

**Outcome note**

**The thirty-seventh session of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises**

**The present outcome note summarizes the key items discussed at the 37th session.**

**Present:** R. McCorquodale (Chair), F. Hopenhaym (Vice Chair), D. Olawuyi and P. Yeophantong.

1. The Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (the Working Group) held its **thirty-seventh session from 5 to 9 February 2024 in Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.**
2. During the session it met with representatives of different stakeholders, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNDP, OECD, ILO, UNEP, UN Global Compact, representatives of Member States, businesses, trade unions and civil society actors.
3. During the session, the Working Group discussed a wide range of issues such as priority activities and projects for 2024, 2025 and beyond. This included:
4. **Thematic Reports**
5. The Working Group’s upcoming thematic reports to the Human Rights Council (HRC) and General Assembly (GA):
	1. The Chair provided an update on the final preparations for the upcoming report to the Human Rights Council 56th session in June 2024 on **Investors, ESG and human rights**. Over 70 submissions were received following the call for inputs and more than 30 public and private consultations were held at the global and regional level with relevant stakeholders, including financial entities.
	2. The preparations for the report on **respecting the rights of LGBTI people in the context of business activities** to be presented to the 79th session of the General Assembly were also discussed. Closed consultations with States and business were held to inform the report, together with a public multistakeholder one. Around 15 more consultations are planned to collect inputs from different stakeholders in different regions. A [call for input](https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2024/call-input-working-groups-report-respecting-rights-lgbti-people-context) was also issued.
6. **Country Visits**
7. The Working Group discussed its forthcoming country visits for 2024 and beyond:
8. A country visit is planned and being organized to **Tunisia f**rom 26 February to 8 March 2024. A country visit to **Colombia** is also confirmed for 29 July to 9 August 2024.
9. Following its country visit to **Japan** on 24 July - 4 August 2023, the Working Group will present the report of that visit to the Human Rights Council in its 56th session in June 2024.
10. The Working Group has engaged with several other representatives of Member States to discuss the possibility of visits in coming years.
11. **The Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights**

The Working Group discussed the theme, format and venue for the 13th Annual Forum scheduled to take place on **25-27 November** 2024 at Palais des Nations in Geneva, under the theme “Realizing the “smart mix of measures” to protect human rights in the context of business activities”. The concept note is available at the [Forum web page,](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/forums/business-forums/sessions/session13/concept-note-13thbhrforum.pdf) and the [call for session proposal](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=2zWeD09UYE-9zF6kFubccAmCgyrJtx1NityXvgoVubBURDZTTjdGNEROSEpFNVlLMThBTjNUNElQNi4u)  was issued following discussions at the session.

1. **Regional engagement and regional forums on business and human rights**
2. The Working Group shared the outcomes of the members academic visits and discussed engagement in **regional forums** in 2024, including the regional forum for LAC, to be organised in Brazil in September, the regional forum for Asia to be held in September in Thailand, and the regional forum for Africa to be Held in Ethiopia in October.
3. The Working Group discussed the work done under the **Responsible Business Conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) project**, including the activities foreseen for 2024 under the phase 2 of the project.
4. **Communications procedure**

The Working Group issued 200 communications in 2023 and decided to **continue to give priority to** communications in collaboration with other relevant mandate holders.