

Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group
on transnational corporations and other business enterprises
with respect to human rights

igwg-tncs@ohchr.org

Berlin, 26th February 2018

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We appreciate the efforts of the Human Rights Council to develop a legally binding instrument in order to protect people from the human rights violations of transnational corporations. We very much welcome the opportunity to submit our proposals during the negotiating process.

BLUE 21 e.V., a development NGO from Germany, is running a project called Unfairtobacco which links issues of public health, i.e. tobacco control, to policies in the area of sustainable development, including environment, human rights as well as corporate accountability. The project received a WHO World No Tobacco Day Award in 2017 for building these bridges and for its holistic approach.

BLUE 21 e.V. calls upon the OEIGWG as well as the member states of the UN Human Rights Council to consider that the treaty include specific references to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

The FCTC is the first public health and corporate accountability treaty. It contains international legal precedents which provide powerful tools allowing democratic institutions to reclaim public policymaking from transnational corporations.

We realized that throughout the OEIGWG sessions, several references to the FCTC have been made, still, the draft elements do not include these. We urge you to include references to the WHO FCTC in the finalized treaty (in the preamble as well as in the text) to illustrate the shared public health and human rights goals of the two treaties.

Again, we appreciate the important work of the OEIGWG in negotiating and drafting this major treaty.

Sincerely yours,



Sonja von Eichborn
Director Unfairtobacco at BLUE 21 e.V.