

**8<sup>th</sup> Session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights**

Articles 15-24  
27 October 2022

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Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. Chair. This statement is made on behalf of #Feminists4bindingtreaty.

In accordance with CEDAW Article 7 (requiring States Parties to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right to participation in public and political life) and mirroring the UN's own gender-parity strategy, gender balance in the monitoring of the treaty implementation can and should be achieved, rather than considered.

We also note that gender balance among human rights treaty bodies experts is still far from being a reality. For instance:

- 72% of experts in the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are men;
- 86% of the Committee on Migrant Workers are men;
- 70% of experts in the Committee on Enforced Disappearances are men; and
- 70% of experts in the Committee against Torture are men.

In addition to ensuring gender balance of Committee members, the Committee created under the Treaty should foresee gender expertise as a criterion to be considered in the selection of experts, given the highly gendered dimension of business-related human rights abuses.

Therefore, in article 15a, we recommend, after "recognized competence in the field of human rights, public international law or other relevant fields" adding "and shall have gender expertise."

In article 15b, we recommend adding, after "the differences among legal systems," the words "*gender expertise, and ensuring a*". So the provision will read: "The experts shall be elected by the States Parties, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution, the differences among legal systems, *gender expertise, and ensuring a* gender balanced representation."

Last, we also note our support for Palestine's proposal for Article 16.4.

Thank you.