

**Improving Accountability and Access to Remedy for Business and Human Rights Abuses: A submission from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the revised draft of the legally binding instrument to regulate, in international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises**

**Oral General Statement**

**14 October 2019**

**Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.**

Let me first echo the congratulations extended on your election.

**Excellencies, distinguished delegates,**

OHCHR welcomes this opportunity to contribute to the deliberations of the inter-governmental working group on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises on the Revised Draft of the legally binding instrument to regulate, in international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

We are honoured to bring to the attention of the inter-governmental working group the findings and recommendations from the OHCHR Accountability and Remedy Project, which has been carried out pursuant to multiple mandates from the Human Rights Council since 2014.

The first two phases of the Project focused on the role of **judicial mechanisms** (e.g. domestic courts), and of **State-based on-judicial grievance mechanisms** (e.g. regulators, ombudsmen, national human rights institutions, national contact points under the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises etc.)

OHCHR’s findings and recommended actions were submitted to the Human Rights Council in 2016 and 2018 respectively. T**he Human Rights Council welcomed by** consensus OHCHR’s work on improving accountability and access to remedy for victims of business-related human rights abuse, and noted “with appreciation” the relevant reports.

Mr. Chairperson,

The OHCHR Accountability and Remedy Project and the treaty process share a common goal: increasing access to effective remedy for victims of corporate abuses and ensuring accountability for such abuses.

The OHCHR Accountability and Remedy Project work has uncovered information and insights of relevance to a number of areas addressed in the Revised Draft. We would therefore like to draw attention to the findings and recommended actions set out in the reports submitted to the Human Rights Council, which may inform the inter-governmental working group when considering the Revised Draft.

OHCHR has prepared a detailed technical note which has been made publicly available. The note focuses on Articles 4, 5, 6 and 10 of the Revised Draft, as these are the areas where there is most significant overlap between the substance of the Revised Draft and the issues that were priorities for the purposes of the Accountability and Remedy Project research and consultation activities.

Thank you for your attention.

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