Working Group on Human Rights and Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises
Office of the High Commissioner for Human rights UNOG-OHCHR
CH-1211 Geneva 10 Switzerland

9 December 2013

Dear Members of the United Nations Working Group:

Written Submission to the 2013 Forum on Business and Human Rights

I write on behalf of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), the Global Union Federation representing workers employed in land, sea and air transportation. It was a great pleasure to attend the second annual UN Forum on Business and Human Rights earlier this week and I would like to congratulate the Working Group on a productive, informative and well-organised event.

It was heartening to see the topic of responsible supply chain management covered so prominently in both the plenary and parallel sessions. However, it is regrettable that the role of transport in global supply chains was not explicitly discussed in the sessions or included in the meeting documents.

As global supply chains continue to proliferate, businesses look to more effective transport models, which in turn have a major impact on the structure of labour markets and workers' rights. Transport workers are unfortunately no strangers to work-related accidents or the denial of human rights. For this reason, I would kindly ask the Working Group to consider in its 2014 work programme the difficult task of implementing the UN Guiding Principles in the transport and logistics sectors. We would of course also like to propose this as a topic for the 3rd annual UN Forum on Business and Human Rights.

The ITF would be prepared to assist the Working Group in whatever way it can to bring this issue to the fore.

On behalf of the ITF's 708 affiliated unions and their 4.5 million members worldwide, I would like to thank the Working Group for considering this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Ruwan Subasinghe
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