

Declaration by regional, intermediate and federated states in favour of a binding United Nations treaty on transnational corporations and human rights.

The undersigned, representatives of regional, intermediate, and federated states around the world, as well as geographic and thematic networks of these levels of government, adhere to the following statement in favour of a binding Treaty of United Nations on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights:

Considerations:

1. Reiterating our commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to international human rights instruments and conventions promoted by the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, and regional intergovernmental international organizations.
2. Reaffirming our adherence to the 2030 Agenda, and emphasizing the importance of human rights in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals contained therein.
3. Recalling that the primary obligation to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms lies with States, and to any democratic institution with its own or attributed powers, in order to protect against the abuse of human rights by third parties, ensure respect for and application of international law on human rights, as well as educating public servants and citizens about their rights.
4. Reiterating, furthermore, the commitment of regional, intermediate and federated states to the promotion of human rights through our active participation in global governance fora.
5. Recognizing also the importance of the role of civil society actors in the promotion, defense and exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
6. Recalling that companies, as specialized bodies of society, must comply with the laws and respect human rights in their activity.
7. Emphasizing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights adopted by the Human Rights Council in 2011, with the aim of addressing and trying to promote that companies, in their various activities and projects, act responsibly from the strict respect of human rights.
8. Considering, as a very positive development, the Resolution 26/9, of 2014, of the United Nations Human Rights Council, which established an Intergovernmental Working Group with the mandate to develop a legally binding instrument regulating, in the framework of international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations and other commercial enterprises.

Manifestations:

1. We support the establishment of a binding treaty governing the action of transnational corporations and other enterprises with respect to human rights and fundamental freedoms.

2. We urge State Governments to become involved in the negotiation and subsequent adoption and ratification of this instrument of international law, and we undertake to influence our respective Governments to do so.

3. We express our commitment to incorporate into our legislation and public policies the provisions of the binding treaty on business and human rights that is under negotiation, once it is adopted and enters into force.

4. Finally, and as long as a binding international legal instrument in the field of business and human rights is not yet available, we express our commitment to promote, from the public policies of our governments, economically, socially and environmentally responsible action, and respect for human rights, by companies that have their headquarters and / or economic activity in our respective territories.