

United Nations Human Rights Council
38th Regular Session, 18 June -6 July 2018

Agenda Item 3

A RENEWED COMMITMENT TO A MULTILATERAL APPROACH TO BUSINESS AND
HUMAN
RIGHTS

Oral Joint Statement by International Commission of Jurists, Dominicans for Peace and
Justice, Franciscans International and CIDSE in the General debate on Item 3

26 June 2018

Mr President,

The current intergovernmental process to establish a legally binding instrument in the field of business and human rights offers States the opportunity to work through international cooperation and multilateral engagement to effectively address the human rights impact of business activities.

We thus urge all States –including those that have been so far reluctant to engage- to actively participate in this process. Only constructive dialogue among all States and other stakeholders, especially the affected communities, can lead to sustainable solutions to the existing normative and protection gaps.

This 38th session of the Human Rights Council marks the 10th anniversary of its adoption of the Framework Report “Protect, Respect and Remedy”. As we celebrate the contribution of this Framework, which led to the creation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, we must emphasize the need to increase the international community’s response. In the past ten years, although important work has been done in some areas and by some countries, little systemic positive change has been felt on the ground, where many individuals, especially indigenous and peasant workers and communities, continue to endure the violation of their rights without recourse to real remedy avenues.

The creation of an international legally binding framework for States to maximize action and cooperation regarding rights abuses in the context of business operations remains a compelling necessity of our times.

I thank you.