

**Outcome note**

**The thirty-sixth session of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises**

**The present outcome note summarizes the key items discussed at the 36th session.**

**Present:** D. Olawuyi (Chair), F. Hopenhaym, and P. Yeophantong.

1. The Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (the Working Group) held its **thirty-sixth session from 2 to 6 October 2023 in Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.**
2. During the session it met with representatives of different stakeholders, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNDP, OECD, and ILO, representatives of Member States, businesses, and civil society actors.
3. During the session, the Working Group discussed a wide range of issues such as priority activities and projects for the 2023, 2024 and beyond. This included:
4. **Thematic Reports**
5. The Working Group’s upcoming thematic reports to the Human Rights Council (HRC) and General Assembly (GA);
	1. The Chair provided an update on the preparations for the upcoming report to the General Assembly on the extractive industries*,* justtransition*,* andhumanrights*,*to be presented at the 78th session in October 2023. [A call for inputs](https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2023/call-inputs-extractive-sector-just-transition-and-human-rights) was issued and several consultations were held with States, civil society and businesses. The report was [published](https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/a78155-extractive-sector-just-transition-and-human-rights) and is to be presented at the GA on 13 October 2023;
	2. The report to the HRC by the Working Group in 2024 will focus on Investors, ESG and human rights. A [call for inputs](https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2023/investors-esg-and-human-rights) was issued and consultations on this topic were held during the session with States, civil society and businesses. Open consultations were also held during the regional forum in Addis Ababa and will be held during the regional LAC forum. Another consultation will be held during the Annual Forum.
6. **Country Visits**
7. The Working Group’s country visits for 2023 and beyond:
8. From 16 to 28 February 2023 the Working Group visited Argentina and subsequently conducted a visit to Japan from 24 July to 4 August 2023;
9. The Working Group received invitations from Tunisia and Colombia. The Colombian Government confirmed dates for the Working Group’s visit of 29 July to 9 August 2024. Exchanges with Tunisia on dates are ongoing;
10. The Working Group has engaged with several other representatives of Member States to discuss the possibility of visits in coming years.
11. **The Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights**

The Working Group discussed preparations for the 12th Annual Forum scheduled to take place in hybrid format from 27 to 29 November 2023 at Palais des Nations in Geneva, under the theme “Towards Effective Change in Implementing Obligations, Responsibilities and Remedies”. The Working Group discussed pending preparations for the forum, including finalizing sessions and speakers. The concept note is available at the [Forum web page](https://www.ohchr.org/en/events/sessions/2023/12th-united-nations-forum-business-and-human-rights), and a [Forum agenda](https://forumbhr2023.sched.com/grid/) was issued.

1. **Regional Forums on business and human rights**
2. The Working Group discussed members’ involvement and engagement in regional forums in 2023, including:
3. A debrief on the Responsible Business and Human Rights Forum for Asia Pacific, 6-9 June 2023, organized jointly with UNDP-Asia Pacific, OHCHR, and IOM, among others. Information available [here](https://www.rbhrforum.com/concept-note);
4. A debrief on the Africa Regional Forum held from 5 to 7 September in Addis Ababa (with 5 September dedicated to side events).
5. The Working Group discussed the work done under the Responsible Business Conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) project, including:
6. Final preparations for the 8th LAC Regional Forum, to be held from 10 to 12 October 2023 - Information on the project available [here](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Pages/JointProjectResponsibleBusinessConduct.aspx); and,
7. The upcoming information note on the implementation of UNGPs with regard to the financial sector in LAC.
8. **Communications procedure**

The Working Group discussed the communications procedure (more information [here](https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures-human-rights-council/what-are-communications)) and decided **to continue to give priority to** communications, with a focus on regional balance when possible.