

**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, Mister Chair,

This statement is made on behalf of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the International Service for Human Rights, with the support of Feminists for a Binding Treaty of which we are members.

The establishment of a Committee under this Treaty is a welcomed proposal particularly regarding the complexity and need to ensure the effective and transnational implementation of its obligations.

To reach this aim, it must be based on reviews by independent experts that are selected in a transparent, representative and gender-responsive manner, and according to their recognised expertise in international human rights, humanitarian and environmental law

It is also essential that it effectively and meaningfully takes into account the reports and information provided by national human rights institutions, environmental and human rights defenders, civil society organisations, and trade unions as they represent crucial sources of information which can improve the monitoring of the Committee's recommendations. We thus recommend adding a specific reference to these stakeholders in Article 15.4(a).

To ensure that their voices along with those of victims are effectively and meaningfully accounted for in the treaty body, we suggest the establishment of an individual complaint mechanism, as suggested by Uruguay under article 15.4 (e bis).

Additionally, States Parties should guarantee that anyone cooperating with a treaty body is protected from intimidations and reprisals, as per the San José Guidelines [against Intimidation or Reprisals], particularly given that such acts have been on the rise over the past few years.

Finally, while we are aware of the current financial challenges the UN system faces, we insist on the necessity of establishing an international fund for victims in light of the current difficulties and gaps that victims of corporate abuses and violations face in receiving fair reparations, which should be available for both individual and class action cases. The need to ensure their effective access to justice and reparation were among the foundational principles of the establishment of the IGWG mandate in 2014.

The delivery of victims-centered reparations should be based on meaningful participation and consultation of victims, which requires that adequate information and outreach initiatives are undertaken. It should also adopt a gender-responsive and intersectional approach, thus supporting the proposals by

Colombia, Mexico, Brazil and Cameroon in article 15.7 on this regard, to which we would add "human rights defenders".

All involved actors in delivering reparations must be encouraged to collaborate and make available the necessary support to the victims, including adequate funding.

Thank you,