

N 4-7-272/2024

The Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, on behalf of the Chairpersonship of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group established by Human Rights Council Resolution 26/9 with the mandate to elaborate an international legally binding instrument to regulate, in international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises (IGWG), presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in its capacity as Secretariat of the IGWG, and has the honour to make reference to the upcoming 10th session of the IGWG, tentatively scheduled to be held from 21 to 25 October 2024.

Unfortunately, due to force majeure circumstances and administrative challenges related to the arrival of the new Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva and future Chair-Rapporteur, the Permanent Mission of Ecuador has recently explored a change of dates of the 10th session with the Secretariat of the IGWG and the Division of Conference Management of the UNOG. We aimed to find a solution that is less problematic for the continuation and inclusivity of this process while ensuring adequate room and interpretation services, reaffirming our commitment to the IGWG process.

After careful and thorough analysis of all possible options in the context of the ongoing facility constraints related, among other things, to the Strategic Heritage Plan renovation works and the United Nations Secretariat liquidity challenges, the Division of Conference Management has determined that the 10th session of the IGWG can only be held from December 16 to 20, 2024, in Geneva.

In that regard, after additional but unsuccessful attempts for an alternative earlier date, the Permanent Mission of Ecuador informs all Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva, and all relevant stakeholders that the 10th session of the IGWG will take place in Geneva, exceptionally, from 16 to 20 December 2024.

The Permanent Mission of Ecuador deeply regrets and sincerely apologizes for the inconvenience that this change of dates may create in the planning of several delegations from Permanent and Observers Missions to the United Nations in Geneva and of representatives from other relevant stakeholders. We understand the challenges this may pose, particularly for delegates not based in Geneva, and we reiterate the exceptional nature of this change after having exhausted all other options.

To the honorable
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Geneva

Nevertheless, the Permanent Mission of Ecuador reiterates its total commitment to continue leading this joint effort, together with all other delegates and representatives from States and other relevant stakeholders and the most valuable support from OHCHR, towards the fulfillment of its mandate established in HRC Resolution 26/9, including in the light of the recent HRC Decision 56/116, entitled “Enhancing the support capabilities of the IGWG on TNCs and OBEs with respect to human rights” adopted by consensus in July 2024.

The Permanent Mission of Ecuador kindly requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to publish and circulate this Note Verbale to all Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva, and other relevant stakeholders.

The Permanent Mission of Ecuador, on behalf of the Chairpersonship of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) established by Human Rights Council Resolution 26/9, avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in its capacity as Secretariat of the IGWG, the assurances of its highest consideration.



19 September 2024

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