

Geneva, 19 October 2021

Korean Metal Workers' Union - KMWU

Korea Chemical & Textile Workers' Federation - KCTF

## **Solidarity statement by IndustriALL Global Union on the occasion of the general strike on 20 October in Korea**

Dear sisters and brothers,

On behalf of the 50 million workers in mining, energy and manufacturing industries, throughout the world represented by [IndustriALL Global Union](https://www.industrialunion.org), I wish to express our full support and solidarity with your national centre KCTU and our affiliates KMWU and KCTF on the strike scheduled for 20 October 2021 calling for the abolition of precarious work and general revision of labour laws.

In line with the resolution unanimously approved at our third congress on 15 September, IndustriALL reiterates its demand for the release of KCTU President Yang and for the Korean government to stop immediately the crackdown on freedom of association and assembly.

We express our support to the October 20 general strike and fight for labour law reform for fundamental trade union rights and the abolition of precarious work, for a Just Transition and for stronger public services and social protection.

We strongly urge multinational companies to respect freedom of association and put an end to threats and repression, and improve supra-enterprise collective bargaining arrangements in Korea.

In addition, IndustriALL continues to monitor closely Korea's labour and human rights obligations under international law, including ILO Conventions 87 and 98, UN international Bill of Human Rights, and obligations under the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

Furthermore, we urge the Korean government to implement a Just Transition, and hence guarantee employment during periods of disaster given the fact that the government never put in place a moratorium on dismissals during the pandemic, and companies have taken advantage of the situation to accelerate the digital transition. It is also imperative that the government strengthen public services and social protection.

We demand that the government guarantee the right to freedom of assembly so workers can hold general strike rallies tomorrow to call attention to deepening inequality and violation of fundamental human and labour rights.

IndustriALL Global Union rallies behind the thousands of striking workers gathering on October 20 in Seoul and other parts of the country. Millions of workers stand shoulder to shoulder with you in your struggle. You are not alone!

In solidarity,



Atle Høie  
General Secretary  
IndustriALL Global Union