



# Executive Committee

Geneva, May 29-30, 2013

## ***Item 3: 26<sup>th</sup> Congress: The Organize, Fight and Win mandates in practice***

*(b) Occupational Health, Safety & Environment*

*(i) Hotel Chains Housekeepers' Campaign*

The IUF HRCT trade group has expressed deep concern about the welfare of hotel room attendants working in poor and often deteriorating conditions.

A survey carried out amongst IUF affiliates in 2010, and other studies conducted on the subject by affiliates point to serious problems faced by hotel room attendants.

In November 2012 the HRCT Trade Group Board mandated the secretariat to start a global campaign to protect room attendants' health by developing a campaign profile and brand built on the poor health of many room attendants following years on the job – amongst campaign branding ideas would be the notion of a “**hidden pandemic**” of broken bodies amongst the world's room attendant population.

Examples of campaign material will be shared with Executive Committee members.

More specifically a focus will be placed on **major hotel chains** and, whilst the campaign will be a generic campaign applicable to all room attendants, approaches to discuss the issue with major chains will be backed up by targeted and public criticism of selected major chains.

Targeting of major chains will in part be based on growing evidence of worsening strain on room attendants' health and safety linked to increased pressure around the number and sizes of rooms to be cleaned, the increasing weight of “branded” luxury bed mattresses and an ever-growing range of room amenities to be dealt with during cleaning.

The real risk of harassment by guests and supervisors facing particularly women room attendants will also feature in approaches to major chains.

Working closely with affiliates; it is anticipated that the campaign could become an effective union recruiting and organizing tool in the sector.