

**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 16: Implementation

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Thank you, Chair.

This statement is read on behalf of Feminists for the Binding Treaty, of which Franciscans International is a member.

Women and gender diverse people suffer from disproportionate consequences from corporate abuses including multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination, which are compounded by economic inequalities. We have seen through the LBI process how gender responsive language has been constantly attacked with targeted attempts to delete these references as we have seen yesterday and today in this room. As constantly mentioned by the Feminist for a Binding Treaty, we cannot compromise the text and weaken the language of the LBI to accelerate the process.

This is the reason why we call on the State to be ambitious in their interpretation of international law and to protect and support Uruguay's and other States' proposals on including "persons with a diverse sexual orientation and gender identity" in this article.

More specifically, on article 16.1, we would like to support Colombia's proposal on adding "judicial" as part of the measures to ensure effective implementation of the LBI.

In regard to Article 16.3, we support the proposal of the rewritten article from Palestine which adds ensuring "mandatory, continuous, and legally enforceable enhanced due diligence in relation to business activities", the additions made by Colombia and Mexico to add "children in hostilities" and the addition of "and other contemporary forms of slavery" by Colombia. We suggest to add a sentence at the end of the article that reads:

"Where the risk of such violations is unmitigable, operations or activities should be not entered into or terminated depending on the stage of operation. "

On Article 16.4 we support Palestine's suggestions to include peasants and other people working in rural areas, including protected persons in conflict-affected areas, and situations of occupations. We support the inclusion of human rights defenders as supported by many delegations and we further support the proposal by Mexico to include at the end of paragraph 16.4 to "pay particular attention to the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

We also support the proposal by Palestine, Mexico and Colombia on including international environmental law in article 16.5.

Finally, like the business representative just said, there is no way to assess undue influence, which is why we propose that the LBI must protect against any corporate influence in government decision-making in the

context of business activities. Therefore, we support Palestine, proposal on including "interference and influence of commercial and other vested interests" in article 16.6 . Further, we also echo the addition made by Colombia on "including conflict of interests" and the addition by Cameroon on "including financial institutions and philanthropic entities" in this subparagraph.

Thank you.