

Oslo and Stockholm 12 december 2022

Dear ITUC President Akiko Gono,

First of all, allow us to congratulate you with your election as President of the ITUC.

Secondly, we are contacting you on behalf of the 13 NFS organisations also affiliated to the ITUC. We are acutely aware of the corruption scandal that has come to light in Belgium over the past days. We have very limited information so far, but what we do know is that this is causing damage to the reputation of and to the confidence and trust in our international trade union movement. We need clear communication and swift action from the ITUC. We therefore turn to your leadership now, as the newly elected ITUC President.

We, the Nordic affiliates, ask that ITUC takes immediate action in light of the accusations that have surfaced against the current ITUC General Secretary.

We of course believe that we need to allow justice to have its due course of action and believe that one is presumed innocent until proven guilty. However, even an association with such a corruption scandal that is currently surfacing is not acceptable to our movement. It is damaging. What is damaging us further is the lack of clear information, communication, and action by ITUC and its leadership. We are a movement depending on trust and confidence.

We in the Nordic affiliates demand that an extraordinary General Council is called immediately where the decision is discussed to suspend the General Secretary until the police investigation is finished. It will also allow the General Council to elect a temporary General Secretary to take charge during this turbulent situation.

According to our ITUC statutes Article II Session of the General Council paragraph 2b *The President may convene a special meeting should he/she deem it necessary to do so*, in our opinion these circumstances are so dire that we ask of you as our President to call for this General Council so that we together can act in the ITUC.

There can be no doubt about whether the principles laid down in the ITUC constitution about full independence are respected.

In solidarity,

Peggy Hessen Følsvik
President NFS and LO Norway

Magnus Gissler
General Secretary