

**12th Session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Transnational
Corporations and other Business Enterprises
with Respect to Human Rights**

GENERAL STATEMENT

October 12th, 2026

Thank you, Mr. Chair-Rapporteur

I am speaking on behalf of CIDSE and its member organisations, CCFD-Terre Solidaire, Broederlijk Delen, Fastenaktion, DKA Austria, Manos Unidas, Misereor and CAFOD.

We warmly welcome the Summary Report and your wording proposals, as well as the work undertaken through the 2026 intersessional consultations. We appreciate the efforts made to identify areas of convergence and to clarify some of the legal and substantive questions.

As we begin this 12th session, we would like to reflect briefly on the process ahead. Next year will be critical. With a new draft expected following this session, 2027 will provide an important opportunity to build on the areas of convergence identified so far and to address the substantive questions that remain unresolved. Achieving consensus will require sustained engagement, constructive dialogue and, above all, the political will to find solutions that strengthen the effectiveness of the future instrument.

The methodology for the next phase will therefore be particularly important. We kindly ask you Chair to ensure that the methodology allows sufficient time for thorough consideration of the new draft, including continued involvement of the legal experts and genuine opportunities for engagement by States, civil society, victims and affected communities. We would like to emphasize that their participation is essential to ensuring that the future LBI responds to the realities and needs of those most affected. For more than a decade, victims and communities affected by business-related human rights abuses have been waiting for an LBI that ensures justice, accountability and effective remedy. Their experiences, concerns, and demands must inform the negotiations and the substance of the instrument. They should remain at the center of our collective efforts.

We therefore encourage States to approach the next phase with the political commitment necessary to bridge remaining differences and to ensure that we can deliver an LBI that is strong, effective and capable of making a meaningful difference to people, communities, their territories and the environment.

We would also like to use our time to reiterate the importance of constructive and meaningful engagement by the European Union in these negotiations, consistent with its longstanding commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights. The EU has indicated in previous sessions that the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive would provide an important basis for its engagement in these UN negotiations. Now that the Directive has been adopted and is being transposed into national law, the EU and its Member States should actively support an LBI through a negotiating mandate, ensuring their commitments in their General Statement translate into effective negotiation.

We therefore urge the EU, its Member States and other European States to seize this opportunity and engage meaningfully in the negotiations: to support proposals that advance the protection of human rights and the environment, to help bridge remaining differences, and to ensure that the voices, rights and demands of people and communities affected by corporate abuses are at the heart of this process.

I thank you

Delivered by Susana Hernandez