



**STATEMENT TO THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE OPEN-ENDED
INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON TRANSNATIONAL
CORPORATIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS ENTERPRISES**

24 OCTOBER 2022

Mr. Chairperson,

We would like to first congratulate you for your re-election as Chairperson-rapporteur of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises (OEIGWG).

The OEIGWG has held eight sessions since 2014. The outcomes of these discussions have allowed, in particular, the identification of the negative impacts of activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises on human rights around the world.

Human rights violations in the context of business operations, either directly by transnational corporations or through their supply chains, have disproportionately affected developing countries, as has been consistently highlighted in this OEIGWG.

The OEIGWG has clearly identified the need for enhanced corporate accountability and to provide access to effective remedies for victims of human rights violations and abuses by transnational corporations and other businesses, which need to go beyond voluntary approaches towards binding rules.

The prevention of human rights violations and abuses by private actors, in particular transnational corporations, is a key component of discussions linked to the liability of business enterprises. The work of the OEIGWG requires States to adopt effective legal commitments to ensure that business enterprises respect internationally recognized human rights, including through establishing effective national procedures for the prevention of human rights violations.

Mr. Chair,

The negotiations over the past eight years by the OEIGWG and, in particular, the third revised draft of the legally binding instrument, constitute the basis for the road ahead, as it draws upon years of upon evidence shared by individuals and communities that have suffered from violations of their human rights due to business activities, and upon expert deliberations and negotiations on possible legal solutions. We highlight the important role that civil society organizations have played and continue to play in this process.

A constructive participation from all members of the OEIGWG is necessary to achieve the mandate of HRC Resolution 26/9, that is, to establish a comprehensive and effective legally binding framework that can prevent the violation and abuses of human rights and provide effective remedies and access to justice individually or collectively for victims in those jurisdictions where the businesses are established.

Finally, we would like to reiterate the South Centre's strong support for ensuring a timely and positive outcome of this important process.