

## **Oral Statement of FIAN International at the Workshop on Human Rights and Business organized by the Permanent Mission of Ecuador and the South Center on 10th and 11 of March 2014**

Read by: Ana María Suárez Franco

For more than 25 years FIAN International has been working for the implementation of the human right to food and related provisions in human rights law. In this period FIAN has addressed hundreds of cases of violations, many of them dealing with violations by TNCs. FIAN has encountered the limitations of host states in properly regulating in their territories the activities of TNCs and their affiliates. FIAN has received pleas from host states to make sure that home states cooperate in such regulation. Such suggestions are fully in line with the obligation to cooperate internationally for the universal implementation of human rights – an obligation described in the UN Charter and in various human rights instruments. It is obvious that international actors such as TNCs have to be regulated internationally – via international cooperation of States.

A State's breach of its respect-obligations under human rights entails legal responsibilities under human rights law including (in some regions) possible action before a human rights court - and not only if violations are "gross". A TNC committing the same breach currently does not face any consequences under human rights law. This is completely unacceptable.

FIAN therefore welcomed the statement of Ecuador in the HRC in September, and stands united with the other signatories to the Joint CSO Declaration launched after the People's Forum on Human Rights and Business in November. The Statement calls for an Open Ended Governmental WG to draft an international instrument that affirms the binding obligations of TNCs and establishes monitoring and accountability mechanisms.