

**Seventh Session of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group on
transnational corporations and other business enterprises
with respect to human rights
ORAL STATEMENT – ARTICLE 4**

On behalf of: CIDSE, CCFD-Terre Solidaire, Broederlijk Delen, CAFOD, Entraide et Fraternité, Fastenopfer, Focsiv, KOO, DKA Austria , Misereor, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, Trócaire, Alboan, Justice and Peace Belgium, and the Conselho Indigenista Missionario (CIMI).

27 October 2021

Mr. Chair,

I would like to deliver this statement on behalf of CIDSE, CCFD-Terre Solidaire, Broederlijk Delen, CAFOD, Entraide et Fraternité, Fastenopfer, Focsiv, KOO, DKA Austria , Misereor, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, Trócaire, Alboan, Justice and Peace Belgium, Conselho Indigenista Missionario (CIMI).

First of all, we would like to support the proposal by Palestine on article 4.1., which would read as follows:

*Art 4.1 - Victims of human rights abuses **and violations** in the context of business activities shall enjoy all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms.*

Then, we want to stress that we strongly reject the proposal by the honorable delegations of China and Brazil with regards to the rights enjoyed by victims. We would like to recall the principle of universality, indivisibility and inalienability of human rights.

We also want to support the proposal of the distinguished delegation of Palestine for an additional sentence at the end of Art 4.2.d. Indeed, while access to non-judicial remedy should be available, we believe Art 4.2.d should be strengthened by specifying that right-holders' right to access non-judicial grievance mechanisms should not infringe upon their right to seek remedy through the judicial System. Article 4.2.D should thus **end** as follows:

“and that their right to submit claims to non-judicial grievance mechanisms shall not infringe upon their right to access judicial mechanisms.”

Finally, given the high obstacles that victims face to access information regarding the perpetrators of the harm they have been subjected to, we strongly support the proposal from the distinguished delegation of Cameroon in 4.2.f regarding the disclosure of information of companies' business relationships along the value chain.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.