**EEB, Leonor Medon | Comment to article 13**

**Oral contribution on the Third Revised Draft of the Legally Binding Instrument**

to the eight session of the “Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with Respect to Human Rights”, 24-28 October 2022, Room XX, Palais des Nations.

**The session during which the oral intervention is to take place:** Agenda Item 4, Article 13 International Cooperation, Wednesday AM or PM.

**How the intervention will take place:** In person delivery.

**The type of stakeholder speaking:** NGO with ECOSOC status

**Name of the State or organisation(s):** EEB – European Environmental Bureau

**Name of the speaker:** Leonor Medon

Dear Ladies, Gentlemen and others,

The article 13 on International Cooperation is a crucial milestone in the discussion of the Legally Binding Instrument, as one has to face that the issues considered on the agenda, having a global perspective, must also have a global point of action and subsequent measures.

Following that, we believe that Article 13 must explicitly mention that state parties should, in the spirit of international cooperation and according to their resources, support the victims in order to defend their human rights. In that sense, We agree with the proposal from the chair that mentions that States Parties that are in a position to do so shall provide (feel obliged to) financial, technical or other assistance through existing multilateral, regional, bilateral or other programmes for the purpose of attaining the aims of this LBI.

From another angle, but also coming from the proposal for the editing of the article 13 from the chair, that promotes the international cooperation to make efforts of public awareness, We believe that said efforts must include the following: "how business-related human rights abuses impact women workers and what steps must be made in each state party to combat said contexts". As it is of great importance that the efforts to achieve global public awareness must include the comprehension that most of these issues are not gender neutral, from their impact on women workers.

Today, the human rights violations that women face in business activities are a combination of gender discrimination and the imbalance of power between business actors and individual women. Today, business models, often driven by international business agreements, stimulate a global demand for cheap labour in places with weak regulations. This creates significant obstacles to justice for women workers, particularly at the lower end of the production chain, as well as for women in the communities where transnational corporations operate.

We therefore need to put into practice the inclusion of women in decision-making processes as agents of their own change, alongside business leaders, multilateral agencies, governments and others in civil society, and not just as victims of rights violations.

Furthermore, the proposal that the international cooperation must include a “global public awareness campaign" is very much well received from our perspective. In that sense, the Article 13 proposal from the chair is a great progress from the third revised Draft, and so We welcome it, as it reinforces that the States Parties must strengthen international cooperation for the prevention of business involvement in human rights abuse and for the remedy of harms arising from such abuse.

Thank you very much.