

L20 Summit, Berlin 17 May 2017

Priorities for German G20 Presidency, 2017

Sharan Burrow, General Secretary, ITUC - Remarks to Chancellor Merkel

Chancellor Merkel,

First let me thank you. You have been at the side of labour in many G20 meetings. You lead the G7 discussion for decent work; for rights in supply chains and succeeded to get significant conclusions. And now you have crafted an agenda that puts the participation of women, migrants and refugees and young people along with the critical issues of wages and supply chains on the agenda. We hope to see strong conclusions but we thank you for this strong leadership for working people and their families.

Chancellor I don't think we have to convince you that global economy is in trouble workforce is in trouble and people simply don't trust Governments who offer them more of the same.

This week we released our 2017 Poll. Across all continents, 73% of people are worried about losing their jobs and when 83 percent of people in thirteen of the G20 countries believe that the minimum wage is not enough to live on, inequality and instability can only continue to grow.

There is no excuse for poverty wages and your introduction of a minimum wage here is of both national and global significance we need minimum living wages everywhere.

85% of people want Governments to rewrite the rules of the global economy.

People want global rules for global supply chains where multinational corporations are held to account.

People aren't looking for division, they are looking for security - at work, at home, for jobs for today and for their children's future.

And to rebuild trust we must clean up the depravity of global supply chains that are based on low wages, insecure and unsafe work where we now see informal work and modern slavery increasing. The rule of law is absent in many countries.

The \$80billion CSR industry has failed. We need the rule of law to hold companies to account on rights and on environmental standards.

We ask Governments to hold corporations to account with rules that require due diligence, grievance and remedy set out in the UN guiding principles on business and human rights?

To ensure decent work we ask you to request Governments:

- Reaffirm their commitment to implement the UN Business and Human Rights Principles with responsibility for national plans that ensure due diligence, grievance procedures and remedy.
- Support the OECD for its work to develop a common understanding of due diligence

- And strengthen both judicial processes that mandate due diligence and expand non-judicial access to grievance procedures and remedy, including: by strengthening national contact points introducing consequences for companies that opt out of the complaints process, and investing in national focal points to facilitate the use of the ILO MNE Declaration.”

Follow up is critical and with the B20 we ask jointly for support for an initiative to reform global governance and strengthen the social dimension of globalisation with a tripartite summit ahead of the leaders’ meeting of the Argentinian Presidency.

Social dialogue is critical at all levels and global framework agreements, the ACCORD and other employer/union initiatives should be promoted.

We understand some countries, some countries are opposing specific action on supply chains. We hope you can help.

You have people with you, 82% of people hold companies accountable for the actions of their subcontractors.

Are you optimistic we will see progress and can we ask for specific reference to rights in supply chains in the Leaders communique.

Thank you