



***Statement to the OECD Anti-Bribery Ministerial Meeting on behalf of the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC)***

**Paris, March 16, 2016**

On behalf of the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) I am pleased to join you today and to recognize the leadership of the OECD in fighting global corruption. Together this collaboration of governments and civil society has reason to celebrate and reason to continue our vital work.

We need only look to countries such as my own to observe the remarkable and practical impact of the OECD Working Group on Bribery. In Canada we have established:

- A Federal Public Service Integrity Commission that governs both the disclosure of wrongdoing and the protection of whistleblowers from reprisal; and
- A *Corruption of Foreign Public Officials Act* which is a very successful implementation of the recommendations of this Working Group.

Despite such positive developments the global scourge of corruption continues. Bribery undermines our respective community's ability to self-sustain and improve. Corruption depletes public wealth and it thereby undermines the trust essential for our nations to flourish.

Continued success in the reduction of bribery requires effective and consistent enforcement. Enforcement is often only possible when individual workers are courageous and disclose wrongdoing to their employers or governments.

Disclosing corruption is the right choice and yet too many workers face life altering reprisal for doing so. This chilling and corrosive effect on our progress can not be understated.

In both my role as a member of the Canadian Public Service Integrity Commission Advisory Board and as a Lawyer for a public service trade union representing finance professionals, I know that many who have disclosed corruption have personally suffered greatly. I know many more workers who have been deterred from whistleblowing having witnessed that hardship borne by their colleagues.

Consequently, the TUAC calls for the adoption of new measures to ensure that workers who disclose wrongdoing are both protected from reprisal and rewarded for doing what is fair and just.

In calling for these additional measures, the TUAC echoes the Business and Industry Advisory Committee's call for recognition and incentives for corporate level self-reporting and compliance efforts. Cooperation between business, trade unions and NGOs must be supported.

Already international trade union organizations such as Public Services International – representing trade unions in public sector – and UNI Global Union are working together to develop aspirational whistleblower standards to contribute to and support the implementation of global models by organizations such as the OECD and ILO. Trade unions also play a role by creating democratic and accountable work-places.

Such an aspirational standard can incentivize disclosure and offer enhanced protection to workers brave enough to shine a light on bribery through a series of impactful and practical measures including:

- Pay protection so whistleblowers know they will be financially supported,
- Legal defense funding for whistleblowers,
- Work reassignment options so those who disclose are able to contribute in another area of the workplace not being investigated for corruption,
- Financial rewards based on the principle of *Qui Tam*, and
- A reverse legal onus for reprisal complaints.

These measures in a system that includes both a public and private sector integrity framework that recognizes both internal and external disclosure will result in greater disclosure and thereby serve as a deterrent to those who would corrupt.

TUAC stands ready to support the OECD in this extremely important work. Thank you and we look forward to working together for a future of greater shared prosperity and justice for workers, industry and our nations.