

## General Statement

Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the Chinese delegation, I would like to congratulate you on your election as *Chair-Rapporteur*. I believe that this session will achieve positive outcomes under your strong leadership.

The Chinese government attaches great importance to the negotiation of this Legally Binding Instrument(LBI). We appreciate the efforts by the Chair and the Secretariat in facilitating this process, and welcome the suggested chair proposal for select articles of the LBI. We hope to exchange views frankly with all parties and promote steadily the negotiation of this LBI.

Mr. Chair,

The Chinese government highly values human rights protection in transnational business activities, and has adopted effective measures to prevent human rights abuse in transnational corporations' business activities. At the 20<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Communist Party of China held last month, General-Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized that China would promote all-around advancements of human rights and strive to create new opportunities for the world with its own development so as to deliver great benefits to all the people. In September 2021, China released "Human Rights Action Plan of China(2021-2025)", which explicitly promotes responsible business conduct in global supply chains. It also

encourages Chinese businesses to comply with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in their foreign trade and investment, and to fulfil their social responsibilities to respect and promote human rights. With the support and guidance of the Chinese government, such large sectors as textile & clothing and mining, have adopted responsible foreign investment guidelines. By the end of October 2022, more than 580 Chinese enterprises have joined the UN Global Compact for responsible business activities, and committed to respect and defend internationally recognized human rights, not to involve in any conduct of negligence or abuse of human rights and to truly protect labour rights and environment in their business activities.

Mr. Chair,

As a developing country, China maintains that the rights to subsistence and development are the primary human rights, and the people's aspiration for a better life is the biggest human right. We welcome the contributions of transnational corporations in promoting economic development and improving people's livelihood. We also noticed some negative human rights and environmental impacts of transnational commercial activities. We support the elaboration of an LBI under the auspices of UN to regulate the activities of transnational corporations.

China believes that, we shall uphold the principle of equality,

balance the protection of the right to development and other human rights. We shall firmly safeguard human rights, provide protection and remedy to the victims, and at the same time, fully respect States' judicial sovereignty. The LBI should be drafted in line with internationally recognized legal principles, so as to provide stable and predictable legal guidance for transnational enterprises. In key issues such as the scope of LBI, we should strictly follow the mandate of Human Rights Council resolution 26/9. In addition, to ensure the wide support and universal observance, the LBI should be concluded through consensus, while fully respecting each State's concerns.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.