



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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REFERENCE: TESPRDD/DESIB/BHRS/NS

Subject: Open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights (OEIGWG). Fifth session, 26-30 October 2020, Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XX

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) presents its compliments to all Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations Office and has the honour to inform delegations that the sixth session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights (Human Rights Council Resolution A/HRC/RES/26/9) will be held from 26 – 30 October 2020, as initially planned.

The session this year is taking place in a context characterized by the COVID-19 pandemic and the current financial crisis of the United Nations Secretariat, as noted in the letters from the High Commissioner of 20 and 28 August 2020. The financial crisis, in particular, has translated into reduced staff capacity to support the session. The format and modalities of the session are reflective of this particular context.

The session will take place in room XX, Palais des Nations. Access to room XX will remain limited to one person per delegation. A certain number of seats will be reserved for NGOs, NHRIs, international organizations and the press. Due to its proximity, room XVIII will be made available as an overflow room throughout the session. Webcast services will be provided in English in the overflow room.

Representatives of Member States as well as other stakeholders who are unable to attend the meeting in person will be able to make oral statements via the Webex platform. In-person participation is very much encouraged in light of the State-led direct substantive intergovernmental negotiations on the preparation of a third draft legally binding instrument during the working group's sixth session.

Modalities and guidance about the use of Webex will be sent at a later stage. All participants will have access to the live webcast and the audio recording available in all six languages of the United Nations. The audio recording will be available on demand after the meeting.

Preliminary information pertaining to the sixth session, including:

- The second revised draft legally binding instrument to regulate, in international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises (dated 6 August 2020);
- The provisional agenda (A/HRC/WG.17/5/1)
- Indico link to register for the session

can be found at:

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/WGTransCorp/Session6/Pages/Session6.aspx>

Kindly note that registration through indico is mandatory for all participants (both in-person participants and participants joining remotely).

Additional relevant documentation will be made available as soon as possible, including the programme of work of the 6th session, and the modalities of the session.

The Secretariat encourages Member States and other stakeholders to submit copies of all their oral statements and proposals well prior its delivery at igwg-intervention@ohchr.org.

For any further details, please contact the Secretariat by phone at +41 22 917 9104 or by email at igwg-tncs@ohchr.org.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations Office the assurance of its highest considerations.

1 October 2020

