

H.E. Ambassador Luis Gallegos Chiriboga
Permanent Representative of Ecuador to
the United Nations office in Geneva

Dear Ambassador Gallegos Chiriboga,

We would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Ecuador's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, which encompasses the role of Chair-Rapporteur of the United Nations [Open-ended intergovernmental working group](#) (IGWG) on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights (IGWG). We wish you success in your new duties which include the continuation of the work on the elaboration of *an international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights*.

As European organisations who are working in support of the UN treaty on business and human rights, we are looking forward to a fruitful collaboration between the working group and civil society. Many of us have supported the work on resolution 26/09 from the very beginning and have undertaken many different activities – including research, advocacy, and mobilization - to ensure that the EU changed its position from being publicly against the work on the UN binding treaty to obtaining a mandate to engage in the discussions at the IGWG. It is no coincidence that our campaign for the UN treaty coincided with the campaign against free trade agreements such as TTIP and CETA; the primacy of human rights over trade and investment treaties, which is emphasized in the [elements paper](#) is very important to many of us.

The treaty process is at an important stage, set to move from a three-year consultation phase towards negotiations of substantive text for the treaty. It is therefore crucial to have a clear path forward, which will lead to a zero draft for negotiation.

We call on your leadership, in your capacity as Chair-Rapporteur of the IGWG, to ensure a transparent, inclusive, and expeditious roll-out of the informal consultations agreed upon during the third working group session in October 2017 and presentation of a zero draft in June 2018.

Complementary to these consultations, we will continue to disseminate information and expertise which can contribute to the development of a strong treaty text.

We look forward to continue cooperating with the working group and other states, towards the common goal of realizing an effective binding instrument to prevent, prosecute, and remedy business-related human rights abuses.

With best regards,

Agathe Smyth, Justice et Paix
Alejandro González, Amigos de la Terra – Friends of the Earth Spain
Alison Dilworth, Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland
Anne van Schaik, Friends of the Earth Europe
Eleni Choidas, ShareAction
Birthe Pedersen, Action Aid France – Peuples solidaires
Carla Weinzierl, Network Social Responsibility, Austria
Claudia Saller, European Coalition for Corporate Justice
Dagmar Lassmann, Brot für die Welt Österreich
Elise Golay, Réseau International des Droits Humains (RIDH)
Femke Wijdekop, IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands
Guillermo Otano, Fundación ALBOAN
Hélène Capocci, Entraide et Fraternité
Juliette Renaud, Amis de la Terre France – Friends of the Earth France
Karolin Seitz, Global Policy Forum
Layla Hughes, Center for International Environmental Law
Lydia de Leeuw, SOMO
Marieta Kaufmann, DKA Austria
Nanna Langevad Clifforth, NOAH - Friends of the Earth Denmark
Owen Espley, War on Want
Sofia Hedström, Jordens Vänner - Friends of the Earth Sweden
Sabine Stelczenmayr, ÖGB
Sandra Cossart, Sherpa
Stefan Grasgruber-Kerl, Südwind-Austria
Swann Bommier, CCFD-Terre Solidaire
Ton Sledsens, Milieudefensie - Friends of the Earth Netherlands