

Eighth Session of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights

ORAL STATEMENT – PREAMBLE

Joint Statement on the Preamble by CIDSE, ALBOAN, Broederlijk Delen, CAFOD, CCFD-Terre Solidaire, DKA Austria, Entraide et Fraternité, Fastenopfer, Focsiv, KOO, Misereor, Trócaire and SIEMBRA.

26 October 2022

Dear Mr. Chair,

I deliver this statement on behalf of CIDSE, ALBOAN, Broederlijk Delen, CAFOD, CCFD-Terre Solidaire, DKA Austria, Entraide et Fraternité, Fastenopfer, Focsiv, KOO, Misereor, Trocaire and SIEMBRA.

Human rights defenders play a pivotal role in defending human rights and the environment, as recognised by the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, the UNGPs, and the Working Group on Business and Human Rights. Among human rights and environmental defenders, women and indigenous people are particularly at risk of suffering violence, threats and retaliation when confronting corporate abuse.

We therefore strongly support keeping the reference to the “UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders” in PP3, as supported by Mexico, Panama, and Costa Rica. In PP12

In PP12 – we reiterate the need to highlight the essential work that human rights and environmental defenders in protecting our human family and Common Home. In PP12, we support the suggestion by France and others’ last year, supported by Uruguay this afternoon, to reject the removal of the reference to human rights defenders.

In PP3, we also recommend adding a reference to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas, as suggested by Bolivia, Panama, South Africa, Palestine, Cuba.

In PP9, we support the proposition of Panama, Palestine, Uruguay, and Mexico – inter alia recognizing that in all actions concerning children, the **best interests of the child** shall be a primary consideration.

On PP14, we support the proposals made by various states to keep the reference to the gender perspective.

On PP11, we reject the US proposal to replace “obligations” with “responsibilities”. International law is not static, this would stunt the progressive development of international law essential to ensuring the protection of people and planet.

On Art 1.3, we reject the removal of state-owned enterprises proposed by a number of States.

Thank you chair.