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In the 1970s, concerns began to be expressed about the influence that transnational corporations were exercising in the States in which they were operating, and about the difficulties States might encounter in trying to control them to ensure that they would provide greater benefits to the local economy.

Initiatives were taken at the time to respond to that preoccupation: some succeeded, particularly within the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the club of industrialized countries, and within the International Labour Organization (ILO). But similar efforts failed within the UN.

After 2000 however, in response to a new wave of economic globalization, these attempts were revived, and human rights concerns played an increasingly important role in such efforts. Read a summary (/c4x/LouvainX/Louv2.01x/asset /_Materials__Transnational_corporations_and_human_rights__Final_.pdf) of the developments that have occurred in this area, and then contribute to the debate in the following unit.

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