

Summary of Key Concerns and Action Points

As Catholic-inspired NGOs (CIOs), we are committed to raise awareness and give voice to workers from around the world. Along the years, we joined forces with other partners to support and call for actions in favor of Decent Work for domestic workers, youth, migrant, women, and workers of other vulnerable groups.

This year, on the occasion of the 108th International Labour Conference (Geneva, 10th – 21st June 2019), two Breakfast Meetings were organized on “Informal Work along Global Value Chains” and “Social Dialogue as a Public Good” in order to:

- ✓ present the results of workshops held in the last years as a contribution to the debate around the report of the Global Commission on Future of Work;
- ✓ create a space for dialogue and exchange with Member States’ Representatives; and
- ✓ help in identifying advocacy priorities for future engagements at the ILC.



Breakfast Meeting on Informal Work along Global Value Chains

Main Concerns

- ✓ Precarious and informal working conditions, especially for young people, i.e. short-term contracts (even one day), working extra hours, lack of decent wages.
- ✓ Unequal distribution of profit between companies and workers.
- ✓ Increased migration of women to Europe to work in the care industries without adequate regulation and control (e.g. migrant women working in care industry are often under-represented in the VISA system, hence their rights are not fully guaranteed.)
- ✓ Lack of access to justice for workers employed under subcontracts. In case of violations, it is difficult to identify who will be held accountable.
- ✓ Among informal workers in the agricultural sector, there is lack of recognition and protection of their labor rights. They do not have any influence on the price-decision making process.
- ✓ Female workers continue to experience unfavorable labor conditions (including inequality of wages) and sexual harassments at work.
- ✓ Working in a digital platform is also a form of globally connected work and can lead to violations of labor rights. The lack of personal contact with co-employees limits the right to freedom of association, to organize or to be part of a union.
- ✓ Lack of implementation of existing international and national law and regulations remain the main cause of violations of workers' rights along the Global Value Chains. For example, waste pickers in Colombia have organized themselves and have achieved great success with local legislation. However, having established that there is great economic gain in the work with waste, their livelihood is threatened by the growing interests of bigger companies preventing waste pickers to equitably share the benefits of their work and undertake entrepreneurship.

Key Action Points

- ✓ Build a national platform to check product standards and regulate the global value chains to guarantee workers' rights, especially youth.
- ✓ Provide adequate training and awareness-raising campaigns to the general public.
- ✓ Address the situation of migrant female workers, in the care industries in Europe.
- ✓ Recognize the importance of social protection systems to combat violence and harassment at work.
- ✓ Establish new international governance systems in the face of new digital forms of work in order to protect and guarantee the rights of digital platform workers.
- ✓ Adopt a legally binding treaty on Human Rights Due Diligence in order to bring the remedies to people affected by human rights violations committed by transnational corporations.
- ✓ Comply with UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
- ✓ Continue the struggle for the effective implementation of existing international and national legal framework. In the case of Colombia, waste pickers call on States to: be guaranteed access to waste, be provided with opportunity to grow in the global value chains (cooperatives), be guaranteed with fair compensation for their service.
- ✓ Stress the key role that the regional level can play to overcome limitations encountered by individual States in the globalized economy and to create new opportunities for international solidarity.
- ✓ Stress the potential role of the Church in raising awareness among youth about their labor rights and the issues related to global value chains.
- ✓ Promote further training activities to prepare the youth for the difficult future ahead.
- ✓ Hold employers responsible and accountable in the regulation of Global Value Chains, in accordance with the value of tripartism promoted by ILO.
- ✓ Join forces at the national, regional and international levels to achieve a better protection of worker worldwide and undertake specific measures within the WTO to penalize countries that have not ratified the ILO Convention.
- ✓ Include Universal Protection system in the trade regulations requirements of WTO, such as social security guarantees for migrant workers as part of negotiations between the sending and the receiving countries.
- ✓ Increase efforts to fight against tax evasion mechanisms and other practices such as "financial voracity" and "tax dumping", which prevents the global deployment of the values promoted by ILO.
- ✓ Promote "cost and profits sharing criteria" to counter the accumulation of profit at the top and the squeezing of the costs towards the bottom along the global value chains.
- ✓ Formulate a policy of "Minimum Decent Wages" within the ILO and WTO

Breakfast Meeting on Social Dialogue as a Public Good

Main Concerns

- ✓ The proliferation of regulations impacts negatively the informal workers, thus the need to promote a “Simplified Trade Regime” to better protect informal workers and favor the transition from informal to formal economy.
- ✓ Despite the efforts within ILO for inclusive social dialogue, the inclusion of informal workers still remain a challenge due to the difficulties they encounter in engaging with traditional trade unions.
- ✓ Migrant workers belong to low qualified and low wage sector. As they are not citizens, they encounter many challenges, especially those who are undocumented.

Key Action Points

- ✓ Engage in negotiation and bargaining at the national level, i.e. MOU with local governments as well as collaboration with Tripartite Entities (trade unions)
- ✓ Promote a bottom-up approach in order to move from informal to formal economy.
- ✓ Disseminate and replicate in other countries the good practices on trade unions opening up to NGOs and informal workers becoming part of Social Dialogue.
- ✓ Create spaces for long term engagement in social dialogue.
- ✓ Make Social dialogue a key instrument to address abuses in the informal economy and achieve an effective regulation.
- ✓ Migration, as a subject of global discussion, has never been this critical. With the ever growing movement of people for different purposes and causes and with the significant number of migrants falling into the informal economy, where they are beyond the reach of State's protection and regulation, it is essential that migration be looked at from a holistic perspective. The Global Compact and the on-going implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as existing global frameworks must be utilized to bring meaningful change for social dialogue on labour migration.