

Joint Statement DKA Austria, Child Rights Connect, ECPAT International, Clínica de Direitos Humanos UFMG and Clínica de Direitos Humanos PPGD/PUCPR

Open-ended intergovernmental working group for the elaboration of an International Legally Binding Instrument on Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises with respect to human rights, Resolution A/HRC/26/9

Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XX
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Monday 24 October, 2022

Joint General Statement (in person delivery)

On behalf of DKA Austria, Child Rights Connect, ECPAT International, Clínica de Direitos Humanos UFMG and Clínica de Direitos Humanos PPGD/PUCPR.

We would like to convey our support to you chair and appreciate your efforts in moving the process forward over the past years in developing a binding instrument at international level that would provide a long overdue legal basis for businesses and their responsibilities to respect human rights. We wish the friends of the chairs success in joining forces and ask you to use this great opportunity to promote a child rights-based approach to the treaty.

We acknowledge the Permanent Missions that have been providing constructive input in bringing the rights of children in a business context forward and urge all Permanent Missions and the European Union Delegation present today to become champions for children.

Time is pressing and it is very urgent to provide a solid legal basis at UN level to identify how children are at risk due to business activities for instance “latest ILO figures show that 160 million children – this means almost one in ten of all children worldwide – are still in child labour”¹, children are also drawn into poverty due to environmental impacts often linked to business activities. We also call for a treaty that would effectively prevent the violation and abuses of children’s rights through solid children’s rights impact assessment and sadly, when damages do occur to make sure that a proper system of access to justice and remedy that also fits to children’s situation (for instance child friendly procedural law) is in place. The organisations mentioned before will be making wording proposals in line with the convention of the right of the child throughout the week. We thank you all for taking them into consideration!

¹ https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_845056/lang--en/index.htm