



UN Human Rights Council – 43rd Regular Session

Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, including the report of IGWG on TNCs – General Debate

Joint Oral Intervention

Delivered by: Nada Awad, CIHRS

Date: 6 March 2020

Thank you, Madam President.

Business-related human rights abuses in situations of conflict and occupation are not only enabled by State action or inaction towards private enterprise. As history has shown, they are often at the core of State policies towards unlawful belligerence and domination.

As such, the legally binding instrument must address the present with the past in mind. Conflicts and situations of occupation must not be exploited as business opportunities.

Although we welcome the added language on conflict-affected settings, including situations of occupation in the 2019 draft; we would like to stress the need for greater emphasis on the relationship between international human rights and humanitarian law throughout the text of the Treaty.

The Treaty should also explicitly reaffirm the right to self-determination and permanent sovereignty over natural resources.

Until a legally binding instrument is activated to bridge the gaps between business and human rights, we must continue to utilise all available mechanisms to fill those gaps in order to prevent the exploitation of suffering for profit.

In this regard, we welcome the recently released business database on Israel's illegal settlement enterprise, and look forward to its annual update. This database will serve as an important tool in preventing a military occupation from becoming an incentivized colonial venture.

Finally, we want to commend the High Commissioner and her team for their commitment to principles in the face of pressure. In doing so, they have provided a glimmer of hope to the Palestinian people that their faith in this institution is not completely unfounded.

Thank you.