



Geneva, 26 April 2005  
G-2005/28 (30.05(a))

Dear Sir, dear Madam,

**UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION:**

**Human Rights and Transnational Corporations  
and other Business Enterprises**

At its recent session in Geneva, the Commission was called upon to discuss a report prepared by its secretariat on the “Responsibilities of transnational corporations and related business enterprises with regard to human rights”.

At the end of the session, the Commission, by vote, adopted a Resolution on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, which requested the UN Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative to undertake a two-year work programme.

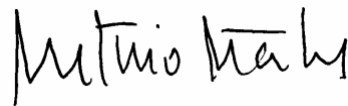
The Special Representative has yet to be appointed, but the person selected will be requested to report initially to the Commission in 2006 and prepare a final report with views and recommendations for its consideration in 2007 within the following mandate:

- (i) To identify and clarify standards of corporate responsibility and accountability for transnational corporations and other business enterprises with regard to human rights;
- (ii) To elaborate on the role of states in effectively regulating and adjudicating the role of transnational corporations and other business enterprises with regard to human rights, including through international cooperation;
- (iii) To research and clarify the implications for transnational corporations and other business enterprises of concepts such as “complicity” and “sphere of influence”;
- (iv) To develop materials and methodologies for undertaking human rights impact assessments of activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises;
- (v) To compile a compendium of best practices of states and transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

The outcome of this Resolution will mean that the IOE and member federations will need to continue to follow the development of this work programme over the next two years and work with the Special Representative, governments and other interested parties so as to ensure that the views of business continue to be reflected in the reports made to the Commission.

The IOE will be seeking to meet with the Special Representative as soon as possible following his/her appointment to clarify the approach he/she will be taking to the points included within the scope of work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antonio Peñalosa', written in a cursive style.

Antonio Peñalosa  
Secretary-General

**Circular addressed to IOE member federations and employer members of the ILO Governing Body.**