

## Statement made by Sodexo: SEIU blocks negotiations on global agreement proposed to IUF<sup>1</sup> by Sodexo

**Paris, February 4, 2011** - Sodexo regrets the inability of the IUF to sign a global agreement as a result of pressure applied by the SEIU<sup>2</sup>, in spite of the major advances for social dialogue proposed by Sodexo, including:

- reinforcing the provision of information to employees on their rights to organize and bargain collectively,
- safeguarding the free and open circulation of information, opinions and expression relative to the right to unionize,
- the search for alternative means of labor-management dialogue in countries that do not recognize International Labor Organization core principles regarding union and collective bargaining rights,
- establishment of an annual meeting between Sodexo's senior management and union representatives from throughout the world, in particular to evaluate progress achieved in labor-management dialogue.

Sodexo's proposals were opposed by the SEIU, which blocked the agreement to serve its own interests as a means of gaining leverage in the smear campaign it has been waging against Sodexo. SEIU's campaign is aimed at making it the exclusive representative of Sodexo employees in the U.S., to the detriment of the other 33 American labor unions with which Sodexo already has signed 330 agreements.

SEIU's pursuit of its single country agenda is all the more regrettable in that it sacrifices the interests of employees in other countries who would have benefited from the progress in labor management relations assured by a global agreement.

Since its founding in 1966, Sodexo has always treated its employees' right to collective bargaining and free expression with the utmost seriousness and as an essential prerequisite to dialogue, internal unity and progress. Consistent with this philosophy, Sodexo has engaged in ongoing discussions with IUF for more than one year in order to reach a global agreement.

The complete text of Sodexo's proposal to IUF is available on line at [www.sodexo.com](http://www.sodexo.com).

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<sup>1</sup> International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers Associations, the global union federation which represents the majority of Sodexo employees belonging to a union.

<sup>2</sup> Service Employees International Union, an American union.

## About Sodexo

Quality of Life services play an important role in the progress of individuals and the performance of organizations. Based on this conviction, Sodexo serves as the strategic partner for companies and institutions that place a premium on performance and well-being, as it has since Pierre Bellon founded the company in 1966. Sharing the same passion for service, Sodexo's 380,000 employees, in 80 countries design, manage and deliver an unrivaled range of On-site Service Solutions and Motivation Solutions. Sodexo has created a new form of service business that contributes to the economic, social and environmental development of the communities, regions and countries in which it operates and to the fulfillment of its employees.

### Sodexo key figures (as of August 31, 2010)

- 15.3 billion** euro consolidated revenue
- 380,000** employees
- 34,000** sites
- 50 million** consumers served daily
- 80** countries
- 21<sup>st</sup>** largest employer worldwide
- 7.8 billion** euro market capitalization (on February 4, 2011)

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