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Solidarity with Chilean Trade Unions

Message from the Swiss Trade Union Confederation to the Chilean Bloque Sindical de Unidad Social

Trade unions in Chile have laid out ten demands to the government, including calls for minimum living wages and pensions, effective protections of people's fundamental rights at work, and a reduction of the working week to a maximum of 40 hours. Putting forward solutions that are proven to address inequality, the unions call on the government to strengthen collective bargaining, build social dialogue and guarantee the right to strike.

The Swiss Trade Union Confederation STUC SGB/USS calls on the president of Chile: he and his government must stop attacks on democratic rights and violence against people standing up to unlawful authority. The austerity agenda that is driving the people of Chile only to hopelessness must be cancelled. A minimum living wage, good public services for all and pensions on which people can live and enjoy retirement with dignity are essential rights of the people.

As a poster child of the IMF and the World Bank, Chile has put all the country's water resources into private hands, while privatisation of education, health and other vital services has further impoverished millions of people. This economic model has failed working people, creating wealth for the corporate sector and the top one percent while leaving many to live harsh lives, without any prospect for progress.

The current demonstrations and mobilisations are the country's largest, but by no means the first since the end of the Pinochet dictatorship, with large protests taking place in 2006, 2011 and 2013. The STUC SGB/USS stands in solidarity with the Chilean Trade Unions and the Chilean people, who are rightly protesting the highest level of inequality of all the OECD countries.

The call from the unions and the people of Chile must be heeded. The whole world is watching, and the Swiss trade unions stand with you at every turn.

In Solidarity,



Pierre-Yves Maillard
President STUC SGB/USS



Luca Cirigliano
Responsible foreign affairs STUC SGB/USS