HOW TO HOLD TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

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, Tchenña Mosa Brazil, Themba Chauke South Africa, Raffaele Margantini 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.

HEARING AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MONDAY, MAY 30TH 17.00

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 — Lo 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 Pérez - Tierra Digna Colombia

Open Forum (10 min): Conclusions

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