**FORUM**: The Economic and Social Council

**QUESTION OF**: Taking Measures to Improve Working Conditions in Developing
 Countries

**MAIN SUBMITTER:** Australia

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** Portugal, Bolivia, Argentina, Libya, Mexico, France, Bangladesh,
 Indonesia, Nigeria, Germany, Bulgaria, Austria, United States of
 America, China, South Korea, Russia, Norway, Colombia

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

*Acknowledging* the resolution passed in 2008 by the ECOSOC committee, titled ‘Promoting full employment and decent work for all’,

*Aware* that each country’s own priority and primary responsibility is to their own country and economy, and that it must be noted that every penny of cash received from all MEDCs is a gift, and should be treated as such,

*Fully aware* that developing countries may not have the ability or the funds required to counter non-ideal working conditions,

*Noting* the existence of the WRC (Workers Rights Consortium), an international, independent organisation that increases transparency in the supply chain, through off-site interviews with employees in an effort to put pressure on governments and firms to act in case of negative working conditions,

*Praising* the creation and the efforts of ‘Better Factories Cambodia’, an organisation created by the ILO, in an effort to engage with the workers, employers and government in attempting to bolster working conditions, and creating a precedent that shows solving this issue is doable,

*Recognising* the perseverent, hard work of the ILO (International Labour Organisation), and notices that it would be an important tool in achieving full employment and much improved working conditions through the use of fundamental principles and primary human rights,

1. Encourages the creation of a new UN Task Force, the ‘Workers Rights Betterment Force’ (WRBF), which would work with local governments and send specially trained forces to companies in LEDC’s in a effort to:
	1. improve communication between employers and employees in an attempt to improve conditions, through:
		1. the advocacy of unions to negotiate for more fair wages with the employee
		2. understanding the potential complaints of workers, and ensuring that action is being taken to improve these conditions, and not just be noted down
	2. invest collected funds into the betterment of the conditions in an efficient way, such as:
		1. the investment of a higher degree of sanitation in the workplace
		2. an investment into increased safety in the workplace;
2. Urges more countries to follow the United States’ lead regarding the ‘Better Factories Cambodia’ project, which so far has led to the improvement of over 600,000 workers' lives, which can be achieved through:
	1. initiating trade agreements with LEDC’s, offering them incentive if they attempted to improve the lives of their workers, like the US offered better access to their markets for Cambodia if they agreed to the deal,
	2. utilising support from the United Nations International Labour Organisation, which communicates directly with the governments of the parties involved, and ensures that the improvements have actually been made and that they are maintained,
	3. working with unions to better understand the issues at hand, and assist them in procuring a feasible solution,
	4. significantly increasing the current budget of the ILO in order to then develop further in LEDCs;
3. Calls for an improvement in the enforcement capacities of LEDC’s, to ensure that firms know the consequences if the law is not follow adequately, through:
	1. foreign financial aid, received from the Task Force mentioned previously, to be spend on:
		1. an investment into the government forces that conduct checks and investigations into certain companies, to improve their efficiency and capacity of these searches
		2. providing subsidies and grants to companies who follow the rules, as a method of incentive for other firms to change their ways
	2. personnel assistance from the previously mentioned task force, who would assist through:
		1. applying and enforcing laws adopted from the ILO or otherwise in places where it would be necessary
		2. training local leaders in the ways of managing enforcement troops, ensuring the level would be raised for the future;
4. Asks that countries that are more economically developed to raise awareness within their nation about this issue, imploring countries to consider how great an impact can be had by simply boycotting products that are produced in LEDCs who have shown an abstention to workers rights, through:
	1. campaigns by trained officials in schools to ensure that the younger generation is aware of this crisis,
	2. posters hung through the cities, allowing citizens to see and understand the issues at hand,
	3. radio advertisements, to ensure that the message is spread to as many people as possible;
5. Further calls for legislation that could improve the transparency of the global supply chains, which could be achieved through:
	1. more open-source work, ensuring that the origins of products are clearly visible, so the purchaser knows that no workers have toiled in sub-par conditions to create products,
	2. more frequent, subsidised and in depth auditing by independent, third-party institutions, which would lead to:
		1. the exploitation to effectively be removed from the system, while ensuring that the firms still keep their profit-maximising capabilities
		2. a stricter system, showing firms that there are severe consequences for their actions
	3. further regulation to the access of the international markets to firms of LEDC’s, primarily allowing firms that respect labour laws and its employees in, to trade on the global market, which would serve as an incentive to firms that do not comply by these rules, as they would be missing out on massive profits, and would attempt to reform themselves in pursuit of money;
6. Further asks for legislation to be passed on the implementation of standards of working conditions, which laws should focus on:
7. adding a limit on the amount of workers allowed per factory building,
8. implementing proper ventilation, fit for a sizeable group of manual labourers,
9. the provision of clean water for all workers, to be used for:
	* 1. drinking purposes
		2. sanitation, such as washing their hands and faces.