OPEN LETTER

Amazon and public procurement

As leaders of trade unions representing millions of workers around the world, we write to express our deep concern over the growing dependence of our governments on Amazon.com, Inc. and its subsidiary, Amazon Web Services (AWS). This dependence persists despite Amazon's long and well-documented record of violating workers' fundamental rights.

Amazon's consistent record of disrespect for workers' fundamental rights should disqualify it from being awarded public contracts – its behaviour is fundamentally inconsistent with the shared democratic values of our countries.

Amazon's record of abuse toward workers is well documented. Around the world, the company has repeatedly and aggressively suppressed union organizing, engaging in union-busting tactics whenever workers attempt to organize. It has refused to recognize unions formed through free and fair processes, and despite more than a decade of strikes in Germany, it continues to reject collective bargaining. In Quebec, when workers organized, Amazon chose to shut down its operations entirely, putting thousands out of work. In Australia, the company routinely silences workers by ignoring issues raised by union members, refusing to meet with their representatives, and retaliating against those who speak out about unfair dismissal, injury, discrimination, or harassment. In the United States, Amazon has refused to acknowledge workers' rights to organize even after unions have been lawfully certified, and it has gone so far as to challenge the constitutionality of labour law in both the United States and Canada to avoid common-sense collective bargaining.

Despite this, our governments continue to award Amazon billions in public contracts for cloud computing services underpinning critical public infrastructure. This pattern reveals a dangerous disconnect between public procurement practices and the democratic values our societies are meant to uphold, while creating unnecessary risks for public services.

We therefore call on our governments to act decisively and without delay:

1	Conduct a comprehensive review of all existing and planned contracts with Amazon and AWS.
2	Reform public procurement rules to require respect for workers' fundamental rights as a mandatory condition for contract eligibility.
3	Establish effective enforcement mechanisms to exclude companies that violate workers' rights from future public tenders.

Our governments must not reward corporations that undermine democracy, exploit workers, or erode public trust. Public funds should advance public values, not subsidize union busting or deepen our digital dependency on unaccountable corporate power.

Sincerely,

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