



October 31, 2023

Mr. Gilbert Hougbo
Director-General, International Labour Organization
Geneva, Switzerland
(delivered via email)

Dear Mr. Hougbo,

Please accept this letter from FETCO (Federally Regulated Employers – Transportation and Communications), the representative employers' association on behalf of the Canadian employer community.

FETCO would like to offer its support to the employers' position, as articulated by the International Organization of Employers (IOE) in its comments to the Background report for GB 349th *ter* (Special) Session dated 24 October 2023, concerning the ongoing debate related to the right to strike and Convention 87. We strongly believe that the request from the workers' group to refer this matter to the International Court of Justice would be a mistake, and an inappropriate precedent-setting move by a body whose mere existence is inextricably linked to the concept of tripartite dialogue to resolve difficult matters.

Our proposal is that the ILO endorse the current employer position that this issue remain focused around tripartite dialogue. We believe that standard setting is the most appropriate step towards defining authoritative ILO rules on the right to strike, and thus resolving the dispute over interpretation. Standard-setting is linked to the ILO's core mandate and reflects the ILO's core values of tripartism and social dialogue.

A standard-setting process will ensure that all ILO constituents can actively engage in the process, that any solution achieved is based on consensus or at least a broad majority, and that any outcome adopted is universally relevant and accepted.

Please feel free to reach out should you have any questions on the above. I remain at your disposal.

Sincerely,

Derrick Hynes
President and CEO