

Ayuba Wabba

President
Président
Präsident
Presidente

The Right Honourable Mohammad Shtayyeh
Prime Minister
Palestinian National Authority

Sharan Burrow

General Secretary
Secrétaire générale
Generalsekretärin
Secretaria General

HTUR/MG

21 October 2019

The ITUC welcomes the Palestinian government decision to ban work permit brokerage

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing on behalf of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), representing 207 million workers across 163 countries, to welcome the cabinet's decision to ban the practice of labour brokers.

Labour brokerage has a tremendous impact on the Palestinian economy, and we know that half of Palestinian workers spend between a third and a half of their wages to obtain a permit to work in Israel. Moreover, not only does the permit brokerage violate the agreement signed between the PLO and the Israeli government, and in particular article 37 of the Paris Agreement, but it promotes modern forms of slavery, which contravene international human and labour rights standards.

The ITUC welcomes the government decision to abolish the brokerage system, and we strongly hope that this decision will be the first step of a more comprehensive reform aimed at breaking labour bonding and allowing Palestinian workers not be tied to a particular employer who provided them with the work permit.

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary