GANHRI Statement

12 October 2026

12th session of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights

Item 4: General statements

Mr. Chairperson-Rapporteur,

This statement is submitted by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), which comprises 119 National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs).

This submission is a reiteration of GANHRI's strong support for the adoption and implementation of a legally binding international instrument on business and human rights (LBI), which could address gaps in the protection and accountability mechanisms within global value chains, particularly those associated with transnational business activities and their effects on human rights and the environment.

During the 11th Session of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights, GANHRI submitted a position paper outlining its views on the articles of the updated draft under discussion and invited Member States to consider its recommendations.

GANHRI welcomes the progress made in the process, including the recognition and inclusion of both judicial and non-judicial mechanisms for access to remedy under Article 7, as well as the allocation of appropriate support and resources to these mechanisms under Article 12.4.

GANHRI welcomes this recognition and support and calls for the role of NHRIs as independent monitoring mechanisms to also be recognized explicitly, including in Article 16.

GANHRI calls on all States to include language in the draft that recognizes the role of Paris principles compliant NHRIs to monitor the human rights impacts of cross-border business activities along value and supply chains, handle complaints of a transnational nature, and facilitate access to effective remedies for rights-holders.

As key actors for monitoring the effective implementation of a future LBI, NHRIs should be engaged by States throughout the negotiation process and invited to contribute their expertise at national-level meetings. NHRIs are also well positioned to play a leading role in promoting effective technical cooperation and capacity-building among relevant stakeholders, particularly regarding international cooperation provisions.

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As independent institutions mandated to promote and protect human rights, including in business contexts, NHRIs play a leading role in preventing abuses and fostering access to remedy. Through their daily engagement with States, businesses, and other relevant actors, such as NCPs for responsible business conduct, NHRIs provide guidance and raise awareness on the human rights impacts of business activities. They also facilitate bottom-up participation to allow the voices of people marginalized in the context of business operations to be heard.

GANHRI is fully committed to contributing its expertise to strengthen international normative action on business and human rights, and to ensure that the LBI strengthens protection and accountability and upholds the rights of all.