



*Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office
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**Open-ended intergovernmental working group for the
elaboration of an International Legally Binding Instrument
on Transnational Corporations and other Business
Enterprises with respect to human rights**

First Session

Mme. President,

Brazil welcomes the first session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group for the elaboration of an international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights.

We recall that the preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights calls on "every individual and every organ of society" to promote and respect human rights.

Since then, the issue of business and human rights has only grown in importance within the UN. We see this occasion as the newest phase of discussions dating back to the former Human Rights Commission, which led to the appointment in 2005 of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, as well as to the unanimous endorsement by the Human Rights Council, in 2011, of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights for implementing the UN "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework.

Brazil is committed to engaging constructively in the discussions to take place within the working group. We believe this is an important opportunity to exchange views on a key issue of the international agenda, with a view to elaborating a legally binding instrument.

To this effect, interministerial consultations are being held in Brasília to coordinate a national position and promote dialogue with the relevant stakeholders, from government and civil society alike.

Last but not least, Brazil would like to place on record its appreciation for the openness and multi-stakeholder approach with which the proponents of this initiative have prepared the ground for the first session of the intergovernmental working group.

Thank you, Mme. President