, will be used by the Chair to update and consolidate in a single text the draft legally binding instrument, and circulate it by the end of July 2023.
- The intersessional consultations to be convened by the friends of the Chair will take into account: (1) the work of the working group to date (in particular, all concrete textual suggestions made during the seventh and eighth sessions); and (2) written inputs by stakeholders (as regards substantive improvements to Articles 1-14 of the third revised draft legally binding instrument and the Suggested Chair Proposals).
- In this regard, and in line with the recommendation in paragraph 25(f) of the report on the eighth session, the Chair-Rapporteur invites all stakeholders entitled to speak at the public sessions of the working group to submit such written inputs, which will be particularly helpful in advancing the discussions to be had at the intersessional consultations, and which will be shared on the working group website. Such inputs should:
 - address Articles 1-14 of the draft legally binding instrument;
 - be limited to 10 pages;
 - clearly indicate which State or organization is making the submission;
 - be sent to ohchr-igwg-tncs@un.org by Friday, 31 March 2023.



The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva and all other relevant stakeholders the assurance of its highest considerations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N.S.' followed by a flourish.

Geneva, 2 March 2023

