



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

23 October 2023

Mr. Chairperson,

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

The OEIGWG is now in its 9th session of deliberations since the adoption of HRC Resolution 26/9 in 2014. The State-led discussions and the testimonies and inputs presented by civil society during the previous sessions have highlighted the negative impacts that the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises often have on human rights around the world.

As the international community struggles with the ongoing polycrisis and armed conflicts, the role of business enterprises, especially transnational corporations, needs to be further monitored and regulated to ensure that they are not involved in human rights violations or abuses in their business activities or across their value chains.

While some legal and policy initiatives are already underway at the national and regional levels notably to implement due diligence mechanisms, it is essential to elaborate a common set of broader binding multilateral rules that can bridge the existing gaps in the international legal system for providing access to justice and effective remedies for victims of business-related human rights violations and abuses.

In addition, clarifying the responsibilities and obligations of enterprises with regard to human rights could help increase regulatory certainty, enhance business efficiencies and result in lower compliance costs for corporations.

The majority of human rights abuses and violations by corporate actors have occurred in developing countries. Therefore, the views and concerns of developing countries must be reflected throughout the text and included in all discussions seeking to address the rights of victims to access justice and effective remedies.

The active and constructive participation from all members of the OEIGWG is necessary to achieve the mandate of Resolution 26/9, that is, to establish a comprehensive and effective legally binding framework that can prevent the violation and abuses of business-related human rights, particularly those committed by transnational corporations, and provide effective remedies and access to justice for victims in local and foreign jurisdictions. The views and inputs of civil society and grassroots organizations are also vital to achieve this objective.

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

Thank you Chair.