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EMINENCE EDITION
CHAPTER II

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Study Guides

UNHRC

Agenda 1: Corporate Accountability Beyond Borders: Regulating Multinational Corporations for Extraterritorial Human Rights Violations

Introduction & Definition

Multinational corporations (MNCs) frequently operate across complex, globalized supply chains that span multiple jurisdictions. While this drives economic growth, it often creates regulatory vacuums where powerful corporations exploit weak local governance, resulting in severe human rights abuses—such as environmental degradation, forced labor, unsafe working conditions, and land dispossession—in developing host states. Because parent companies are typically domiciled in wealthy nations while operations occur abroad, holding them legally accountable for extraterritorial violations remains an immense challenge.

Key Sub-Topics & Controversies

* The "Home State vs. Host State" Jurisdictional Gap: Host states often lack the judicial capacity or political leverage to penalize powerful foreign corporations, while home states traditionally maintain that their laws do not apply to actions committed overseas by corporate subsidiaries.



* **Binding Treaties vs. Voluntary Frameworks:** Evaluating the progress of the UN Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group (OEIGWG) on transnational corporations regarding a legally binding instrument, weighed against voluntary models like the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

* **Supply Chain Due Diligence:** Assessing mandatory due diligence laws (such as those adopted in parts of the European Union) that require companies to map their entire supply chains, identify human rights risks, and provide remediation for victims.

Bloc Positions & Perspectives

* **Global South & Developing Nations:** Strongly advocate for binding international legal obligations that compel home states to regulate their corporations abroad, ensuring that victims can access domestic courts in Western countries where parent companies are headquartered.

* **Western Industrialized Nations & Corporate Hubs:** Generally favor soft-law mechanisms, industry self-regulation, or carefully scoped mandatory due diligence, expressing concern that broad extraterritorial liability could overburden legal systems and disadvantage their domestic industries globally.

* **Corporate Lobby & Business Coalitions:** Argue that overly rigid legal liabilities stifle foreign direct investment (FDI) in developing markets and that compliance costs will ultimately harm small-to-medium enterprises integrated into global supply chains.



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Agenda 2:

The Right to Truth: Confronting State-Controlled Narratives, Disinformation and Historical Revisionism

Introduction & Definition

The "Right to Truth"—recognized under international humanitarian and human rights law—entails the public and prompt identification of the causes of gross human rights violations and the full disclosure of historical truths to victims and society. In the modern era, this right is increasingly threatened by state-sponsored disinformation, institutional historical revisionism, internet shutdowns, and tightly controlled state media ecosystems that erase historical atrocities, suppress political dissent, and weaponize propaganda.

Key Sub-Topics & Controversies

* **State-Sanctioned Historical Revisionism:** The systematic rewriting or minimization of historical atrocities, war crimes, or systemic discrimination by governments to foster nationalism, evade transitional justice, or legitimize current regimes.

* **Information Controls and Digital Authoritarianism:** The use of state firewalls, targeted internet throttling, criminalization of independent journalism, and state-backed cyber-trolls to distort factual reporting and fabricate official narratives.



* **Transitional Justice and Truth Commissions:** The structural implementation of truth and reconciliation commissions, open public archives, and memorialization projects as remedies to secure the right to truth for post-conflict or post-authoritarian societies.

Bloc Positions & Perspectives

* **Democratic States & Human Rights Coalitions:** Emphasize the protection of independent journalism, freedom of expression, unfettered access to public records, and international accountability mechanisms to challenge state lies and revisionist histories.

* **Authoritarian and Illiberal Regimes:** Defend state sovereignty over information infrastructure, framing foreign critiques of domestic history or state policies as "external interference," "foreign disinformation," or threats to national security and social harmony.

* **Post-Conflict and Transitional States:** Often caught between the clinical necessity of healing societal wounds through truth recovery and the political fragility of unearthing historical traumas that could destabilize fragile peace accords.



Recommended UNHRC Action Points & Resolution Framework

When drafting UNHRC resolutions for these human rights agendas, delegates should prioritize:

1. Extraterritorial Access to Justice: Creating judicial cooperation channels that allow victims in host nations to file civil or criminal suits against parent corporations in their home jurisdictions.
2. Independent Fact-Finding Mandates: Establishing robust, independent UN Special Procedures or expert mechanisms tasked with archiving state-sponsored disinformation and investigating systemic historical revisionism.
3. Victim-Centric Remediation Funds: Mandating corporate-backed or international trust funds to finance medical, legal, and social rehabilitation for communities impacted by corporate negligence or state-backed human rights abuses.

CHAPTER 2

