

**11th Session of the
open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business
enterprises with respect to human rights**

20 October - 24 October 2025

Article 15: Institutional arrangements

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Thank you Chair. This statement is made by FIAN International, on behalf of the Feminists for a Binding Treaty, of which we are a member.

As F4BT, we profoundly regret the gender-regressive language in the room on the current article. The proposals made by some delegations to include in article 15.7 a reference to “gender diverse” persons should be widely supported. Not including this language in the article, would fail to address the additional barriers that emerge for those belonging to a diverse sexual orientation and gender identity.

The Treaty process should be seen as an opportunity to build upon and advance existing international law. International human rights law is not static — it evolves through interpretation and practice to respond to contemporary realities and to close protection gaps.

We therefore call on States to be ambitious in how they interpret existing standards, rather than limiting themselves to what has already been explicitly codified. The inclusion of language referring to “other people with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity” is not an overreach; it reflects lived realities of people whose experiences of violence and discrimination are well-documented, yet often invisibilised.

International law already provides a clear basis for protection from discrimination and violence for all persons, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and sexual characteristics. Recognising this diversity in the Treaty does not create new rights — it affirms the universality and indivisibility of human rights and ensures that no one is left behind as we move towards stronger accountability and justice mechanisms.

Specifically, we support Colombia’s proposal on 15.7, on the inclusion of LGBT and gender diverse persons, a wording that has been used by the United Nations Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI)

Thank you.