

**ACCA press statement: 2018 UN Forum on Business and Human Rights
Released on 31 December 2018**

The African Coalition for Corporate Accountability (ACCA) congratulates the United Nations Working Group (UNWG) on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises on successfully hosting the 7th Annual UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, which took place from 26 to 28 November 2018, in Geneva, under the theme "Business respect for human rights – building on what works".

The ACCA further commends the Working Group for allowing a broader and diverse participation of representatives from civil society, trade unions, labour, grassroots organisations, the business community, local communities and indigenous peoples.

The ACCA expresses its gratitude to the UNWG for affording the ACCA the opportunity to be part of a panel session entitled: "Trends and challenges in promoting business respect for human rights in Africa", which took place on 27 November 2018.

The overarching theme for this year's Forum and associated sessions were insightful and relevant to the issues faced by African communities, in particular the need for greater respect of communities' right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and human rights due diligence. FPIC forms part of the ACCA's work streams.

While noting that the participation of African CSOs organisations at the UN Forum on BHR has improved, the ACCA notes with great concern that African representation at the Forum remains low, and African CSOs involvement in panel sessions remains weak. It is our hope that African representation at such international fora will continue to improve.

The ACCA encourages African organisations, business and governments to proactively engage with the UNWG and to use the opportunity offered by the UN Forum on BHR to raise issues and challenges with which communities across the continent are faced. The ACCA is resolute in supporting the participation of its membership at the Forum, notably in the drafting of session proposals.

The ACCA remains hopeful that the UNWG will continue to work with African civil society organisations (CSOs) in assisting organisations in preparing panel sessions to improve upcoming Forums.

For more information on the ACCA and media requests, please contact Damian Oakes, coordinator@accahumanrights.org or Guillain Koko, projects@accahumanrights.org

