



Pakistan's general statement by Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, Counsellor, at the 12th Session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights

(Geneva, 12 October 2026)

Mr. Chair-Rapporteur,

Pakistan congratulates you on your re-election and thanks Your Excellency for your continued stewardship of this process. My delegation also thanks colleagues at the Permanent Mission of Ecuador and Secretariat for their support, as well as the legal experts for their insights.

Pakistan's longstanding support for this Working Group's mandate remains consistent with the recognition in Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 26/9 of the existing gap in international law on regulating the human rights impact of transnational corporations and other business enterprises of a transnational character. This gap cannot be bridged through voluntary frameworks alone. The elaboration of a legally binding instrument through an intergovernmental process therefore remains necessary to close accountability gaps.

Mr. Chair-Rapporteur,

While States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights, all stakeholders, including transnational corporations, must respect and contribute to safeguarding human rights. The elaboration of this LBI should not be a vehicle for translating the UN Guiding Principles (on Business and Human Rights) into a binding framework, but to ensure that economic activity across borders does not come at the expense of human dignity, and that victims have access to remedy.

Pakistan has consistently emphasised that the scope of the legally binding instrument must be clearly limited to the mandate entrusted by HRC resolution 26/9. It is necessary to differentiate between TNCs and other businesses of a transnational character, on one hand, and small and medium enterprises or local businesses, on the other. Without such distinction, the proposed LBI would risk creating compliance burdens that fall disproportionately on those least able to bear them, without addressing the structural accountability gap that motivated this process.

The development of a new draft should build upon negotiations on the draft text during recent sessions of this Working Group and remain focused on the mandate entrusted by the Council. We note that the conference room paper (contained in document A/HRC/WG.16/12/CRP.2) offers useful food for thought and thank you for presenting it. It contains elements that could potentially add value to the updated draft, but only after deliberation and consensus within this Working Group.

I thank you.

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