United Nations Summit on Refugees and Migrants

New York, 19 September 2016

1. Governments should ratify and implement, as a matter of urgency, the ILO Conventions on migration. The ILO Committee of Experts has affrmed in 2016 the vital and relevant role of the Conventions in the good governance of migration. Valuable information on the challenges of ratifcation is available in the ILO General Survey prepared for the 2016 International Labour Conference. [1]

2. The UN International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families should also be ratifed and implemented. Migrants should fully benefit from the UN Bill of Rights and all ILO Conventions.

3. The United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees, widely ratifed, should be fully respected. Rights should be enhanced for those forcibly displaced, but who currently do not qualify for protection by that Convention.

4. The "crisis" of migration and refugees often takes the form of attacks in host countries. Measures should be taken to protect migrants and refugees from xenophobia, bigotry, and discrimination.

5. Global efforts are necessary to combat the conditions that create forced migration and produce refugees. There are a wide range of issues involved, including military confict, violations of human rights, extreme deprivation, and catastrophes. These problems are not only national and regional, but are linked to global factors and actions. They require global responses.

6. The overwhelming proportion of refugees are found in developing countries. An urgent global mobilisation is necessary if their rights are to be respected and if they are to live in decent conditions.

7. Global governance cannot be properly dealt with outside of the UN framework. We have seen the inadequacy for many years of the semi-offcial Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). It cannot replace real and responsible government action on migration.

8. The UN and governments should promote quality public services for all. Migrants, asylum seekers and refugees should be able to access public services without fear, without discrimination and without restrictions. Such services include emergency response, health care, education, housing, social services, access to justice, job placement and integration services. That requires [illegible]

country governments if such practices are to be eliminated.

12. Dealing with unscrupulous agencies also requires addressing the problem of corruption. Among the alternatives that might be considered is direct recruitment with full transparency without passing through private agencies. There are a wide range of other measures that need to be taken. These include effective government regulation based on international standards, including through use of registration and licensing as well as adequate inspection and enforcement regimes.

13. Too many bi-lateral migration processes are shrouded in secrecy. Social partners should be involved in bilateral labour arrangements