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**GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**
40th session

UPR : Nigeria

Oral statement
À vérifier à l'audition

Mr. President,

This statement is made on behalf of the Europe-Third World Center (CETIM). My name is Diana Curiel and I am from IndustriALL Global Union, a union representing more than 50 million mining, energy and manufacturing workers in more than 140 countries.

Nigeria is failing to commit with its obligation to protect the rights of its citizens in the face of the many human rights violations committed by third parties, and in this particular case by a Dutch corporation called Shell.

In September last year, I joined an IndustriALL mission to Port Harcourt in Nigeria and witnessed first-hand the human rights violations of contract workers at Royal Dutch Shell, the largest transnational company operating in the Nigerian oil and gas industry. What we witnessed is that most, if not all, of Shell Nigeria's blue-collar workforce are contract workers, employed by a complex network of recruitment companies on behalf of Shell. Despite this, it is Shell that decides the wages, the health policy and the working conditions for the contract workers. At the same time, this is making it extremely difficult for workers to organize into trade unions.

Contract workers at Shell Nigeria are living in poverty, with very precarious wages, insufficient to have enough to eat and to afford to send their children to school.

The contract workers said they had no job security, and face dismissal if they join a union or ask for a pay rise. There is also a generalized lack of safety equipment. Moreover, health insurance is wholly inadequate, and workers are dying because they cannot afford proper health care.

Shell says it seeks to "work with contractors and suppliers who contribute to sustainable development and are economically, environmentally and socially responsible." However, this is clearly not the case at Shell Nigeria.

Shell is violating the human and labour rights of Nigerian workers with impunity, highlighting the urgent need for an international legally-binding instrument to regulate the activities of transnational companies. To this respect we also elaborated a written statement available in the website under the code A/HRC/40/NGO/148.

We urge the authorities in Nigeria to honor their commitment to human rights and international labour standards by taking action to ensure that Shell Nigeria respects the rights of workers working on its behalf, to safety, health, a decent income and freedom of association. We also call on the Human Rights Council to urge the Dutch government to hold Royal Dutch Shell to account for the many violations committed in Nigerian soil.

Thank you.

Geneva, 14th of March 2019