



Open letter regarding the appointment of a new member for the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (“UNWG”)

At its 28th Session, the Human Rights Council will appoint a new member to the UN Working Group (UNWG) on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

In order to broaden the public debate about the process of appointing the new member, and with a view to ensuring that the future mandate-holder will be fully committed to ending corporate-related human rights abuses and demonstrate the highest adherence to the duties set forth in the resolutions governing the mandate of the UNWG, the undersigned organizations request that the three final candidates address the following issues:

- 1) In the candidate’s view, are there any potential conflicts of interest which might arise from their professional background and their intended position as mandate-holders? If so, what measures would be taken to mitigate such conflicts?
- 2) Does the candidate commit to refraining from undertaking activities for two years after his/her term as member of the WG that could create a conflict of interest between the public function of an UN mandate-holders and private interests? This could include, for instance, any paid activity for business enterprises, such as consulting, lobbying, other paid work, or serving on a company’s board of directors.
- 3) In the candidate’s view, how is the corporate responsibility to respect human rights different from approaches based on the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility?
- 4) In the candidate’s view, how has the UNWG performed so far in terms of taking into account the perspectives of individuals and communities impacted by business activities, and what could be improved in the UNWG’s current methods of work to ensure that access to justice is guaranteed to victims of corporate-related human rights abuses?

We thank the candidates for their responses to these questions and wish them success in their undertakings.

Yours sincerely,

Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales – CELS

Conectas Direitos Humanos

Dejusticia