

'Oral Statement
Sixth session of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group on
transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to
human rights (OEIGWG)

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General Statement

Delivered by Nele Meyer

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Honourable chair rapporteur, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for organising this meeting despite all the challenges this year.

Almost ten years ago, the UN Guiding Principles were adopted and yet we see that human rights risks of economic activities are still routinely shifted onto people who have no say about the activity itself.

The climate crisis is a daily reminder of how high the stakes are and how real the consequences are for those who are most vulnerable, for the people who have no access to remedy or who risk their lives when fighting for justice.

Amnesty International's research as well as that of other civil society organisations demonstrates that the world's most powerful corporations continue to cause or contribute to human rights violations, in spite of their public commitments to respect them.

The UN Guiding Principles have provided us with an important framework, but the last ten years have also shown that we need an international, effective and enforceable legal mechanism to ensure that corporates respect human rights and that victims have access to remedy.

It is with hope that Amnesty International looks at this week's negotiations of the second revised draft of the treaty. We welcome the many positive evolvments, but still believe that there is need for improvement.

We hope for progress towards an enforceable, effective mechanism. We hope for a commitment from the international community to take the necessary steps towards this end. And we urge that in doing this, the rights of victims are respected – so that their access to remedy is realized.

It is time to progress. Let's do it.

Thank you.