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To: NORMES, SECRETARIAT <NORMES@ilo.org>

Cc: Dr.Adel Abdulla <Adel@bahrainchamber.bh>; Atef Mohamed Alkhaja <atef@bahrainchamber.bh>; Shaima Abdulla Juma Mohamed <shaimaabdulla@bahrainchamber.bh>

Subject: Right To Strike

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Dear Sir/Madam

On behalf of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a representative of the Employers of Bahrain, with relation to the RTS issue, 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 therefore strongly urge the ILO to avoid taking this issue to the ICJ and adopting the necessary steps within the ILO as proposed above.

Thanking you and kindest regards

Sonya Janahi

Board Member of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Deputy ILO GB Member representing Employers