Adelina Zhiyanski / 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): Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik

Name of the speaker: Adelina Zhiyanski

Dear Chair, ladies and gentlemen and others,

MIJARC Europe, supported by Suedwind, highly welcomes the development of the “Third Revised Draft” of the Legally Binding Instrument to regulate, in international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises. As one of the biggest European coordination networks for rural and Christian youth organisations, we strongly support the defence of the interests and rights of the people in rural areas globally, especially those in vulnerable groups, especially women.

 The reason I mention this here is that even if women have equal rights in access and administrating rural land, it is well known that gender inequalities appear among different stakeholders at different levels – between farmers and foresters, at farm level, etc. There are fewer women working or owning farm and forest holdings in Europe, even though these numbers have been increasing in recent years (i.e., 27% of livestock farms, 24% of organic farms, or 30% of private forest), and their involvement in decision‐making is limited. Specifically looked into the implications on gender equity in agricultural Carbon market projects in developing countries shows that female land managers are more prone to adopt new and “green” practices, in line with existing evidence on the role of women as nature stewards. The information on these issues is still scarce and without monitoring.

 Acknowledging that human rights consider in any project, company, institution or organisation, that aspires to mainstream a business model across Europe’s and world’s rural areas, the implementation of the Legally Binding Instrument would have a multi-dimensional impact if there is a relevant monitoring support system. Therefore we support the naming of “measures including but not limited to” as suggested in the third draft and clearly supported by the State of Palestine in last year's session. Additional we suggest to include the development of a monitoring support system integrated within the Para.13.2, Art.13. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION that could contribute in bringing clarity on WHICH are the best strategies for ensuring the defence of human rights at different levels, in diverse environments, HOW, WHEN and WHERE to implement them considering technical, social, economic, environmental and regulatory aspects. This will make all our efforts more effective!

Thank you.