

Proposal for Worldskills International (WSI)

Worldskills for young professionals is one of the biggest international competitions in the world after the Summer Olympic Games and the FIFA World Cup for men, and the competitions are appreciated by many people all over the world.

The mission of Worldskills is showcasing the value of skills, raising the recognition of skilled professionals and elevating the status and quality of vocational education. One of the aims is to change the image of vocational education and the labour market. For this purpose, Worldskills arranges and participates in vocational competitions, both domestic and at the international level.

Worldskills is a global hub for skills excellence and development. Through international cooperation and development between industry, government, organisations, and institutions, Worldskills promotes the benefits of and the need for skilled professionals through grass-roots community projects, skill competitions and knowledge exchange.

Worldskills also shows how important education and training is for youth, industries and society by challenging young professionals around the world to become the best in the skill of their choice. But Worldskills also shows how it can prepare young people with skills and values prior to entering the labour market all over the world.

Skills are the foundation of modern life. Everything, from the houses we live in to the societies we create, is the result of skills. They are the driving force behind successful careers and companies, thriving industries and economies. Skills keep the world working.

Having the opportunity of arranging Worldskills competitions will give countries and companies a unique opportunity to invite the world to them. And it will also provide the opportunity for long-term and sustainable investments for many businesses, industries and sectors.

Worldskills can be an example of how such a large event can be built up on the basis of common values and respect of human rights in society and in the labour market. We think that responsible countries and enterprises base their operations on principles of consideration for humans and the environment and on a willingness to contribute to sustainable development. It would also be natural for members of Worldskills and for those countries who want to arrange the competitions to have such a sustainability focus.

In this aspect the ILO Conventions and the ILO Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN framework on business and human rights are valuable sources of information and should be respected. It is also important to recognise the value of other business-driven voluntary approaches such as for example corporate social responsibility (CSR) and the signing of global frameworks agreements between international companies and global trade union organisations.

With sustainability, including human rights, as a guiding principle, we are convinced that the future Worldskills competitions will be a memorable and historic experience for competitors, spectators, volunteers, businesses and sponsors.

We therefore propose that:

- ✓ WSI arrange the competitions with a focus on long-term sustainability from the point of view of climate and the environment as well as economically, socially and ethically.
- ✓ WSI General Assembly appoint a workgroup that will examine how sustainability goals should be included in the WSI rules and regulations, such as for example the standing orders and the code of ethics.

Worldskills Sweden

Pontus Slättman
Executive Director