

Concept Note

UN Forum Session Regarding the Treaty on TNCs and Other Business Enterprises

Session Title: *Challenges and Opportunities of a Treaty to Address Corporate Abuses of Human Rights*

Session Focus:

1/ Consider the challenges and opportunities stemming from the IGWG process from the perspective of civil society;

2/ Consider ways in which a treaty might have a positive impact on current situations where corporations impact human rights, including in the food industry and in conflict situations, and;

3/ Identify opportunities for collaboration, mutual reinforcement and synergy among the initiatives in support of the treaty process in the coming year(s).

Key Discussion Questions:

1. What are the key challenges and opportunities emanating from the IGWG process, from the perspective of civil society?
2. What activities are civil society outside of Geneva doing in relation to the treaty, and how do they view the relevance of the treaty to their struggles?
3. What are the key ways in which a treaty might have a positive impact on current situations where corporations impact human rights, including in the food industry and in conflict situations?
4. What are some key opportunities for collaboration, mutual reinforcement and synergy among the initiatives in support of the treaty process in the coming year(s)?
5. What reflections does the prime sponsor of UN HRC Resolution 26/9 have in relation to the perspectives of the civil society organizations shared during the session?

Brief Background Description:

Following the passage of UN HRC Resolution 26/9 and the first meeting of the new UN Intergovernmental Working Group on Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises CSOs around the world have organized to undertake advocacy to ensure the treaty reflects their priorities. The UN Forum is a key moment to reflect on these developments, as well as to pose constructively critical reflections on the processes now underway, as well as share plans for the upcoming year(s).

Names of Speakers:

ESCR-Net, FIDH, Friends of the Earth Europe, IBFAN, Al Haq and Franciscans International

Panelists:

- A representative of FIDH or ESCR-Net
- A representative of Friends of the Earth

- A representative of Baby Milk Action/IBFAN UK
- A representative of from the Asia-Pacific Treaty Initiative (e.g. ATM, Indo. Global Justice or PAN-AP)
- A representative of from the Africa Treaty Initiative
- A representative of Al Haq
- Representative of the Mission of South Africa (or Ecuador) to the UN

Session Format:

Format : Short presentations on the following:

- 1: Illustrating the need for a treaty looking at the food industry & conflict situations
- 2: The CSO evaluation & recommendations for the Treaty process following the July meeting of the IGWG
- 3: CSO reflections on their ongoing priorities for a treaty

Followed by:

Respondent from a co-sponsor of UN Resolution 26/9 (2014) and then questions and moderated discussions related to the presentations.

Organizers:

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