

ABIA's Statement

Item 4. Plenary discussions in accordance with the programme of work (October 26th - 11am)

Thank you Mr Chair,

I speak on behalf of the Brazilian AIDS Interdisciplinary Association. We are also part of the Global Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power, which comprises more than 250 entities.

In the field of access to medicines, it is widely recognized that pharmaceutical transnational corporations, using patent monopolies, violate the right to health. Even during the most deadly pandemic of the century, pharmaceutical corporations kept their immoral and criminal behavior precluding millions of people from having access to a wide range of essential medical tools.

Since 2011, a voluntary code in respect to human rights and pharmaceutical companies is in place at the UN level. After that, the transnational corporation Novartis launched the treatment Zolgensma at the cost of US\$ 2 million. Transnational corporation Alexion Pharmaceutical profited US\$ 19 billion from 2007 to 2018 with one single drug. Gilead is charging for remdesivir – approved for severe cases of COVID-19 – US\$ 3.000 per treatment when the cost of production is around US\$20.

Having all this in mind, Mr. Chair, we are here in the spirit of making fundamental improvements to the 2nd Revised Draft, Mr. Chair. During this 6th session we have a big challenge: to make changes in draft so that this binding instrument truly works in favor of peoples and affected communities and fills the gaps separating the affected populations by TNCs activities to have access to justice.

The adoption of a binding treaty is urgent to bring justice to people that had access to treatment denied and to prevent other right to health violations by pharmaceutical companies from happening. Mr. Chairperson Rapporteur, we would like to call states to engage in substance discussion, recalling the mandate given by the 26/9 resolution.

Thank you,