**[*Insert name(s) and/or logo(s) of organization(s) issuing the press release*]**

**Civil Society Groups Call for Strong Government Engagement in the Development of a Treaty To Protect People from Corporate Human Rights Abuses**

**(PRESS STATEMENT)**

**[*insert date*]**

[*insert your organization name(s)*] today [*call(s)*] on the national government of [*insert country name*] to engage actively and constructively in the UN Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) working to develop an international treaty to address corporate-related human rights abuses.

The IGWG was established by UN Human Rights Council Resolution 26/9 in 2014, and this year will meet in Geneva between 23-27 October 2017 to continue discussions on the content of the proposed treaty. Human rights abuses connected to corporate activity continue around the world, and repression of human rights activity connected with such abuses is on the rise. Obstacles in access to justice and remedy continues to be a problem for individuals and communities in many countries. The proposed treaty complements existing voluntary commitments on corporate regulation, but represents a global acknowledgement that more concrete action is needed. Support for this process by the government of [*insert country name*] would show strong leadership and appropriate concern for the population, making sure our country attracts the most responsible investors and promotes sustainable development, while ensuring corporate activities align with the human rights of our people.

[*Insert a quote here from a senior respected person from your country/your organization about why a treaty would be helpful for your country. If relevant, it could be useful to choose/write a quote that refers to some well-known cases of corporate abuse human rights in your country and therefore illustrates why further protection is needed*].

[*If you feel it is relevant and safe to do so, add some brief details of a well-known and well-referenced case study of local or foreign corporate human rights abuse occurring in your country, to provide an example of why your government should support the development of a treaty on business and human rights. If you do, carefully choose a case study that will encourage the wider public to understand the need for the treaty, rather than make the government feel defensive about the situation in the example. Alternatively, reference case studies from other countries, and/or reports on the extent of corporate human rights abuses globally, to illustrate the ongoing problems and illustrate the need for the treaty.*]

[*Insert useful quotes from other supporters in your country with sentiments such as, for example: (1)* ***“The time has come to recognize and uphold the principle that corporate interests must not take priority over existing human rights obligations and environmental sustainability in our country” said XX; (2) “Corporations have responsibilities to make sure their actions do not impact negatively on the enjoyment of human rights of the people in [insert country name] and, if they do, they must be held accountable either in this country or abroad, as appropriate to the circumstances” said YY.*]**

[*Include here some reference to the priorities your organization(s) believes the government should raise during treaty negotiations*]]

**Contact:**

[*Insert a contact name and telephone/email here for someone at your organization who can respond to media enquiries*]

**References:**

* [Resolution 26/9](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/RES/26/9) of the Human Rights Council (2014)
* UN [open-ended intergovernmental working group](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/WGTransCorp/Pages/IGWGOnTNC.aspx) (IGWG)
* [*If available, include your organization’s website and a web link to any online resources on corporate accountability*]

[*If you wish, include the following links:*]

* The [Corporate Accountability Working Group](https://www.escr-net.org/corporateaccountability) of the International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net)
* [Treaty Alliance](http://www.treatymovement.com/)