

**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

Joint General Statement

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Thank you, Chair,

I deliver this statement on behalf of Treaty Alliance, and all its constituent networks, i.e. the Global Campaign, the Feminists for Binding Treaty, the ESCR-Net, and the Young Friends of the Treaty. We are the broadest coalition of civil society and social movements committed to a strong binding treaty that ends corporate impunity and guarantees justice for affected peoples everywhere.

We reaffirm our full support for this intergovernmental process and thank the Chair for advancing the process. We particularly appreciate the constructive engagement of many States - particularly from the Global South - that continue to uphold the spirit of Resolution 26/9.

Around the world, we are witnessing a surge in violent conflicts and the devastating consequences of unregulated corporate power. From the genocide in Gaza — where the military-industrial complex continues to profit from occupation, siege, apartheid, and mass atrocities — to humanitarian catastrophes unfolding in many other territories and countries, transnational corporations continue to extract profit from human suffering and colonialism. As Special Rapporteur Albanese rightly pointed out in her latest report, corporations are complicit in illegal occupation, apartheid, and now genocide in Palestine. Arms producers, extractive industries, and private security companies all play direct or enabling roles in grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law. They exemplify how corporate interests fuel war, occupation, and systemic violations of human rights with total impunity. Any international treaty that fails to confront such realities will betray its mandate.

We therefore call on all States to engage in the process with ambition and courage. We need a treaty that establishes binding obligations for transnational corporations, effective preventive measures, robust enforcement mechanisms, and comprehensive and gender-responsive remedies for affected peoples and communities both within and beyond borders. It must address the interlinkages between corporate power, environmental destruction, repression against human rights defenders, climate injustice, and gender inequality, including through reparations, sanctions, and divestment from abusive industries. These dimensions must be integrated across the treaty, not treated as peripheral issues.

However, we remain gravely concerned by ongoing efforts to weaken or delay this process. Corporate lobbies, and financial actors continue to promote proposals that would dilute the main pillars of the future binding treaty and replace accountability with insufficient due diligence measures and other toothless

mechanisms. This Working Group must remain a State- and civil society-led human rights process, not a corporate negotiation table.

In relation to the methodology and the ongoing discussion on the Chair's suggested redrafting of Articles 4 to 11, we note that the proposals were shared very late. We therefore call on the IGWG to ensure sufficient time to thoroughly review and discuss the suggested proposals, and to allow for written comments to be submitted at least until February 2026.

We urge that this process must not be rushed for the sake of political expediency, nor watered down to accommodate corporate or geopolitical pressure. A weak or symbolic instrument would only legitimize the status quo of impunity.

We emphasize the importance of ensuring that civil society, affected communities, human rights defenders, social movements and trade unions remain at the heart of this process. Their lived experiences and proposals are indispensable for crafting a treaty that responds to realities on the ground.

We stand ready to continue engaging constructively with States and allies—including parliamentarians and trade unions—to ensure that this treaty delivers what the world urgently needs: justice, accountability, and the reaffirmation that human rights are non-negotiable and must prevail over profit.

Thank you, Chair.