

MAIN RESOLUTION

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Action Plan 2013



Presidential Council

March 6-8, Lima Peru 2013

The Presidential Council meet in a crucial period for the International Working Class and evaluated the course of implementation of the resolutions of the Congress and the Presidential Council Meetings, analyzed further the developments in international level for the working class in all Continents and formed a plan of action for the years 2013-2014.

The Presidential Council concluded that the conditions of the international capitalist crisis in capitalist economy that continues to generate poverty for the Peoples and riches for the few. A larger number of developing countries have undergone into a deep recession. The impact on the developing countries is increasing. The anemic and temporary recovery of 2009 was followed by the deepening of the crisis, while the forecasts for the next two years are negative. The high percentages of unemployment, the escalating food prices, the privatizations in all fields, the imperialist wars due to the intensification of the competition for the dominance and the control of the wealth-producing resources particularly in the Middle East and Africa are some of the crucial problems affecting the working class and the popular strata.

In **Europe**: Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Ireland are in the midst of the capitalist crisis. France also faces problems. The European Union is suffering from internal competition for the mixture of policy to be implemented: more austerity or more funding of the monopolies. None of the two choices will solve the workers' problems. The European Union remains an alliance that supports the European capital in its competition with the economies of USA, China and the BRICS. The percentages of unemployment in Europe are high and reach the $\frac{1}{4}$ of the active population and the $\frac{1}{2}$ of the young workers. High taxation, salary cuts, attack against the social security and the trade union rights, privatizations of the public enterprises, aggressiveness of the state suppression and the employers' ruthless policy.

In **Africa** the tremendous wealth could sufficiently cover the vital needs in infrastructure, materials for the agricultural production, transport, telecommunications, energy. However, the raw materials, the minerals, the oil, the uranium, the gold, the diamonds, the forests, the fishery and the land are being exploited by the monopolies and the local bourgeois class while the peoples and the Working class of the African countries are suffering from acute problems. Low life expectancy, high unemployment especially for the young people, lack of access to drinking water, high illiteracy, inadequate housing and slums, delay in the electrification and significant problems in the power supply, European and American cartels in the pharmaceutical industry perpetuating the diseases. All those issues together with the imperialist aggressiveness and the armed conflicts lead to high labour migration and great numbers of refugees.

In **Asia** the situation of the Working class creates many difficulties for the satisfaction of the basic needs. Millions of workers live with wages of \$2 per day, the child labour is a generalized phenomenon, the price hike in the basic food supplies, the discrimination against working women is a daily phenomenon in the work places and the social relations, the murderous lack of safety measures at the work places are causing deadly accidents. At the same time the multinationals, the monopoly groups are gaining tremendous amounts of profits. The capitalist exploitation is intensified and at the same time it intensifies the class contradictions. The state violence is used to terrorize the workers and prevent the strengthening of class struggles. The murder of strikers a few days ago in Ampala, India,

the persecutions of the Malaysian trade unionists, the dismissals in Bangladesh and the employers' crimes at the work places of Pakistan etc. reaffirm this position.

In **Latin America and the Caribbean**, the socialist Cuba continues to encourage the People that stand up against imperialism and the multinationals. Latin America is a region rich in wealth-producing resources. Its natural subsoil rich in minerals, oil, natural gas and the agricultural production form positive conditions for the struggles of the people and the workers.

Great contradictions remain between the very rich and the very poor, the salaries remain in very low levels while important struggles are unfolding for the land like in Paraguay. The murderous policy and the complete violation of the trade union rights in Colombia and the coup in Honduras are very negative aspects. The embargo and the pressures of the USA against Cuba create complex difficulties and obstacles for the socialist construction. The Cuban Five remain imprisoned in the USA prisons.

At the same time the cooperation between the Governments of Venezuela, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Brazil, Chile, Argentina with Cuba creates an optimism to the workers that imperialism is not undefeatable.

In **Central America**, the work of the trade unions of the WFTU is developed within a general framework in most cases, except Nicaragua, hostile, repressive and of violation of individual and trade union freedoms. The arrest, prosecution, imprisonment, threats and murders, are constant in countries like Honduras after the coup, in Panama with strikes and social movements, not least in Guatemala, El Salvador and Costa Rica. When organizing and strengthening the action of the WFTU and the progressive and revolutionary class struggle against anti-labor governments and policies in defense of labor, economic, social and political rights, the response are attacks with brute force and the repression and assassination of trade union leaders. Anti-labor governments also undermine freedom, independence and class-oriented trade union democracy when trade union leaders of the base are elected, and then they are under subterfuge intimidated and ignored, in order to be supplanted by other pro-government corrupt leaderships, very well known in these countries for selling all kinds of movements, demonstrations or strikes. They serve the interest of the big capital and the government purposes, weakening and dividing the workforce. Now, in order to operate more successfully and overcome these obstacles, it is urgent and necessary to review the working methods, promote labor unity from other perspectives from the bottom or the base, deepen the knowledge, training and participation of the national leadership and the sectors. At the same time also to promote, expand and deepen the participation of women, youth, pensioners, elderly people. To improve the organizational structures of the WFTU in each country, creating permanent consultative participatory coordinating committees of the organization.

In **North America**, the decline in membership in U.S. unions continues. The decline in the past was mostly in the industrial areas, but, now with the implementation of the international anti-labor policies by the U.S. federal and state governments, the decline is now severely affecting trade unions in the public services. The 2012 elections have not changed anything; and, in fact, things are getting worse. Financials deals being made in Congress and the White House will make things worse for the working class and the popular strata. They will encourage more privatization, part time work and unemployment, greater

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payments by workers for their health care and pensions.

The barbaric international capitalist economic and financial crisis which grips Europe and other parts of the world, is also hitting working class people and small shop owners in the U.S. just as great. There are great examples of workers fighting back on the West Coast long shore and bus operators on the East Coast but, that rank and file fight back is not being met with top labor leadership response. Important trade union struggles have been organized in many parts of the world and in significant working places but it has become obvious that the trade union movement is lacking behind the expectations of the times and of the working class, with leaderships especially in Europe and the USA that weaken and sell-out the struggles in favor of the interests of the big-business owners cultivating defeatism and fatalism to the labour masses. Large trade union organizations mainly in Europe and the USA are held captive in the lines of opportunism, have leaderships that are corrupt, support the imperialist wars and finally become enemies to the interests of the working class.

In this situation, the WFTU believes that the enhancement and strengthening of the class orientation in the trade union movement, the rise of the participation of the workers in the unions, the strengthening of the decisive struggles of clash with the employers and the reactionary governments is the only way forward for the workers. In this path the strengthening of the WFTU has a major positive impact.

In the region of the wider **Middle East**, the situation for the working class remains difficult with high unemployment, poverty for the people and imperialist wars. The state violence and the employers oppression in Turkey, in countries of the Persian Gulf and the region of the North Africa intensify the problems for the Arab workers.

The situation for the workers in Palestine, in Lebanon, in Syria, in Iraq are even more difficult because of the imperialist aggressiveness.

ON THE REPORT OF 2012

The Presidential Council discussed and approved the Secretariat's Report of Action for the year 2013 which proved the the implementation of all the resolutions of the Presidential Council Meeting on February 2012 in South Africa.

More specifically the Presidential Council:

- **approve and welcomed in the WFTU trade union family new members that applied for affiliation during 2012.** The affiliation of new members confirms our upward course. It reconfirms that we are doing positive steps. It gives a new impetus in our ranks. Since the last Presidential Council **61 new trade union organizations** have applied for affiliation to the WFTU. This proves the prestige and the recognition WFTU is enjoying.
- Positively evaluated the 4th consecutive **International Action Day** which rased crucial demands for the workers such as food, water, books, medicine, housing for all. An action against the activity of the monopolies that plunder the wealth-producing resources. A very successful demonstration was organized by our members outside

the FAO Offices in Italy against the high food prices.

- Marks that in the **International Labour Organization** we continued our presence expressing the positions of the WFTU. Important activities with the biggest participation until now were organized in the framework in June during the ILO 101st Conference on the subjects of the multinationals action, the Palestinians struggle as well as the annual meeting of the WFTU friends. The monopoly in the ILO remains, the lack of democracy and representativeness is enhanced.
- Recognized that **Regional Meetings** were organized in 2012-2013 in all continents with a large participation from many countries. A meaningful discussion and important resolutions for the plan of action were taken.
- Recognized that the **Congresses of FISE** and the **TUI Energy** were organized in Venezuela, Latin America which elected new leadership and resolute to new duties for the Sectoral organizations of the WFTU. We thank the comrades from Venezuela that hosted this two Congresses in Caracas.
- Positively evaluates that in the field of the **Trade Union Education** we made big steps but we still have great needs. We held two courses of multi-member trade union schools of the WFTU for trade unionists from Africa and Central and Latin America. We held dozens of trade union seminars in many countries of all the continents, we prepared historical books and trade union manuals.
- Underlines that the project plan “**The WFTU for Africa – Africa for the WFTU**” was implemented with great decisiveness which was reaffirmed with the great participation at the 2nd Panafrican Meeting of the WFTU members in Sudan, 4-6 February 2013. The Regional office in South Africa is moving towards the embracing of all the English-speaking Africa, while the Francophone trade unions took a decision to support the opening of a Regional Office in Gabon. The Presidential Council Meeting endorsed comrade **Etienne Mousavou**, Member of the Presidential Council as in charge of the coordination of the Office which will further enhance the work of the WFTU in the African Continent.
- Recognizes that regarding the front against the **imperialist aggressiveness** against the USA, the NATO and the countries of the European Union, the WFTU Secretariat supported and cultivated an important spirit exposing the real causes of the developments in Syria, in Mali, in South Africa etc. and continued the solid solidarity with the people that struggle, like the Palestinian people. E.g we called for an International Day of Action on April 17th, 2012 for the release of all the Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli jails.
- Positively evaluates the special care of WFTU for the young workers which was continued in 2012 with the organizing of the **2nd Conference for the Working Youth in Cuba** on April 2012 where a Secretariat of the International Youth Committee of the WFTU was elected. Various regional meetings have been organized.

ABOUT THE REGIONAL OFFICES

The Presidential Council Meeting discussed and evaluated the role and action of the WFTU Regional Offices and concluded to decisions which will enhance the presence of the WFTU in the various Continents and Regions in the spirit of the resolutions of the 16th World Trade Union Congress. In particular:

- In complex conditions the Regional Office of the WFTU in Europe (EUROF) has important action and despite the negative correlation of forces takes initiatives.
- The Regional Office in South Africa is functioning and has positive impact in the African Continent. With the opening and the functioning of the Regional Office in Gabon the action of the WFTU in Africa will be further improved.
- The Regional Office in Asia is facing difficulties in its functioning and action.
- The Regional Office of Latin America and the Caribbean after the 16th Congress continues to have rich action in all levels. In the expression of internationalist solidarity, in education, in the assistance towards the sub-Regional Offices. It supports the sectoral initiatives and has daily close contact with the Central Offices in Athens. A result of this positive action are the new affiliation requests that we have in the Continent.
- The Regional Office of the Middle East has objectively difficulties in its functioning since the organs of imperialism and the mercenaries of the external intervention create problems of survival for the Syrian people.

The Presidential Council took into consideration the increasing needs for action and coordination as well as the new possibilities of the WFTU and approved the Opening of a Regional Office in the French-Speaking Africa with its Member, comrade Etienne Mousavou as Coordinator of the Office.

Furthermore, the Presidential Council authorized the Secretariat to explore the possibilities of opening an office in Moscow, Russia responsible for the countries of the former Soviet Union.

The two new offices will be two new important, positive steps towards the development of the WFTU.

ABOUT THE TRADE UNION INTERNATIONALS (TUIS)

With the participation and the views of the Heads of the Sectoral Organizations (TUIs), the Presidential Council Meeting jointly discussed, analyzed and evaluated the action of the TUI's and took binding decisions for immediate implementation for the harmonizing of the TUI's action with the upward course of the WFTU in favor of the international working class and the strengthening of its struggles in the sectors of strategic interest and all the sectors without exception.

Positive stems have been made by many TUI's. Despite the positive steps, however there continue to be serious delays, stagnation and problems in specific TUI's. In the period to come, the organizational difficulties and the weak presence of the TUI's in the working places, in the industries, the lack of sectoral struggles, of coordination in inter-sectoral level, national and international must be decisively confronted.

We must widen our knowledge of the developments in each sector, we must always have

objective information for the changes that take place.

We must build a project a platform of demands that will strike the heart of the capitalist exploitation and will provide a way-out and a perspective in favor of the workers.

FOR THE ACTION PLAN 2013

Based on the positive experience of the last two years since the 16th Congress of the WFTU, on the great needs of the international working class for the strengthening of the class-oriented trade union movement and the substantial possibilities of the WFTU, the Presidential Council concluded to an 2013 an ambitious, rich, modern and militant plan of action, to be jointly implemented by the sectoral organizations, the regional offices.

Specifically the Presidential Council authorizes the Secretariat to implement the following Action Plan for the year 2013.

1) International Action Day on October 3rd under the slogan: “We march militantly on the streets and we demand food, water, education, medicine, housing for all”. We propose to continue with the demands which we had promoted in 2012. We should continue with new forms, with open demonstrations. We should pay attention to the struggle against privatizations in the WATER sector. It is a crucial and very serious issue in many countries.

2) May 1st 2013: Central slogan of the WFTU “Forward for 21st Century’s Chicago”. For labor, wage, social security rights that cover our modern necessities. Every organization, along with its own slogans, should raise the slogan of the WFTU.

3) Meetings of the WFTU Regional Offices

- **Africa:** Khartoum, Sudan, February 4-6 2013 (was held with great success, 37 countries took part)
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** April 29 2013, Havana, Cuba (a 2nd meeting in the region might be needed)
- **North America:** July or August, Los Angeles, CA, USA
- **Asia – Pacific:** Malaysia, Summer 2013
- **Europe:** in the Czech Republic
- **And the Middle East**

4) TUI Congresses and Preparatory meetings

- i) **April 16-17, Vishakpatnam, India:** TUI Metal Preparatory Meeting
- ii) **June 2013, Nepal:** TUI Public Services Congress
- iii) **TUI Transport:** Preparatory Meeting in Athens

5) 2013 Trade Union Training – Seminars

- a) **WFTU Seminars**
 - i) **June 2013, Uganda:** Mass Media seminar
 - ii) **Guyana :** Hotel and Tourism

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- iii) **Lao and Cambodia:** English language / IT
- iv) **Congo:** In headquarters, trade union formation seminar for 15 trade unionists from Congo on the basis of the Athens Pact.
- v) **Kazakhstan:** The right to Trade Unionism, Trade Union Liberties, Collective Bargaining
- vi) **September 2013, Athens:** In headquarters trade union seminar for Danish young trade unionists.
- vii) **With the UITBB TUI:** Seminar about the impact of asbestos.
- viii) **Havana, Cuba:** Three trade union seminars by the Regional Office and the CTC.

b) In cooperation with the ILO 2013

- i) **May 16-17, 2013, Bulgaria:** Labor rights for domestic workers
- ii) **May 2013 Poland:** Collective Bargaining
- iii) **June 20-21, 2013, Pakistan:** Occupational accidents, work related diseases
- iv) **September 6-7, 2013, Rwanda:** Rural employment
- v) **October 24-25 2013, Nigeria:** Local development for poverty reduction. (In cooperation with OATUU)
- vi) **December 9-10 2013, Spain:** Youth unemployment
- vii) **Iraq:** Safety and health at work

c) In cooperation with UNESCO

- i) **October, Gabon:** Africa: Education: “The key to the region’s development”.
- ii) **Uganda:** Against illiteracy. Education for all the children. (in cooperation with FISE)

d) In cooperation with ACFTU China

- i) **March 25 – April 3:** Delegation of 15 women trade unionists from the Arab World affiliates of WFTU. Theme of the Seminar is “The Role of working women in national and international trade union movement”.
- ii) **November:** Delegation of Latin American Young Trade Unionists

6) WFTU delegation visit to Mali, Africa.

7) International Conferences – Meetings

- i) **Trade Union Forum of Beijing:** In cooperation with ACFTU, ICATU and OATUU we continue for the 7th year to organize the International Trade Union Forum of Beijing.
- ii) **May 13-14 2013, Brussels, Belgium:** Economic migrants, their rights.
- iii) **July of 2013, South Africa:** Meeting of the African Youth
- iv) **September 2013, Cyprus:** Young workers camping. Lectures on working youth.
- v) **October 28-29, Brussels, Belgium:** International Meeting of trade unionists from ex- socialist countries of Europe.
- vi) **Bahrain:** International meeting on “The trade union movement in Southeast

Asia”.

vii) Athens: Preparatory meeting for working women, with the objective to prepare the World Conference of Working Women in India.

viii) Regional Working Center of Larisa, Greece: Event about Food, products' prices, cost of production, with the participation workers and farmers. Social alliance.

ix) Events of internationalist Solidarity

1. **Middle East:** Lebanon, Syria, Palestine
2. **Latin America:** Free the Cuban 5
3. **Africa:** Imperialist interventions
4. **Asia:** Workers of the textile industry of Bangladesh – Immigrants: Sri Lanka
5. **Europe:** Economic migrants from third world countries in Europe. Internationalism – solidarity.

8) Activities during the 102nd ILC 5-21 June 2013

As every year the following activities will take place in Geneva during the 102nd ILC:

- i) Preparatory Meeting of members and friends of the WFTU
- ii) (Informal) Presidential Council - Council of friends.
- iii) International Conference: The role of the IMF and the World Bank and the response of the Trade Unions
- iv) 2nd International Meeting: Multinationals and the role of the Trade Unions

9) Finances - Fees

Our financial situation is difficult. Until today, only 4 organizations-affiliates to the WFTU have paid their fees for 2013. Bahrain, Syria, PAME, Bangladesh. Action requires financial strength. The bad financial situation of the WFTU generates difficulties for its action. We call on the members of the WFTU to contribute their fees.

10) Branch Institute in Egypt

We should operate an office in Egypt, in cooperation with ETUF, which aims at the study of the main branches in Africa. Assistance in matters of Labor Relations and Trade Union Education

11) Preparation for the 70th anniversary of the WFTU in 2015

- We must continue the effort to repossess the archives of the WFTU. We should preserve what we already have. It must be open to historians, students etc. With the opportunity of the 70th anniversary of the WFTU, we should start the efforts for the safekeeping and utilization of the WFTU archives.
- In 2015 we celebrate 70 years since the founding of the WFTU. We must prepare big events. We must honor the 70 years anniversary. Books and articles should be published, videos and every positive thing should be done for the anniversary.
- We should plan the publication of an anniversary album for the 70 years of the WFTU, containing photos and audiovisual content.
- We should try to have stamps published about this historic event.

- We should investigate the possibility to create an International Research Center of the WFTU, which will study, analyze and promote the positions of the WFTU.

Action Plans from Regional Offices and TUIs

All the Regional Offices and all the TUIs have, in addition, their own plan of action for 2013. It's sure that their programs strengthen the action of the WFTU in all the sectors, in all the Continents, in every country. The combination and the coordination in all levels will help the overall image of the WFTU and will strengthen the class-oriented trade union movement.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The Presidential Council with optimistic that the Action of the WFTU, the action of the Regional Offices and the TUI's will shine in 2013 and we all will jointly move forward, appeals to all the members and friends of the WFTU to project in their respective countries the efforts and the positive steps of the WFTU, to inform the workers, to publish the WFTU news in newspapers and the trade union publications, to circulate the news to websites and other forms of communication.

We appeal to all members and friends, in your national and sectoral Congresses to invite the WFTU, to invite the friends and members of the WFTU in order to make use of all the opportunities for exchange of experience and coordination of action.

All of us together will continue our internationalist course guided by the resolutions of the 16th World Trade Union Congress.

THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL



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