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HTUR/MW

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The promulgation of the constitution on 20 September 2015

Dear Brother Rimal,

On behalf of the ITUC, I want to congratulate the people and the independent trade union movement in Nepal on the promulgation of the constitution on 20 September 2015. You have proved and demonstrated to your neighbours in Asia and the world that the people's pursuit for equality, democracy, independence, and justice will not be inhibited by the level of industrial development or external political pressure. This historical moment is celebratory in memory of the students, activists, workers and union leaders who had lost their freedom and lives for human dignity, democracy and independent trade unions. It is also a landmark for the country devastated recently by the earthquake on 12 May 2015 and is standing up again in unity for reconstruction.

The ITUC welcomes the new constitution which puts an end to the political uncertainty of the last eight years by establishing the country based on republicanism, secularism and protection of fundamental rights. On that basis, freedom of association and the rights of the women, migrant workers, and precarious workers should be further secured and legally protected as ninety percent of the population is in the agricultural and informal sector; and migrant workers from Nepal are working under dangerous and poor conditions in million all over the world.

The independent trade union movement in Nepal will continue to play a significant role in this new era of constitutional democracy and national rebuilding. In the international trade union solidarity meeting held on 4 September 2015 in Kathmandu, the ITUC affiliates in Nepal, the NTUC, GEFONT and ANTUF jointly launched the trade union roadmap for reconstruction which was co-signed by Mr. Tek Bdr Gurung, the Minister for Labour and Employment at the presence of government and international trade union representatives. Decent jobs, fundamental protection of labour and trade union rights at the workplace and for migrant workers abroad, priority to Nepali resources in public procurement are laid down to genuinely benefit the people in the reconstruction process. The institutionalized participation of the trade unions in the decision making process is essential to ensure that and deepen national democracy. From now on, we expect the government of Nepal to collaborate with the trade unions for implementation of the roadmap.

The ITUC fully supports the roadmap and our affiliates in ensuring that the voices of the workers, peasants and women of Nepal are heard in deciding a sustainable development model for the

country. We will celebrate with you again when the day comes the Nepali people are entitled to decent jobs at home and need not be departed from their beloved and family.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. B.' followed by a long, flowing horizontal stroke.

General Secretary