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Mr. Gilbert Hounbo
ILO Director General
International Labour Office (ILO)
Route de Morillons 4
1211 Geneva 22

Re: *Comments to the Background report prepared by the Office titled "Action to be taken on the request of the Employers' group to urgently include a standard-setting item on the right to strike on the agenda of the 112th Session of the International Labour Conference"*

Dear Director General,

On behalf of the Association of the Organizations of the Bulgarian Employers /AOBE/, which includes the Bulgarian Industrial Capital Association, the Bulgarian Industrial Association, the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Confederation of the Employers and Industrialist in Bulgaria, the most representative employers' organisation in Bulgaria whose member enterprises represent 82% of employed staff in Bulgaria and provide 86% of the Gross Added Value of the country, I am writing to draw your attention that we are convinced that to resolve the long-standing dispute on the interpretation of the right to strike in the context of Freedom of Association and the Right to Organise Convention (C87), a solid and sustainable social dialogue-based solution determined by the ILO tripartite constituents should be strived for, rather than resorting to external means for the quickest possible solution.

We are strongly convinced that standard setting is the most obvious, appropriate and logical 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. Only standard-setting 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. Adoption of a legally binding instrument such as a Protocol to Convention 87 on the right to strike or more broadly on industrial

action would determine the scope and limits of the right to strike at the international level, as far as is possible, and fill the regulatory gap that currently exists in the ILO body of standards. In doing so, the Protocol would make it clear once and for all that rules on the right to strike that have the support of ILO's tripartite constituents are only contained in the Protocol, and not in Convention 87.

We appreciate your urgent intervention on this important matter, and we look forward to receiving adequate updates on this regard.

Yours faithfully,



TSVETAN SIMEONOV

BCCI' s President

AOBE's rotating president for 2023

On behalf of the Bulgarian Industrial Capital Association, the Bulgarian Industrial Association, the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Confederation of the Employers and Industrialist in Bulgaria