**Oral statement art 4, 5 and 14**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. This statement is made on behalf of ActionAid and of members of the #Feminists4bindingtreaty.

We support  the recommendation to add in article 4.1 after the word “abuses”, “and violations.”  This is important with regard to the accountability of the State or its agents in the context of business activities. We would also like to oppose changes to the Article suggested by Brazil as it may limit the international standard of protection under this Article.

In Article 4.2 (b) we suggest to add “including” after “be guaranteed”, and add a reference to the right to a healthy, clean and sustainable environment.

We welcome the changes in Article 4.2. (c) in line with a broad understanding of the right to access to justice and to reparation, as outlined by the Inter-American Human Rights system, underlining that the listed forms of remedy are not limited. We also welcome the addition in Article 4.2. (c) the concept “gender-sensitive” access to justice.

In Article 5(2): We recommend this be amended to provide explicitly that States Parties’ measures to guarantee a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders be ‘gender-responsive’, in addition to being adequate and effective. While women human rights defenders are exposed to similar risks as other defenders, they also face additional gender-specific threats and violence due to systemic and structural discrimination against women.

In line with our general position on the text, we recommend adding after “abuses”, “ the term “violations” in article 5.3 as States should investigate both abuses committed by businesses and violations committed by the State itself or its agents in the context of business activities.

**Thank you.**