

Your Excellency
President Elect Iris Xiomara Castro Sarmiento

Dear Madam President:

We want to congratulate you for becoming the first woman to govern our country, and making history twice by also breaking through two party control of the country that installed an extractivist and neoliberal system and caused so much damage to our nation and our people.

That deterioration still endures but as organized workers we will contribute our struggle, experience and resilience so that Honduras can take the path of development and equality.

For years many abusive transnational companies have created extreme poverty among the working people, ignoring and violating labor law with impunity. One of them is Fyffes, which in Southern Honduras operates in the melon sector as Melon Export and SURAGROH.

At the international level, this company has seen the certification granted by Fair Trade USA annulled, it was expelled from the European Ethical Trade Initiative (ETI), denounced at ILO Conferences for its radical anti-unionism, and is one of the emblematic cases of labor violations in the "Complaint against the State of Honduras" within the framework of Chapter XVI of the DR-CAFTA Free Trade Agreement, for which the country could receive a harsh sanction.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Security (STSS) nefariously failed to enforce labor rights instead allowing this transnational to impose "yellow unions" or "puppet unions", represented by lower management who have negotiated agreements that leave 90 percent of the workers hired during the production season unprotected.

We hope this case receives all the necessary attention. We are ready and available to support the fairest solution that benefits all workers.

We reiterate our support for your government, which we have deeply supported since before you were elected, and our support for you, with whom we share a fight against the dictatorship and with whom we hold common goals and values.

We extend our fraternal greetings,

Tomás Membreño, President STAS
Joél Almdares, General Secretary CUTH
Gerardo Iglesias, Regional Secretary IUF
Berta Oliva, COFADEH Coordinator

Tegucigalpa, January 18, 2022