Statement by Jens Peter Prothmann, delegate of Namibia, First session, OEIGWG on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights, Panel III, 7 July 2015

Madam Chair,

Namibia congratulates you upon your unanimous election and wishes you, and all of us, success.

Namibia appreciates these discussions and exchange of ideas regarding the application of the envisaged legal instrument and thanks the panelists for their interesting presentations.

Namibia believes we, the working group, should focus on TNCs, but not exclude any companies.

It should be kept in mind that most operations of TNCs in host states are through locally incorporated subsidiaries.

Moreover, a level playing field, or uniform international human rights standard for all businesses, across and within all states, would also be in the interest of all of us.

After all, we are here to protect the weak amongst us, both host states with little or no regulatory frameworks, as well as affected workers and communities in these host states.

The UN Guiding Principles apply to all companies, why not the legal instrument?

I thank you.