

Madam Chair!

Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak here today.

We are in a global crisis and there is a need for the development of new solutions.

As you may know, the International Trade union movement has been an active player in connection with the two G20 summits in Washington and London.

We are aware of our responsibilities and at the same time clear in our demand to be taken seriously.

In the light of the crisis – and the new role of governments to rescue the failed financial sector and to stimulate the economy, putting corruption and public integrity on the agenda for this forum is timely and offers a good opportunity to exchange ideas and attitudes.

But also to realise that the solutions from the past are absolutely insufficient in the current context.

We must take the situation seriously. The only effective way to avoid social uprising is through a genuine dialogue.

Time has never been riper for building strong alliances between stakeholders who hold the keys to the development of the right response to the global crisis.

Today I will strongly argue that the OECD and its member countries, the TUAC, PSI and its affiliates should develop a much stronger relationship.

Social dialogue and collective bargaining are at the heart of establishing a culture of accountability and integrity in the public sector – if you really are committed to an effective and sufficient effort to fight corruption.

It is a missed opportunity that this OECD Forum does not single out trade unions and workers' representatives when it mentions civil society at large.

OECD General Secretary Gurria said in his opening speech that corruption is the cancer of globalisation.

It gives me the impression of OECD as the doctor who examines the patient, make the correct diagnoses but totally messes up the prescription. And months and years later, the doctor is wondering why the treatment didn't work.

Without having a strong relationship including social dialogue and collective bargaining, it will not be possible, or it will be much harder, to establish effective tools to fight corruption and promote public integrity.

TUAC and PSI acknowledge the long-term work OECD has been doing in this area but it is not enough to focus on management and senior civil servants.

You need to realise that management also needs to rely on the unions and the workers' representatives.

If there is no change in that policy it will be a great mistake and a missed opportunity.

Evidence that countries with a strong culture of social dialogue also top the list of the least corrupt countries is not a coincidence.

Time has not been better for decades to admit that there have been failures in the running of globalisation, that the absence of a social dimension was and is a big mistake. I believe that the OECD countries could develop new policies and take new action – that could serve as best practice for the rest of the world.

Let me also use this occasion to raise another issue related to the current crisis.

It is time to take a critical view of the adoption of private sector solutions – we have lost credibility – so now the question is how to restore integrity and ethics.

The public sector must operate according to public sector values.

That is why PSI and TUAC welcome and support the OECD's work on lobbying and public procurement.

And the public sector must act according to decent work principles.

I am looking forward to discussing my ideas with you, and I trust you will be ready for an open minded debate that can move the development in a much more promising direction.

TUAC and PSI find it important to emphasise here today that without taking the unions and the workers' representatives seriously, you will not be able to fulfil your objectives in the fight against corruption and in building integrity.

Thank you for your attention.

END