



ADHRB Oral Statement: 1st Session IGWG Business & Human Rights

Panel IV: Human Rights to be covered under the Instrument with respect to activities of TNC's
and other business enterprises

Madam Chairperson,

Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain welcomes the opportunity to address the intergovernmental working group and the panel of experts. We encourage the efforts being made to develop a legally binding instrument for transnational corporations with a view towards their contribution to the universal promotion and protection of human rights.

In the interest of developing a robust and effective instrument, we strongly believe that the treaty must recognize the wide impact that transnational corporations and business enterprises have on human rights in a number of areas. This requires an evolving and inclusive definition of the wide range of business activities that impact on the human rights of communities and vulnerable groups, with thorough recognition of concrete examples.

With this in mind, we ask the Working Group to consider a pertinent example that we have documented very closely in the Gulf Region: the often severe human rights impact of international sporting events. This has been raised as a grave concern in the run up to the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

We would like to emphasize that while ensuring adequate working standards in line with already established international instruments is a duty of States, a treaty on the responsibility of TNCs and other business enterprises with regard to human rights should clearly outline a duty for TNCs and all business entities to ensure the rights of workers in their related activities. To ensure that these rights are protected we also reiterate the importance of a full scope of this treaty to apply to all business enterprises, so as to avoid the diversion of accountability in such circumstances.

Thank you.