



Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia – FNPR

42, Leninsky Prospect
Moscow 119119
Russian Federation

Tel.: +7 (495) 938-7638
+7 (495) 938-7613
E-mail: international@fnpr.ru

Our ref. No. 115/31

October 5, 2023

Mr. Gilbert F. Houngbo
Director-General
International Labour Organization
Geneva - Switzerland

Dear Director General,

We thank you for your letter of August 31 to all ILO Member States confirming the receipt of the ILO Workers' group request for the urgent referral of the dispute over the interpretation of C87 in relation to the right to strike to the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The Workers' group also requested this matter to be urgently put on the agenda of the Governing Body for decision.

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 November 10, 2023 and welcome your invitation to all Governments, employers' and workers' organisations concerned to send in their comments.

The ability to use strike actions to address economic challenges and to correct the existing social injustice is of paramount importance for Russian workers, while incapacity of the ILO to monitor compliance with this right due to the existence of a dispute could potentially have a serious impact on labour relations in our country.

We are convinced that the right to strike is inextricably linked to the trade unions' right for existence and derives naturally from the right to unionize, which is protected by the provisions of the ILO Convention 87. The right to strike is an essential means of protecting professional, economic and social interests of union members, which is exactly the reason why workers join trade unions.

Russian trade unions have been fighting for the recognition of the right to strike throughout their history. We have succeeded to secure the right to strike in our national legislation, and this right is not contested by employers in the Russian Federation.

Attempts to restrict the right to strike are unacceptable and are tantamount to undermining the ILO foundations. We have always been and will remain in solidarity with the ILO Workers' Group on this issue.

We, therefore, extend our full support to the request from the Workers' Group. We call upon the Governing Body to address the problem of the lack of a clear interpretation of the right to strike and to take an urgent decision to ensure an immediate referral of the dispute to the International Court of Justice.

Yours sincerely,



Mikhail Shmakov

President, FNPR

Coordinator of the trade union side,
Russian Trilateral Commission on Regulation
of Social and Labour Relations