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HOW TO HOLD TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS



HEARING AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MONDAY, MAY 30TH 17.00 - 20.00

SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE: **Ambassador Maria Espinosa** Permanent Mission of Ecuador in Geneva & Chairperson of the OEIGWG, **Charles Santiago** MP Malaysia, **Noelia Vera** MP Spain, **Gonzalo Berrón** Brazil, **Brid Brennan** Ireland, **Erika Gonzalez** Spain, **Tchenna Maso** Brazil, **Themba Chauke** South Africa, **Raffaele Morgantini** and **Melik Ozden** Switzerland, **Manoela Roland** Brazil, **Micòl Savia** Italy, **Pascoe Sabido** Belgium, **Monica Vargas** Spain, **Renaud Vivien** Belgium, **Chima Williams** Nigeria and **Elisabeth Pèriz** Colombia. With representatives of La Via Campesina, and other social movements, and members of the European Parliament.

ROOM PHS 5B001

HOW TO HOLD **TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS** RESPONSIBLE FOR **HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

The work of the **UN OPEN ENDED INTER-GOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP (OEIGWG)** developing a legally binding international instrument on Transnational Corporations and other business enterprises is now in its second year. This OEIGWG was mandated in June 2014 (AHRC/29/6) and its work has opened a new historic chapter in putting the challenge of regulation of TNCs back on the international agenda. Furthermore it underscores the search for effective alternatives on the trade, investment and access to justice.

This Public Hearing at the European Parliament on May 30th is an important step in making the work of the OEIGWG widely known among Parliamentarians and in developing a momentum of support and constructive public debate. This is particularly important in the European context, where the EU member states have until now acted as a bloc within the UNHRC to oppose the initiative.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

The overall objective is to broaden and strengthen the participation and engagement of members of the European Parliament (EP) and National Parliaments to support the growing momentum on this initiative and heighten Parliamentary profile in the process.



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES INCLUDE

To contribute to enriching the debate on the arguments for the Binding Treaty – involving human rights and international law experts, parliamentarians and social movement leaders.

To mobilise Parliamentary expertise in developing the proposals that will feed into and finally shape the provisions of the Treaty.

To identify moments in the Political Calendar which can be conducive to advancing the work of the OEIGWG.

PUBLIC HEARING AT THE EP: The hearing will take place on the **30th MAY** at the room **PHS 5B001** and will have two panels:

PANEL 1. 30th MAY 2016, 17.00-18.30 European Parliament (Brussels)

GLOBAL CORPORATE RULE-ARCHITECTURE OF IMPUNITY TRADE & INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS & TNCs

Introduction (5 min): Miguel Urbán — MEP Podemos Spain

Panelists (40 min):

Erika González — OMAL Spain, Introduction to Global Corporate Rule
Charles Santiago — Malaysia MP, Free Trade Agreements and Corporate agenda in ASEAN

Themba Chauke — La Via Campesina South Africa, Land Struggles & Extractivism in Southern Africa: ProSavana, Lonmin & Amadiba

Tchenna Maso — MAB Brazil, Rio Doce environmental disaster (Mariana State, Brazil)

Moderator: Pascoe Sabido — Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO)

First Round Respondents (5 min): Noelia Vera (Spanish MP), Monica Vargas (Transnational Institute Spain), La Via Campesina Europe, Renaud Vivien - CADTM

PANEL 2. 30th MAY 2016, 18.30-20.00 European Parliament (Brussels)

ROAD MAP TOWARDS UN BINDING TREATY ON TNCs STRATEGIES AT NATIONAL, EUROPE AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Introduction (5 min): Helmut Scholz — MEP, Die Linke

Panelists (40 min):

Ambassador Maria Fernanda Espinosa-Ecuador Permanent Mission, Geneva, Road Map of The UN Inter-Governmental Working Group On TNCs

Melik Ozden — CETIM Switzerland, Challenges and Opportunities in the UN process

Gonzalo Berrón — Transnational Institute Brazil, Social movements and civil society mobilisation and strategy

Moderator: Brid Brennan — Transnational Institute & Global Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power

First Respondents (5 min): Raffaele Morgantini - CETIM Switzerland, Manoela Roland - Brazil, Chima Williams - lawyer at ERA-Friends of the Earth Nigeria and Elisabeth Pèriz - Tierra Digna Colombia

Open Forum (10 min): Conclusions

To register for the European Parliament, please contact Jorge Conesa jorge.conesadelara@europarl.europa.eu, or Amelia Martínez Lobo amelia.martinezlobo@europarl.europa.eu and Mónica Vargas C. m.vargas@tni.org.

