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1. “Rights for all, Everywhere”. For trade unions, respect for workers’ rights is fundamental. Towards this end, ratification and strong enforcement of international labour standards as established by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the UN, should be the bedrock of migrants’ protection wherever they are. The global health situation has made it common for us to wear facemasks, but covering our mouths does not mean we should keep quiet. Right to join trade unions gives migrants a collective voice to fight abuse and to receive the fair value of their work. Workers that could be represented by capable organizations such as trade unions provide the basis for meaningful partnerships in the context of social dialogue. Social Dialogue and Tripartism have been a time-tested process and means of crafting, implementing and monitoring migration policy. Government, employers and workers who treat each other as social partners and as co-equals, freely exchanging information, crafting policy and negotiating for the best option, working together with CSOs and other actors, have proven to yield better, more appropriate and more responsive policies, programs and projects.

2. The pandemic is an “existential threat to trade unions”. With millions losing jobs and many more millions threatened, the voice of workers is fundamentally affected. We recognize that we have to transform ourselves. We need solidarity and support from other sectors and social actors. Migrants must now be allowed to join trade unions and to freely associate with, network and coordinate with civil society organizations. International organizations and even governments could help strengthen trade unions.

3. “Health and Safety Everyday” is now a challenge. Workplaces are changing as physical distancing becomes the norm. We have to set-up new systems, educate the work force, and provide new protective equipment as well as new health facilities and access. Workers’ dormitories have to be reinvented – Singapore is a

case in point. Safe workplaces and accommodations means government, the contractors and the trade unions – and of course specialised international institutions - have to formulate together new policy, engineering and infrastructure measures that deal with the new occupational threats. Thus, partnerships in the form of workplace-based Safety and Health Committees, with employer and workers representatives, especially women workers representatives appointed by the workers themselves, will greatly help promote Safety and Health. Safety and health Committees could also be tripartite and multipartite and established by local chief executives at the city level. These committees could plan safety schemes, awareness raising campaigns and establish protocols and migrant-friendly policies on safety and health.

4. “No One should be Left Behind”. It is sad to see that migrants are being disposed like face masks during this pandemic. Forced into the frontlines, and the first to be discarded. Thus, we need a global social protection of all workers and migrants. Social protection mechanisms could also established with a tripartite policy making body.

5. Several CSOs and TUs in the region have launched and endorsed an urgent justice mechanism campaign which focuses on the issue of wage theft that has impacted migrant workers globally. Data collection is vital in ensuring that the rights violations and grievances of migrants are properly documented in both destination and origin countries.

It is also important that information gathered are made available and accessible to the public. Further, businesses and governments of both origin and destination countries should guarantee that migrants have access to legal remedy such as compensation of their end-of-service benefits and salaries once their claims have been proven.