

Dear Director General,

We thank you for your letter to all ILO Member States dated 31 August that was brought to our attention. In this letter you confirmed that you have received the request from the ILO Workers' group of 12 July 2023 for the urgent referral of the dispute over the interpretation of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (No 87) (C.87) in relation to the right to strike to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for decision, in accordance with article 37(1) of the ILO Constitution. The Workers' group also requested this matter to be put urgently on the agenda of the Governing Body for decision. This request has in the meantime received support from 36 Governments from different regions, recognising the importance of legal certainty on this issue for all constituents.

We also express our appreciation for the background report that was prepared by your Office to inform the decision during the Special Meeting of the Governing Body on 10 November 2023 and welcome your invitation to all Governments and employers' and workers' organisations concerned to send in comments.

Indeed, the right to strike is of the utmost importance for workers in Iraq and the inability of the ILO to supervise this right, as a consequence of the dispute, in our national context is potentially seriously affecting labour relations in our country.

Iraq's ratification of Convention 87 constitutes a guarantee for the right to strike, which in Iraq faces many difficulties, prevention, and confrontations by employers and the government, which have reached the point of using security services and interfering with them in some sectors of work that are demanding their economic and social rights and the right and freedom to organize unions, to prevent the demand. The right to strike.