

## PSI OPENING STATEMENT

# DECENT WORK IN GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS

105<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference in June 2016  
General Tripartite discussion on “Decent Work in Global Supply Chains”  
(3 minutes)

Dear Chair,  
Honourable Social Partners,  
Brothers and Sisters,

**Public services and their workers are crucial to uphold Decent Work in global supply chains:** through national labour inspection and administrations, land security, occupational health and safety agencies, and the judicial, we regulate, scrutinize, sanction and remedy the human and labour rights conduct of multinationals, and implement national and supranational governance systems.

**Public services also enter the realm of global supply chains through the transnational delivery of services** traditionally deemed under public control, such as utilities, health and education, primarily via **the cross-border movement of people**. Violations of human and labour rights and poor working conditions in global service-based supply chains are a daily occurrence just like in manufacturing.

It is our view that the current decent work record of global supply chains and multinationals is far from positive. We call on this distinguished Assembly and on the ILO to note and to include the following key points in the conclusions of this discussion and to take swift action accordingly:

First:

**Public institutions and their workers continue to be crucial to the effective governance and regulation of global supply chains.** Only strong, well-funded, independent public institutions with adequately trained workers can ensure that work in global supply chains is decent.

Second:

**The payment of a fair share of taxes is an integral part of the social responsibility of business and of multinationals, and a prerequisite for Decent Work and human rights in global supply chains.** The resources public institutions need to guarantee the effective surveillance and remediation of Decent Work violations are much too often stripped by systematic tax avoidance occurring under the currently broken international taxation system, which also starves the financing of vital infrastructures and public services from which business and multinational benefit, too.

This is why **the ILO must actively support the demand that the UN takes on a global reform of the tax system.**

Third:

**The ratification and implementation of ILO Convention 151 protecting the right of public sector workers to organize and bargain collectively must be viewed as a prerequisite for the realization of Decent Work along global supply chains.**

Fourth:

**Strengthening capacity and securing adequate resources for effective national labour inspection is absolutely essential in this process.** The ILO has a major role to play here.

Fifth:

**Decent Work in global supply chains cannot become a reality without an integrated fight against corruption both in the public and in the private realms, and without the effective protection of whistle blowers.** There is an urgent need to regulate and guarantee transparency in the relations between private and corporate interests and public institutions, including lobbying.

Six:

**National public institutions need to be equipped with trans-border jurisdiction and powers to protect human and labour rights in the global economy.**

We thank you for your attention and wish you a fruitful discussion.

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