**Open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights**

**United Nations Human Rights Council**

***Sixth session (26-30 October 2020)***

**General Statement**

Thank you, Chairperson for the floor.

My name is Christina Catalano.

We appreciate the efforts made to send us the draft in August for this week’s negotiations, and are pleased with the Human Rights Council’s progress during these negotiation sessions.

In the interest of furthering and protecting human rights for this Legally Binding Instrument, we would also would like to suggest these additions for these latest negotiations:

In conflict-affected areas, the risk of child abuse and abuse of children workers rise. For Article 16, Section 3, we urge you to add to pay special attention to the risk of child abuse, child workers, and violence of children where it states “special attention to both gender-based and sexual violence.” This group of vulnerable young people are important to acknowledge, especially in these conflict-affected areas where more poverty and political strife takes place, and children are forced to work to help their families, resulting in less protections for them.

For Article 16, Section 4, we propose to add older adults and persons to the list of vulnerable groups.

For Article 18, we propose to add “for State parties to conduct dispute settlements that are within the bounds of the objectives of this Legally Binding Instrument and in respect to human rights.” This specific language will help secure the objectives of this Instrument for human rights victims.

We believe that these additions are concise and will aid to protect human rights, especially in respect to this Legally Binding Instrument.

Thank you Chairperson.