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Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana

Independent Expert on the promotion of a
democratic and equitable international order
UN Human Rights Special Procedures

Sharan Burrow

General Secretary
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Dear Dr. Sewanyana,

I write to you on behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) representing 200 million workers in 163 countries and territories. Trade unions are part of the peace movement and play a central role in the fight against poverty and inequality as root causes of conflict. We reject war and aggression and support peaceful conflict resolution, negotiation and mediation.

Together with the International Peace Bureau and the Olof Palme International Centre, we just released the Common Security 2022 report that calls for urgent action to create a global peace dividend of US\$ 72 billion annually by setting a global ambition to reduce military expenditure by two per cent. This new peace dividend should help tackle the causes of conflict and fear – such as military threats and aggression – but equally climate change, poverty, inequality, discrimination, scarce resources and pandemics.

We need a global architecture for peace made viable by a UN Conference of the Parties, including unions, employers and civil society every three years. We also endorse the creation of a tripartite global institution to explore innovative ways to convert jobs and technology in the weapons industry into environmental and health innovation, vaccines and treatments.

Valuable lessons can be learned from social partners jointly developing just transition processes to secure the future and livelihoods of workers and their communities in the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Lasting peace can only be built on social justice based on jobs, social protection, just wages, equality and social dialogue. This new social contract will make societies more peaceful and resilient. Furthermore, ILO's Recommendation 205 offers guidance on employment and decent work for peace.

I send attached the Common Security 2022 report that you may consider in order to help you developing the annual thematic report to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly.

The international trade union movement stands ready to engage with the UN, the ILO and other specialized agencies as well as business and national governments to work towards peace and resilience.

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary