

Take action towards a strong **HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY** to regulate corporate activity



Learn more about the proposed treaty and the current stage of negotiations

ESCR-Net's [Corporate Accountability Working Group webpage](#) on the treaty is a good source of key documents and information about past and current civil society collective advocacy towards the proposed treaty. The official [United Nations webpage on the treaty](#) provides information on the open-ended intergovernmental working group (IGWG), including the current stage of negotiations and information about opportunities for civil society engagement in this process. The next session of the IGWG will take place from 23-27 October 2017, and will focus on the draft text of the treaty, to be released by Ecuador one month prior to the session.



Advocate with your government

Build and maintain relationships with government allies to find out and keep updated about your government's position in relation to the proposed treaty. Encourage your government to be involved in the IGWG process in Geneva, through letters, emails, calls and meetings. Use this [template letter](#) (which you can amend as you like) to contact your government, and ask it to raise civil society priorities during the IGWG session. For guidance on engaging with governments, the following [booklet on tools to lobby your government](#) may be helpful and can be adapted to focus on the treaty negotiations.

Mobilise civil society and form alliances

If there are several organisations committed to treaty advocacy in your country, you may consider developing a **national treaty alliance** (as has happened in a few countries already), or you might **join a regional treaty alliance**. For more information, please contact: Alexandra Montgomery, Program Coordinator for the Corporate Accountability Working Group, at amontgomery@escr-net.org. In order to bring attention to the need for the proposed treaty and build local solidarity, some ideas include arranging a public action tied to an existing event, sharing information and advocacy positions at community, union and other civil society events, or utilizing concerts, photography exhibits or street theatre to raise the importance of corporate accountability.

Advocate at the United Nations

The UN Human Rights Council passed a [resolution](#) in June 2014 establishing the IGWG, with a mandate to develop a new treaty on business and human rights. Following a [first meeting](#) of the IGWG (July 2015) and a [second meeting](#) (October 2016), the third meeting of the IGWG will take place at the UN in Geneva from 23-27 October 2017. Civil society organisations will be invited to provide written submissions, and it can be useful to arrange meetings with UN delegates from various UN Member States to urge them to promote civil society positions in the IGWG negotiations. See the IGWG [website](#) for updated information on the process and deadlines for submissions, and contact your government's permanent mission to the UN to arrange meetings.

The collective [submission](#) of CAWG members to the IGWG (2016) may be a useful starting point in developing submissions and advocating with your governments and their Geneva representatives. ESCR-Net is also a co-founder and active participant in the [Treaty Alliance](#), and we strongly encourage our members to sign and promote Treaty Alliance statements and join mobilisation and other advocacy activities in Geneva during the IGWG.

Engage the media

Build and maintain relationships with media contacts to encourage widespread reporting on the treaty negotiations. Press coverage of the treaty negotiations, linked to current corporate-related human rights issues in your country and your priorities for the IGWG, is a good way to raise awareness within the government and the general public about corporate accountability issues. Use this [template press statement](#) (and amend as you like) to communicate about treaty negotiation developments.

Use social media to raise awareness and coordinate advocacy efforts

Spread the word about actions, submissions, media or public statements related to corporate accountability and human rights, and join the online corporate accountability community discussion using the hashtags: [#StopCorporateAbuse](#) and [#BindingTreaty](#), particularly during important key moments like the IGWG and other international actions.

The ESCR-Net [Corporate Accountability Working Group](#) coordinates collective action to confront corporate capture, challenge systemic corporate abuse, and advocate for new accountability and remedy structures. [ESCR-Net-International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) connects over 280 social movements, indigenous peoples' groups, NGOs and advocates across more than 75 countries to build a global movement to make human rights and social justice a reality for all. Its members take action through working groups (on corporate accountability, women and ESCR, strategic litigation, economic policy, monitoring, and social movements), as well as through cross-network initiatives to challenge current global conditions undermining human rights and promote alternatives to advance social justice.



International Network for Economic, Social & Cultural Rights
Red Internacional para los Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales
Réseau international pour les droits économiques, sociaux et culturels
الشبكة العالمية للحقوق الاقتصادية والاجتماعية والثقافية



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