

Centre Europe - Tiers Monde

Centre de recherches et de publications sur les relations entre le Tiers Monde et l'Europe

CETIM
Rue Amat 6
CH-1202 Genève
Tél. +41 (0)22 731 59 63
Fax +41 (0)22 731 91 52
E-mail: contact@cetim.ch
Site Web: www.cetim.ch

GENERAL ASSEMBLY HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

38th Session

Item 4: Country Situations that Require the
Council's Attention

Oral statement ***Check against delivery***

Mr. President,

This statement is made on behalf of the Europe-Third World Center (CETIM) and IndustriALL Global Union, a union representing more than 50 million mining, energy and manufacturing workers in more than 140 countries. We are alarmed by the increasing human rights violations committed by transnational corporations like Glencore. Glencore is headquartered in Switzerland, and is among the world's largest multinational corporations in the mining, metals and commodities trading sectors.

Glencore routinely violates various human rights of their workers, especially the right of healthy and safe conditions of work in several countries such as Australia, Colombia, Bolivia, Zambia and Democratic Republic of Congo, as mentioned in the written statement of CETIM, presented to the current session of the Human Rights Council¹.

Precarious workers including subcontracted workers are especially vulnerable to these violations. Glencore has recently significantly increased the fraction of its workforce around the world that is subcontracted. This leaves many workers without an adequate standard of living, without equal remuneration for work of equal value, without equal opportunity of positions, without the security of a permanent contract, without pension and health insurance and, in practice, without the fundamental right to form or join trade unions.

Glencore's systematic practice of violating workers' human rights around the world with almost total impunity highlights the urgent need for an international legally binding instrument allowing the regulation of transnational corporations' activities and their impacts on human rights. This instrument would also be an essential tool to guarantee access to justice for the victims and the affected communities. And finally, we urge the Swiss government to comply with its obligation to assure that transnational corporations based within its territory do not violate human rights, in particular while carrying on their activities in other countries, and to ensure that victims obtain justice.

Geneva, 27.06.2018

¹ See "Workers' Human Rights Violations By Glencore Around The World", A/HRC/38/NGO/91, 14 June 2018.