



**PERMANENT MISSION OF BARBADOS TO
THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA**

**18A Chemin François-Lehmann
Tel. (+41 22) 791 85 00
Fax. (+41 22) 920 98 58
Email: geneva@foreign.gov.bb**

Mr. Gilbert HOUNGBO
Director-General
International Labour Office
4 route des Morillons
CH-1211, Geneva 22
Switzerland

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Request to place an item on the 349th session of the Governing Body: Referral of an interpretation dispute to the International Court of Justice under Article 37(1) of the ILO Constitution

Dear Director-General,

On behalf of the Government of Barbados, I would wish to request that an item relating to the interpretation of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), regarding the right to strike, be placed on the agenda of the 349th Session of the Governing Body for debate and decision on referring the long outstanding dispute to the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

To facilitate the Governing Body discussion and decision-making, Barbados requests the Office to prepare a report that includes all information necessary to be considered for referral to the Court, including the questions to be raised at the ICJ.

Barbados makes this request cognisant of the fact that several attempts have been made by the tripartite constituents to settle the dispute, including through social dialogue. Given that there has been no agreement so far, we are concerned that legal uncertainty remains and as you would appreciate, Governments need this legal certainty. We believe that the ILO should use the procedure provided for in Article 37(1) of its Constitution, and put the matter before the International Court of Justice.

We look forward to the Office taking the necessary action on this matter.

Matthew Wilson
Permanent Representative and Ambassador