



## Human Rights Due Diligence – establishing a Centre for trade unions

Project Overview, September 2024

UNI Global Union (UNI) is working with project partners Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) and the German trade union confederation DGB to establish a Human Rights Due Diligence Competence Centre for trade unions.

### Background

With the recent adoption of human rights due diligence (HRDD) laws which will apply to large companies in Germany and across Europe, there are significant opportunities to improve respect for the human rights of workers globally. Within the global labour movement, there is substantial appetite to seize these opportunities yet there is a critical gap in resources to engage strategically with HRDD processes across multiple sectors globally. Global unions are uniquely positioned to bridge the needs of trade unions in the home countries of HRDD laws and unions in supply chains with high risks of human rights violations.

To meet these needs, UNI Global Union is leading the development of a Human Rights Due Diligence Competence Centre for trade unions, to focus on three core objectives:

1. **Capacity building** of trade union representatives, in both home countries with due diligence legislation (initially Germany) and in global supply chains to use the new corporate obligations on human rights due diligence to secure workers' rights.
2. **Providing trade union thought leadership on effective human rights due diligence.**
3. **Supporting strategic interventions using HRDD processes** to address & prevent worker rights violations.

The German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act has been in force since January 2023 and will be the initial focus for the Centre's activities, with the goal to expand the Centre's remit when the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) is implemented across EU member states from 2027 onwards.

### Milestones to establish the Centre

- **Training & consultation workshops with trade unions** in Africa, Asia-Pacific, the Americas, and Germany to raise awareness and gather feedback on the Centre's priorities.
- **Engagement with other HRDD experts** on the Centre's priorities & collaboration opportunities.
- **Consultation with global & national unions** to design the Centre's governance & organisation.
- **Outreach to potential funders** to explore co-funding opportunities.

GIZ is funding these initial activities with the goal of establishing the Centre from March 2025.

#### For more information

The project team welcomes engagement with all interested stakeholders. Please contact:

Miriam Neale, Project Manager: [miriam.neale@ext-uni.org](mailto:miriam.neale@ext-uni.org)

Alke Boessiger, UNI Global Union: [alke.boessiger@uniglobalunion.org](mailto:alke.boessiger@uniglobalunion.org)

Mirko Herberg, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung: [mirko.herberg@fes.de](mailto:mirko.herberg@fes.de)