



17th Congress of WFTU

A Message Of Hope And Optimism For The International Working Class

PAME took part in the 17th World Trade Union Congress of WFTU, which took place in Durban, South Africa on October 5-8. The Congress concluded with great success and high participation. 112 speakers took the floor to highlight the positive steps of WFTU the past five years. The Congress concluded with the election of the new leadership and the voting of the Platform of Action 2016-2020. During the Closing Ceremony thousands workers took place in a great rally to honour the 17th World Trade Union Congress.

At a time when the workers of the world face the brutal attack of the monopolies and the business groups, the imperialist interventions and wars, the success of the 17th World Trade Union Congress is a message of hope and optimism for the international working class. The open, democratic, and in comradely spirit proceedings of the Congress and most of all, its unanimous adoption of the 2016-2020 Platform are important steps for the international, class oriented workers' movement. They are a thorn in the body of imperialism and of the yellow unions, of the bureaucracy and reformism.

Based on this, we decided and choose to publish two important parts of the WFTU's General Secretary Introduction speech to the 17th World Trade Union Congress. The first part is on the role of the yellow trade union leaderships and the second on the role of most of the NGO's. Of course, the whole document is to be read and studied by all unionists and militants, because it is a good and useful tool for the class trade union movement.

Exposing the role of yellow trade union leaderships

Criticism against the yellow trade union leaderships was first established by Karl Marx in the Manifesto. Criticism for us has one and only purpose. To unite the workers based on their own interests. To unite the people and the workers based on imperialism and social inequality. Our criticism towards the yellow trade union leaderships aims to inform the workers so that they are not held captive in the muddy waters of yellow trade unionism.

We do not identify the ordinary workers and the ordinary trade unionists of the base with these yellow trade union leaderships. We try to bring them closer to our smaller and bigger struggles. This is our strategy.



With this perspective we criticize ITUC today.

The criticism we make aims to help the trade unionists in the base of the trade unions to realize the truth. We aim to help them realize that the interest of the international working class and the interest of the trade union movement itself is to rally on the side of the WFTU, on the side of the militant trade union movement. To stand up against the yellow trade unionism.

- The leadership of ITUC has a deep antidemocratic operation. Antidemocratic and authoritarian. See for example its tactic in the ILO, in the Head Office in Geneva and the Regional Offices in all continents. They are an enemy of proportional representation. They cultivate the perception that they are monopolizing the trade union movement. They do not stand the democracy of pluralism. The democracy of the different opinion. The tactic of ITUC is severely undemocratic.
- The leadership of ITUC under the table has allied itself with all the objectives of the imperialists of USA, of NATO and their allies. Remember the positions of the leadership of ITUC in all the imperialist wars. Which was their position in the war against Yugoslavia? Which was their position in the war against Iraq? Which was their position in the war of Israel against Lebanon? Which is their position for Syria? For Mali? For Venezuela? Always on the arms of the imperialists. Is it accidental? No! The leadership of ITUC is partially guilty for the millions of refugees, of victims, of migrants.
- The leadership of ITUC divides trade unions, interferes in the internal function of the trade unions who do not surrender in the yellow trade unionism! See the interventions in ICATU, the interventions in the internal affairs of the trade unions in India. The leadership of ITUC fosters corruption in the leadership of the trade unions with various seminars and the use of different Institutes. They buy out trade unionists who bend their neck, they buy out their consciousness.
- The leadership of ITUC promotes reformism and class-collaboration inside the working class. They deny the basic Marxist principle that the history of societies is a history of class struggles and at the same time they try to put make up on the capitalist system and present exploitation as good. Ultimately who benefits from such trade union practices and corrupt of consciousness?

Those who benefit are the capitalists, the multinationals, the antilabour governments who want a trade union movement imprisoned in class collaboration and surrendered to the God of capitalist profit. We criticize the leadership of ITUC because it is our responsibility to help the workers to build their own independent, militant, class-oriented and internationalist trade unions fighting against imperialism and capitalist barbarity.

George Mavrikos
WFTU General Secretary



Over the last years, this new “fruit” called NGO’s has mushroomed everywhere. Only in the USA there are 85,000 NGO’s according to media reports. In each country they appear as a new form of organizing. They are hundreds and thousands of them. The leaderships of such NGO’s project the theory that they could replace the role of the trade unions. The real NGO’s are, however, very few. It is a minor majority of them which is clean. The vast majority of the NGO’s are dirty, mechanisms of corruption of money and consciousness. Many NGO’s are puppets of Governments and secret services. For us as WFTU no NGO, even real one, can replace the crucial role and mission of the workers trade union Organizations.

Our position is a correct ideological approach and it is not right for the unions to allow space for corrupted mechanisms to wander within them and trap workers in classless pseudo-theories.

George Mavrikos
WFTU General Secretary

Our Criticism to the NGO’s



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