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

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

**Item 4:****General statement**

I speak under Womankind Worldwide’s ECOSOC status on behalf of the “Feminists for a Binding Treaty” coalition, which has been working collectively to advocate for a gender-responsive treaty since 2016. We aim to ensure that diverse women and non-binary people’s voices, rights, experiences and visions are meaningfully included and prioritised throughout the negotiation process. We continue to express our strong support to this process. We welcome the progress built over the last five years thanks to the contributions from States, experts and NGOs as an important basis for negotiations.

We warmly welcome that during the 5th session of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group in 2019, several States and stakeholders reaffirmed the importance of including a gender dimension in the process. We particularly welcome that the draft Instrument now explicitly

* refers to  the need to integrate a gender perspective in all State and business enterprise measures, in line with relevant international standards;
* calls for gender-responsive rights of victims;
* requires the integration of a gender perspective in human rights due diligence measures;
* requires gender-responsive reparations for victims; and
* calls for States to give special attention to those facing heightened risks of human rights abuses within the context of business activities, including in conflict-affected areas.

We urge all States to support these provisions and ensure that they be kept in the text, and to work constructively and collectively to build on these positive elements further.

We will provide detailed comments and recommendations on specific provisions in the statements that we will deliver throughout the week. Our recommendations aim to strengthen gender-responsiveness of the draft instrument where needed, as well as to address other issues that we consider crucial.

Our feminist analysis supports a vision of socio-economic justice for all and concrete steps towards the long-delayed regulation of business activities in line with human rights and the protection of the environment. Our feminist approach seeks to end patriarchy, without neglecting other forms of structural oppression such as capitalism, racism, militarism, colonialism, homophobia and transphobia, among others. We recall that women and girls and all other individuals and groups affected by corporate abuse must be central to all stages of developing, implementing and monitoring the regulation of business activities that affect them.

Thank you.