

Multi-stakeholder dialogue on the scope and content of a treaty on business and human rights

Monday 15 October 2018, 13.00-15.00
Room XXVII, Palais des nations

Fourth session of the Open Ended Intergovernmental Working Group to elaborate a legally binding instrument on Transnational Corporations and other business enterprises in relation to human rights

On 26 June 2014, the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) adopted Resolution 26/9 establishing an “open ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights” 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”. The first two sessions were dedicated to open deliberations about the format, scope and content of the future instrument, and a document with «elements» of the treaty was presented to the third session in 2017.

The fourth session of the OEIWG opens on 15 October with a «zero draft» of a treaty prepared by the Working Group Chairperson on the table for discussion. The draft has so far met a mixed reception. While some States continue to challenge the legitimacy or propriety of the OEIWG’s continued work, most States and other stakeholders have participated with varying degrees of enthusiasm and disparate positions.

As every year, this side event, organized by the International Commission of Jurists with the support of the International Federation of Human Rights, will be a space of discussion where stakeholders will be invited to share their views on key sections of the «zero draft» on business and human rights as well as on the best way to proceed in the negotiations in the next period.

In this occasion, there will be representatives of business associations, labour unions, non governmental organisations and State delegations present in the room.

Speakers:

Mathias Thorns, International Organisation of Employers

Makbule Sahan, International Trade Union Confederation

Michael Clemens, Lawyers for Human Rights South Africa

Moderator:

Saman Zia-Zarifi, Secretary General, International Commission of Jurists

Refreshments will be served at 13:00 hrs before the start of the session