

**Open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other
business enterprises with respect to human rights
Eighth Session, 2022**

General statement, Monday AM

Joint statement on behalf of Feminists for a Binding Treaty

I speak on behalf of the “Feminists for a Binding Treaty,” a coalition of more than 30 NGOs that has been working collectively to advocate for a gender-responsive treaty since 2016. We aim to ensure that diverse women and non-binary people’s voices, rights, experiences and visions are meaningfully included and prioritised throughout the negotiation process.

We continue to express our strong support for this process and applaud the progress built over the last six years thanks to the many contributions from States, experts and NGOs.

The third revised draft is an important basis for negotiations and goes in the right direction in terms of filling some of the major gaps in ensuring prevention of business human rights abuses and violations, access to justice and reparation for victims.

We recall that the aim of an international human rights instrument on business and human rights is to raise national standards to bring them in line with international human rights law and to address the systemic gaps in accountability that victims face when seeking access to justice for corporate abuse. The draft instrument before us can add tremendous value in terms of international human rights protection, particularly its provisions on liability, jurisdictional aspects in cross-border cases and on access to remedy.

We particularly welcome that the third revised draft:

- refers to the need to integrate a gender perspective in all State and business enterprise measures;
- calls for gender-responsive rights of victims;
- requires the integration of a gender perspective in human rights due diligence measures;
- requires gender-responsive reparations for victims; and
- calls for States to give special attention to those facing heightened risks of human rights abuses within the context of business activities, including in conflict-affected areas.

We urge all States to support these provisions and ensure that they be kept in the text, and to work constructively and collectively to build on these positive elements further.

Thank you.