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## UN ANNUAL FORUM ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

### Session

### The UN Treaty Process on Business and Human Rights: business and other perspectives

18 November 2015, 8:20 – 9:40, room XII

Coordinated by IOE, GBI and BDA

#### A. Session Rationale

The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group (OEIWG) which is charged with drafting the UN treaty on business and human rights took place in July 2015. This UN forum session aims to discuss the outcomes of the first meeting of the OEIWG, the priorities of business and other stakeholders with regard to the treaty process, and ways to ensure that the treaty process and the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights reinforce each other.

#### B. Possible discussion questions

- What are the challenges and opportunities of a treaty?
- What are the business considerations and concerns on the treaty process?
- To what extent could a treaty and the UNGPs reinforce each other?
- How to structure the OEIWG as inclusively as possible?
- Did the first meeting of the OEIWG meet the demands and needs of business and other stakeholders? What could be improved for the next meeting?

#### C. Agenda

Chair: Mthunzi Mdwaba (Chair IOE PWG on CSR & Human Rights)

- Welcome (Mthunzi Mdwaba)
- Up-date on the process and next steps (María Fernanda Espinosa, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations in Geneva)
- Treaty Possibilities - the ABA White Paper (Douglass Cassel, Notre Dame Presidential Fellow, Professor of Law)
- The business perspective on the process so far and on necessary next steps (Linda Kromjong, IOE Secretary-General)
- The ITUC perspective (Sharon Burrow, ITUC General Secretary)
- What FIDH aims for (Geneviève Paul, Head of the Globalisation and Human Rights desk, FIDH)
- Impact of the treaty process on the human rights endeavours of companies (Mark Hodge, Executive Director GBI)
- Open discussion with audience
- Conclusion (Mthunzi Mdwaba)