

## **Joint Declaration on protective measures for workers and customers in the food retail sector during the Covid-19 pandemic**

The outbreak of Covid-19 has radically changed the personal, family and professional lives of millions of people in recent days.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has officially declared the new coronavirus a pandemic. The exponential increase in the number of those affected means that the world now faces an unprecedented health and economic emergency.

UNI Global Union and its food retail affiliates listed in the appendix to this Declaration, are aware that the employees in their sector are directly impacted by the global pandemic and that they play a vital role, not only in the economy, but also in the orderly organization and even survival of society.

Everyone recognizes that this exceptional situation calls for unprecedented cooperation between employers, workers and trade unions.

The companies that are signatories to this Declaration shall discuss with UNI measures to be introduced as of now to control the risks linked to Covid-19.

The parties shall keep each other informed of developments during this time. Furthermore, the stakeholders, union organizations and companies agree to examine the introduction of any practical and customized measures, based on good corporate practice from this or from other sectors, in order to prevent, reduce or remove the risk of contagion. UNI and the signatory companies recognize that during this period food retail is an essential service and that protecting employees is a top priority for the continued provision of that service.

Measures may cover the following areas:

- Improving national rules on hygiene and safety
- Health regulations for shops
- Social support for employees
- Support for employees with particular status (e.g. disabled workers, pregnant women)

International food retail companies, parties to this Declaration, and UNI Global Union Commerce and its national affiliates, undertake to work together to share best practice and to cooperate in countries where the local unions may be absent or poorly organized. If a safety issue arises, UNI Global Union shall inform the signatory companies