



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, **Kajal Bhardwaj** India, **Brid Brennan** Ireland, **Erika Gonzalez** Spain, **Prof. Sheldon Leader** UK, **Tchenna Maso** Brazil, **Dali Mpofu** South Africa, **Raffaele Morgantini** and **Melik Ozden** Switzerland, **Manoela Roland** Brazil, **Micòl Savia** Italy, **Pascoe Sabido** Belgium, **Flavio Valente** Germany, **Monica Vargas** Spain, **Alberto Villarreal** Uruguay and **Renaud Vivien** Belgium. 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, 17.00-18.30

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

Welcome Introduction (5 min):

Gabi Zimmer — President of the GUE/NGL Germany

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

Panelists (40 min):

Erika Gonzalez — OMAL Spain

TNC Resistances: Kajal Bhardwaj — India

Lonmin & Amadiba Struggles: Dali Mpofu — South Africa

Rio Doce environmental disaster (Mariana State, Brazil):

Tchenna Maso — MAB Brazil

Moderator: Pascoe Sabido — Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO) Belgium

First Round Respondents (5 min): Noelia Vera - MP Spain, Charles Santiago

- MP Malaysia, Prof. Sheldon Leader - University of Essex UK, Monica Vargas

- Transnational Institute Spain, and representative of La Via Campesina

PANEL 2. 30th MAY, 18.30-20.00

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

Introduction (5 min): Lola Sánchez — MEP Podemos Spain

Panelists (40 min):

Ambassador Maria Fernanda Espinosa-Ecuador Permanent Mission, Geneva

Melik Ozden — CETIM Switzerland

Alberto Villarreal — Friends of the Earth International (FOEI) Uruguay

Gonzalo Berrón — Transnational Institute Brazil

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

First Respondents (5 mins): 1-MEP; Renaud Vivien - CADTM Belgium, Micòl Savia

- IADL Italy, 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.

