

Organization of the 6th session of OEIGWG on TNCs and OBEs (26-30th October)

Technical Note as of 7th October¹

The purpose of this note is to provide information on the proposed modalities and organization of the 6th session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises (the IGWG) with respect to human rights in full compliance with the risk assessment undertaken by UNOG and health regulations of the Swiss federal and cantonal authorities with regard to combatting the spread of COVID-19. The information contained in this technical note is based on technical notes prepared for the 44th and 45th session of the Human Rights Council and on the lessons learnt from other recent meetings which have combined in-person and virtual elements. The note is addressed to all Stakeholders.

The session this year is taking place in a context characterized by the COVID-19 pandemic and the current financial crisis of the United Nations Secretariat, as noted in the letters from the High Commissioner of 20 and 28 August 2020. The financial crisis, in particular, has translated into reduced staff capacity to support the session. The format and modalities of the session are reflective of this particular context.

DATES AND VENUE OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE IGWG ON TNCs and OBEs

The sixth session of the IGWG will take place from **26 to 30 October 2020, as originally planned**. In-person participation is very much encouraged in light of the State-led direct substantive intergovernmental negotiations on the preparation of a third draft legally binding instrument during the sixth session.

The session will take place in **room XX**, Palais des Nations, with interpretation in all UN languages. **Access to room XX will remain limited to one person per delegation**. A certain number of seats will be reserved for NGOs, NHRIs, international organizations and the press. Due to its proximity, **room XVIII** will be made available as an **overflow room** throughout the session. Webcast services will be provided in English in the overflow room.

POSSIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE REMOTELY

Remote participation by the Webex platform: States, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations (with Ecosoc status) who are unable to attend the meeting in person and who are inscribed on the list of speakers for each meeting (for example Monday am/Monday pm, etc....) will receive an email from UNOG with a link and instruction on how to join the meeting (modalities for inscription in the list of speakers will be

¹The note will be regularly updated

communicated at a later stage, once the draft Programme of work will have been made available). In case of technical problems, delegations are invited to contact the Secretariat at igwg-tncs@ohchr.org.

Remote participation by video message: Considering different time zones and the resulting incapacity to deliver oral statements through Webex, States, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations (with Ecosoc status) have the possibility to **deliver their statements by pre-recorded video-messages**. All stakeholders are encouraged to place a placard in front of them or insert a caption with their affiliation in the video. **Video will need to be sent well before the meeting** (exact deadline to be provided at a later stage) for which it is submitted. Representatives using a video statement are strongly encouraged to add **captioning** whenever possible and **must provide a transcript** of their video statements along with the videos (both to be sent to igwg-intervention@ohchr.org). **Detailed guidance on sending video messages and creating captioning for video messages will be made available on the webpages shortly.**

Accessibility of the meeting through webcast and live audio: All participants will have access to the UN live webcast in all UN languages of the United Nations, and the possibility to listen to the meeting in all UN languages. The audio recording will be available on demand after the meeting.

ORAL STATEMENTS

All stakeholders, whether participating in person or remotely, are requested to submit copies of their **oral statements and proposals well prior delivery at igwg-intervention@ohchr.org**.

To be noted that in the context of the measures taken in light of COVID-19, distribution of paper copies of statements, documents or any other printed materials will not be allowed.

SIDE EVENTS

Side-events cannot take place inside the Palais des Nations during the 6th session of the IGWG on TNCs and OBEs. Stakeholders are free to organize virtual side events or events outside of the Palais des Nations. At the request of side event organizers, and at the discretion of the Secretariat, the Secretariat may be able to share side event details on the 6th session website provided:

- The side event is organized by an entity entitled to attend and participate in the public meetings of the IGWG (i.e., UN Member and Observer States, specialized agencies and other international organizations, national human rights institutions with "A status" accreditation, and NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status);
- The side event is connected to the 6th session of the IGWG; and
- The side event meets United Nations standards (e.g., contains no profane or inflammatory language).

CONTACT TRACING

For purposes of contact tracing, UNOG Security Officers will register each participant who enters room XX by scanning his or her badge.

All participants to the 6th session of the IGWG are **requested to be accredited via INDICO** (<https://indico.un.org/event/20214/registration/>), even if they have a permanent accreditation to UNOG, for the purpose of contact tracing. Delegates are requested to indicate if they already possess an annual accreditation or if they need a temporary badge to be issued when registering. Representatives with annual/permanent badges will be able to access the Palais des Nations upon registration, with their existing badge, and are requested to upload a picture of their valid badge in the INDICO registration page (under “*UN grounds pass*”). Registered participants without permanent accreditation to UNOG will be issued an event specific badge. Persons participating via webex or video message are also requested to accredit through INDICO and to check the relevant box (“I will attend remotely”).

Participants are kindly invited to bring **proof of INDICO registration** (QR code) on their mobile device or on paper.

HEALTH AND SECURITY

All persons physically present in the Palais des Nations will be required, for their safety and the safety of others, to **be free of COVID-19 symptoms** and to maintain the recommended **physical distancing** at all times. To ensure physical distancing when entering and exiting the conference rooms, separate doors have been assigned as either entrance or exit doors. Within the conference rooms, participants will be asked to circulate clockwise only and to respect the required physical distance at all times. Two seats will remain unoccupied between delegates.

Based on the UNOG risk assessment and the latest guidance from the UN Medical Directors, the wearing of **face covering masks** remains mandatory inside the Palais meeting rooms. All stakeholders are requested to bring their personal mask.

There will be **no distribution of documents** in the meeting rooms. Likewise, distribution of any material or document in the meeting rooms, at the tables and boards outside meeting rooms or elsewhere in the Palais des Nations is not permitted.

For any **security assistance**, delegates can call upon the security officers at the meeting room. For urgent assistance please dial 112 from any landline in the Palais des Nations to reach the Security Control Room 24/7.