

317th Session of the ILO Governing Body, March 2013

**Institutional Section, Agenda Item 7:
Latest Developments in Fiji**

Statement of the United States Government

The United States remains deeply concerned about the situation regarding human and labor rights of workers in Fiji.

We recall that during the November Governing Body, the government of Fiji had confirmed its commitment to the ILO and had specifically expressed its willingness to re-engage with the ILO regarding the return of a direct contacts mission during the spring of 2013.

We profoundly regret that no progress has been made in rescheduling the mission and that the Government has chosen not to participate in this discussion of the Governing Body.

Once again the Government of Fiji appears to have squandered an important opportunity to clarify the facts on the ground and to assist it -- together with the social partners -- in finding appropriate solutions to the matters that have been raised before the ILO supervisory bodies.

The U.S. Government supports the point for decision proposed by the Officers of the Governing Body and we urge the Government of Fiji to take seriously the recommendations regarding Fiji's cooperation with the ILO and its procedures in the future.