



15 February 2018

**Particularly Important States in the Open-ended Inter-governmental Working Group (IGWG) on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights**

Region	State	Why?
Chairperson	Ecuador	Chairperson of the IGWG. About to appoint its fourth Ambassador to the UN in Geneva (who becomes the IGWG Chairperson) since 2014.
Africa	South Africa	Heavily supports Ecuador and is a driving force behind the IGWG.
	Egypt	Supports the IGWG and influential in the African group of States.
	Ghana	Largely quiet during the IGWG, but important behind the scenes as the Government is part of the group of States that actively support the UN Guiding Principles (UNGPs) in the Human Rights Council.
	Namibia	Spoke out in support of the “elements”. Influential in the African group of States.
Europe	Belgium	Position in capital is not clear, but the government spoke during the third session to voice the importance of protecting human rights defenders.
	France	Active during the third session. Pushing the EU to support the IGWG Treaty process and, so far, the only State to have a comprehensive law on all aspects of human rights due diligence (vigilance law)
	Germany	Largely quiet during the third session, but the Government is facing strong pressure from civil society to support the IGWG.
	Netherlands	Has made comments in past IGWG sessions that can be interpreted as loosely supportive of the Treaty.
	Norway	Publicly quiet during the IGWG, but important behind the scenes as the Government leads the separate Human Rights Council resolution on the UN Guiding Principles (UNGPs).
	Russia	Initially voted in favour of creating the IGWG (in 2014), but said in October that it’s too early to be discussing a treaty. Also important behind the scenes as the Government is part of the group of States that actively support the UN Guiding Principles (UNGPs) in the Human Rights Council.
	Spain	Position in capital not 100% clear. We understand, though, that it may be pushing the EU to support the IGWG behind the scenes.
	Switzerland	Engaged in the third session and, unhelpfully, has claimed that the IGWG complements the UNGPs.
	UK	Largely quiet in the third session (follows EU’s lead) and not supportive of the IGWG. However, the UK

		prime minister spearheaded the Modern Slavery Act and the opposition party leader is said to support the IGWG.
Asia	China	Late participation in the third session to say that it is consulting on the “elements” and underscored that international cooperation is needed.
	India	Largely quiet in the third session, but known to have said in the past the better regulation of TNCs is needed.
	Indonesia	Expressed support for the IGWG without spelling out its position on substance.
	Japan	Did not participate in the third session. Important role to play in lobbying big industrial states (like Russia, China and India and Brazil).
	Pakistan	Publicly supports the IGWG. Firm supporter of any anti-globalisation agenda.
	Philippines	Expressed support for the IGWG without spelling out its position on substance.
	Singapore	Actively participated in the third session and raised questions on the meaning of the “elements”
WEOG	Australia	Participated in the third session but quietly. Played a role in trying to persuade the IGWG to return to the Human Rights Council to discuss the terms of reference for the next three sessions.
	Canada	Did not participate in the third session. Important role to play in lobbying big industrial states (like Russia, China and India and Brazil).
	USA	Did not participate in the third session. Important role to play in lobbying big industrial states (like Russia, China and India and Brazil), as well as States that receive aid from it (like Pakistan).
Latin America	Argentina	Largely quiet during the IGWG, but important behind the scenes as the Government is part of the group of States that actively support the UN Guiding Principles (UNGPs) in the Human Rights Council.
	Brazil	Publicly sounded supportive of the “elements”, but we understand that in private it has concerns about the IGWG. There is an unwritten policy not to publicly oppose neighbouring states. Possible room to pressure Ecuador from behind the scenes.
	Chile	Engaged in the third session and, unhelpfully, claimed that the IGWG complements the UNGPs.
	Cuba	A gadfly. Publicly supports the IGWG. Firm supporter of any anti-globalisation agenda.
	Mexico	Seen as broadly supportive of the IGWG and claimed that the IGWG complements the UNGPs, but also made some helpful interventions in the third session with questions about what the “elements” mean. Also called on the IGWG to return to the Human Rights Council to discuss the terms of reference for the next three sessions.
	Venezuela	Publicly supports the IGWG. Firm supporter of any anti-globalisation agenda.