**ESCR-Net Oral Intervention**: **Under Article 15**
***Thursday, 29 October 2020 (10:00 – 13:00)***

Thank you, Chairperson Rapporteur.

I deliver this statement on behalf of ESCR-Net – a Network of over 280 organizations worldwide, including my own PODER, based in Mexico and Uruguay.

The realization of this legally binding instrument is urgently needed as a step closer toward ending corporate impunity.

In the implementation phase, this instrument must ensure that corporations are held liable for causing or contributing to the infringement of human and environmental rights – including through international independent courts and judicial mechanisms. Additionally, when States are reviewed in the implementation phase as to whether they have appropriately held corporations accountable to acts or omissions as stated in the Treaty, the committee reviewing States must have a more coherent non-binary gender responsive approach by including gender expertise.

Gender balance among human rights Treaty bodies experts is still far from being a reality. For instance, 72% of experts in the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are men. We believe Article 15(1)(a) should ensure that no more than half of the treaty expert body are men and that experts on gender be appointed as part of the committee.

Additionally, the committee must generally have an inclusive, intersectional approach to gender identity. It is incumbent on States to nominate, elect, and appoint candidates to UN human rights organs and mechanisms who are committed to the full realisation of women and gender minorities’ human rights as well as gender equality, and to enhancing the UN’s ability to effectively monitor and support the enforcement of State obligations under international human rights law.

To achieve this outcome, States, national human rights institutions, and the UN must work together to establish transparent, regular, and predictable processes that encourage open participation by civil society and the general public at each stage.

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