Thank you, Mr Chairperson-Rapporteur,

The Center for Constitutional Rights and the Adalah Justice Project speak today in support of article 15.3. Our organisations have a strong focus on the activities of a powerful lobbying group called the American Legislative Exchange Council, or ALEC. ALEC has pushed hard for the adoption of an infamous law in many US states called the 'Stand Your Ground' law. This law lead to the acquittal of a man who shot and killed an unarmed Black teenager named Trayvon Martin in Florida.  ALEC has also pushed many bills into law that have drastically decreased labor standards, privatised education, disenfranchised people of color from being able to vote, privatised prisons and criminalised the activities of environmental, indigenous and Palestinian rights activists in the United States.

Lobby groups also capture states foreign policy platforms. Public records show that Boeing and Raytheon – two arms manufacturers – spent more than $8 million USD lobbying to ensure US taxpayer money was secured for these companies’ to develop missile systems for Israel.

Mr Chairperson, we also witness corporate pressure on intergovernmental processes as well. In this very room today we are witnessing a craven attempt by the International Organisation of Employers to threaten states with commercial retaliation if they ratify the future treaty. The IoE released **THIS** additional analysis with an annex that reads – and I quote - “This appendix illustrates the major exports of selected treaty proponent countries that may be placed at risk from treaty ratification”. The countries listed are Ecuador, South Africa, Pakistan, Philippines, Venezuela, Nambia, Azerbaijan, Nicaragua, Benin, Morocco and Burkina Faso. It is impossible to reconcile the IoE’s commitment to human rights or indeed this entire process, after this direct threat to states in the IGWG.

It is for these reasons that we strongly support the inclusion of article 15.3, and any other measures that OHCHR and the Chair can take to protect this process.

Finally, we commend the Working Group for responding to the will of those states and civil society organisations that have recommended the treaty include a provision similar to article 5.3 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control . This provision has a proven record of success in preventing tobacco lobbyists from endangering the right to health for millions of people in more than 160 countries.

To ensure this provision is as strong as possible we do however recommend the removal of the words ‘in accordance with national law’ from the provision, and ask the Working Group move the article to the section of the treaty dealing with preventive measures.

Thank you very much.