

02.11.2023 REF:Uİ/1351

Mr. Gilbert HOUNGBO
Director General, ILO
4, route des Morillons,
CH-1211 Genève 22,
Switzerland

Dear Director General,

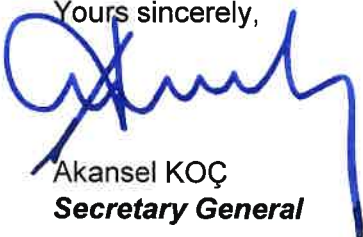
In reply to your letter dated 11 October, inviting governments and their social partners to comment on the employers' proposal to put a standard setting item on the right to strike on the agenda of the International Labour Conference, we are writing to express our firm belief in the employers' group proposal of standard setting as the definitive, appropriate, and logical approach towards establishing authoritative rules within the International Labour Organisation (ILO) pertaining to the right to strike.

We believe that this issue should be dealt within the full constituency of the ILO, in line with the comments of our government expressing its firm support for the inclusive approach that aligns with the principles of transparency, representation, and dialogue, which are essential for the effective functioning of the Organisation.

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.

Yours sincerely,



Akansel KOÇ
Secretary General