

Report of Action 2011

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Monthly report of WFTU activities in 2011-WFTU Posters and Publications

APPENDIX :
2011 Report and Assessment of the 16th World Trade Union Congress

ACTION! ACTION! ACTION!



VI Presidential Council

February 9-10, 2012, Johannesburg, South Africa

Dear comrades

The year 2011 was an historic year of major importance for the WFTU and the world's trade union movement. The year was marked by the holding of the 16th World Trade Union Congress held in Athens on April 2011 and moves on forward thanks to the contribution of you all. This historic class-oriented Congress for its record of participations, the democratic-open proceedings and the adopted Resolutions opened new roads, new horizons and new prospects for the global working class; at the same time we all have in front of us new, great and heavy duties. The assessment of the Secretariat on this event you may read on the special APPENDIX.

Thirty six trade union organizations from all over the world were affiliated to the WFTU during the year.

At our Presidential Council to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa on February, 9-10, 2012, we will review and analyze our activities over the past year. We will seek to build on the positive points and find ways to address any areas of weakness.

JANUARY

- 6-9: 7th PUDEMO General Congress held in South Africa. WFTU was represented by Sikhumbuzo Phakathi, from the International Department of CEPPWAWU and member of WFTU Youth Secretariat to express internationalist solidarity with PUDEMO and the People of Swaziland.
- 31: The National Union of Rail, Maritime & Transport Workers (RMT) organized in London an International Conference on "Future public transport: Nationalization not Privatization". WFTU was represented by Valentin Pacho, Deputy General Secretary of WFTU.

FEBRUARY

- 9-10: Meeting between the leadership of the WFTU and the Executive Secretariat of the sectoral organization UITBB (Trade Union International of Workers in the Building, Wood, Building Materials and Allied Industries), held in Athens, Greece. The WFTU General Secretary and the members of Secretariat Valentin Pacho- Artur Sequeira participated in the meeting that debated on the outcome of the last UITBB congress held in Brazil and discussed about the situation of the construction sector and its major problems which is UNEMPLOYMENT. In addition, the meeting decided to conduct joint initiatives on issues of safety and health at workplaces and the economic migrants.
- 9-18: United Nations DPI –NGO Conference for "Social Development" held in New York. WFTU was represented by WFTU Permanent Representative at the UN, Dr. Frank Goldsmith.
- 15-16: TUI Transport organized the International Transport Conference in Cyprus. WFTU was represented by its General Secretary George Mavrikos.
- 22: 55th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women held in New York. WFTU represented by comrade Lorena Jaime Bueno. The main subject of the Conference was Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work.
- 23-25: FUNTRAENERGETICA Congress held in Colombia. WFTU represented by its General Secretary, George Mavrikos.
- 24-25: The founding BIFU Congress was successfully convened held in New Delhi, India hosted by AIBEA on the coordination of CH Venkatachalam. WFTU was represented by the members of the Secretariat Valentin Pacho and H. Mahadevan. The spontaneous response of 35 trade union organizations and 167 delegates to attend the new effort underlined the appropriateness of the WFTU's decision to found an exclusive TUI for the banking, insurance and financial sector.

MARCH

- 3-25: 310th Session of the ILO Governing Body held in Geneva. WFTU was represented by Osiris Oviedo de la Torre, WFTU Permanent Representative in ILO.
- 8-9: GUPW Palestine held a Seminar on Working Women. Women from different countries exchanged their experiences and views on the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work. WFTU was represented by

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comrade Chrisoula Lampoudi from PAME.

- 12-13: The 13th Triennial National Conference of Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) was held in Chandigarh, India and our organization was represented by General Secretary. During his three day visit to India, the General Secretary had series of official meetings in New Delhi with the Central Secretariat of CITU. With enthusiasm and comradely spirit the leadership of CITU presented the resolution of CITU's affiliation to WFTU. A militant and massive trade union organization of India joins WFTU which becomes stronger and more militant.
- 14: WFTU General Secretary, George Mavrikos visited Portugal and had bilateral meetings with trade unionists of Portugal.

APRIL

- 5: Within a comradely and fraternal atmosphere, the Presidential Council of WFTU was held in Athens, Greece, where the final preparations for the congress were debated. The President of WFTU, Muhammad Shaaban Azouz, underlined in his speech capitalism's destructive consequences all over the world and the disunity that has been brought in between the peoples by the imperialistic ferocity with one and only goal, to profit. The Secretary of WFTU stated that through the successful processing of the open, democratic, class oriented congress of WFTU, the goal that should be achieved is the giving of answers and the revival of the workers' hopes. The President also pointed out that the success of the Congress is a duty of all the participants and a duty towards the expectations of the workers all over the world. The members of the presidential council within an atmosphere of unity and internationalism committed themselves to intensify their efforts concerning the defense of the working class' rights and interests around the world.
- 6-10: See the attached APENDIX Secretariat Assessment on the 16th Congress
- 26: Activities of the WFTU friends in Tunisia and of the WFTU Committee of the Young Workers held in Tunisia. The international day against the imperialism, a conference was held with the participation of young workers and students. Meetings were held also with workers and young people. The WFTU General Secretary, George Mavrikos, with his visit expressed the WFTU solidarity with the struggles of the workers and the people in Tunisia.
- 27-28: International Forum on Economic Globalization and Trade Unions held in Beijing organized by ACFTU. This forum saw the participation of tens of delegates from many countries. The WFTU was represented by a high level delegation headed by its General Secretary, George Mavrikos.

MAY

- 1: With big success May Day 2011 was celebrated in Havana, Cuba. A large delegation of WFTU led by Joao Batista, Vice President of the WFTU attended the celebrations.
- 14-18: 38th Arab Labor Organization Conference held in Cairo, Egypt. WFTU was represented by comrades Alexandra Lymperi & Mohammed Iqnaibi, WFTU Representative for Palestine, Advisor on Arab Issues.
- 18: A mountaineering team led by com. Surath Pokhrel from Nepal Government Employee's Organisation (NEGEO) one of the CONEP affiliates, laid WFTU and CONEP flags on the top of Mt Everest, the highest peak of the World and celebrated the 66th WFTU anniversary.
- 19: The WFTU General Secretary made an official visit to Rome on May 17 and 18, 2011 at the invitation of USB. During the visit important bilateral discussions were held on the importance of 16th World Trade Union Congress held in Athens, on the state of the class oriented trade union movement in Europe, the role of TNC's and the need to strengthen the sectoral organizations of WFTU. The discussions took place in a brotherly spirit and the optimist prevailed that the fraternal relations between USB and WFTU will become closer.
- 19: WFTU published a statement on ILO referring equal – proportional representation, democracy and transparency at all levels and supporting the nomination of ACFTU in the elections of Governing Body for a Titular Member.
- 31: WFTU planned for the ILC annual Session in Geneva, Switzerland and organized a Preparatory Meeting for the participation in the 100th ILC.

JUNE

- 1-17: 100th International Labour Conference held in Geneva. The WFTU had a strong delegation that took part actively in all meetings and commissions headed by its General Secretary George Mavrikos.
- 3: A high level WFTU delegation met Director General of ILO, Mr. Juan Somavia and ACTRAV Director Mr. Dan Cunniah. They discussed about the ILO Monopoly and they asked equal – proportional representation, democracy and

transparency at all levels.

- 7: The WFTU organized the Informal Presidential Council and Council of Friends in the framework of the 100th ILC. WFTU affiliated and friends from more than 30 countries took part in this initiative. The General Secretary presented in his introductory speech and more than 30 speakers that took the floor provided proposals for the strengthening of WFTU in all countries.

WFTU also printed the poster “STOP THE MONOPOLY WITHIN THE ILO” asking equal – proportional representation, democracy and transparency at all levels.

- 8: WFTU General Secretary, George Mavrikos addressed the Plenary Session in the 100th International Labour Conference in Geneva.
- 15-16: 25th FTCCP Congress held in Peru. WFTU was represented by comrade Jose Ortiz, Member of the WFTU Presidential Council from Chile.
- 17-19: The Communist Party of Ukraine organized its Congress in Ukraine. WFTU was represented by Igor Urrutikoetxea, General Secretary of TUI Metal. During his visit there comrade Igor had bilateral meetings with trade unionists from Eastern European countries from the Metal Sector.
- 20-27: 3rd Conference of the UISTA ACT held in Paris, France. The WFTU was represented by Dr. Elsadig Ali, Member of the Secretariat of SWTUF of Sudan and Ramon Cardona responsible for the Regional Office of WFTU in Latin America.

JULY

- 1-2: 4th Ordinary General Assembly of KESK held in Ankara, Turkey. WFTU was represented by comrades Mohammed Iqnaibi & Ferchat Toum. The WFTU Representative for Palestine, Advisor on Arab Issues Mohamed Iqnaibi addressed a greeting message to the General Assembly of KESK.
- 11-13: UITBB organized a Seminar on Labour Migration in Douala, Cameroun. WFTU was represented by Valentin Pacho, WFTU Deputy General Secretary.

AUGUST

- 3: The World Federation of Trade Unions continuing its long lasting solidarity with the Palestinian people and its resistance against the occupation announces the launching of an international campaign for the recognition of the Palestinian State with the 1967 borders and East Jerusalem as its capital. The WFTU demands: The end of the settlements and the withdrawal of all settlers who have settled across the borders of 1967; the demolition of the separation wall in Jerusalem; all the Palestinian refugees to be granted the right to return to their homes, based on the relevant decisions of the UN; the elimination of any exclusion against the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza strip; the immediate release of imprisoned Palestinians and other political prisoners kept in the Israeli prisons; the withdrawal of the Israeli army from all the occupied territories of the 1967, including the Golan Heights and the Shebaa area of Southern Lebanon.

A huge number of trade union organizations from all over the world took part in this WFTU campaign by sending solidarity messages.

- 18-19: comrade Valentin Pacho, Dep. Gen. Sec. held two meetings of WFTU affiliates, one in Guatemala and on 22-23 August in Honduras
- 25-27: 4th Nuestra America Meeting held in Nicaragua with the presence of more than 300 trade unionists from 134 organizations in 27 countries of America. Comandante Daniel Ortega, President of Nicaragua, was present at the closing ceremony. Before the start of the meeting, the WFTU held a meeting of affiliates and friends with the presence of WFTU Deputy General Secretary Valentin Pacho, Ramon Cardona from the Regional Office of Latin America and several WFTU Vice-presidents from the region.
- 31: 4th National Congress of CEPPWAWU held in Durban, South Africa. WFTU was represented by Swadesh Dev Roye, WFTU Deputy General Secretary.

Also, a seminar on Safety and Health at work organized by WFTU in South Africa. WFTU was represented by Swadesh Dev Roye, WFTU Deputy General Secretary

SEPTEMBER

- 3-5: 64th Annual United Nations Conference for Non-Governmental Organizations associated with the Department of Public Information, on the theme “Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens”. The WFTU was represented by

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comrade Frank Goldsmith, WFTU Permanent Representative for the UN. Comrade Goldsmith was appointed to co-chair the afternoon workshops during the Conference and he actively participated in the preparations for the Conference throughout the year.

- 10: CONAT Congress held in Argentine. WFTU was represented by Jose Ortiz, Member of the WFTU Presidential Council from Chile.
- 13-14: WFTU organized an International Conference in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France on “The developments in North Africa and Middle East-Imperialist aggressiveness. Internationalism and Solidarity-The role of Trade Union Movement”. The WFTU was represented by its General Secretary and the members of Secretariat. Representatives of trade union organizations from Libya, Algeria, Palestine, Iran, South Africa, Senegal, RD Congo, France, Portugal, Greece, Peru, Cuba, India, Sudan and the International Confederation of the Arab Trade Unions (ICATU) etc. participated in the International Conference of WFTU and unanimously agreed on resolutions regarding the developments in Libya, Syria, Egypt, Palestine, Swaziland.
- 13-14: Trade Union Seminar organized by WFTU on Struggle for the Young Generation in Strasbourg, France
- 22: An International Action Day in solidarity with the Greek people and their struggles against the strangling antilabor measures being implemented on the excuse of the international capitalist economic crisis by the European Union and the Greek government, organized by the Colombian WFTU Team.

WFTU Deputy General Secretary, Valentin Pacho addressed the workers of the chemical factory “Papoutsanis” in Athens, where the union called a strike for an hour to endorse the campaign.

Also, the WFTU General Secretary and Member of the Parliament George Mavrikos intervened in the discussion of the Greek Parliament on the new austerity measures adopted by the Greek government. Those measures, among others include the dismissal of 30,000 civil servants and deep cuts in the pensions and salaries of workers. George Mavrikos greeted from the Greek Parliament the initiative of the WFTU Colombia Team to call on September 22, International Day of Solidarity with the people of Greece.

- 23: A WFTU delegation headed by the WFTU General Secretary George Mavrikos with members of the General Union of Palestinian Workers in Athens and PAME delivered at the Israel Embassy in Athens an official resolution of the WFTU to support the recognition of the Independent Palestinian State in the 1967 borders and East Jerusalem as its capital.

OCTOBER

- 3: International Action Day of WFTU. This day was chosen by the Secretariat of WFTU because the 3rd October is the day when FSM was founded in 1945.

The main slogans were: Working week of 35 hours – 7 hours a day – 5 days a week; Social Security; Collective bargaining; Trade union freedoms.

Thousands of workers celebrated the international day of action within the workplaces and discussed on the consequences of the capitalist crisis. Members and friends of the WFTU in tens of countries organized strikes, demonstrations, protests, even theatric performances and collecting signatures, migrants protests, etc. Strong demands for social security, for collective contracts, 35hours of work, and increases in wages were heard all over the World.

The WFTU General Secretary addressed his speech entitled “What is the WFTU” before the start of a play in a theater in central Athens. This play held by PAME and it was dedicated to the 66th Anniversary of the founding of the WFTU.

- 10-12: WFTU General Secretary George Mavrikos visited the Workers’ House of Iran in Tehran, Iran accepted the invitation of Alireza Mahjoob Secretary General of Iran’s Labor House and member of the WFTU board of administrators. They had bilateral meetings and discussions on trade unions issues and exchange experiences and points of views in serious matters. While attending in ILNA, WFTU General Secretary visited different services and answered to news agency’s reporters.
- 11-14: the XII ILO African Regional Meeting held in South Africa. The WFTU delegation was composed by Lulamile Sotaka, WFTU Regional Office Africa and Mzwandile Makwayiba, President of NEHAWU and Vice president of WFTU.
- 18 -19: ILO Global Dialogue Role of private employment agencies promoting decent work. WFTU was represented by Osiris Oviedo de la Torre, WFTU Permanent Representative in ILO.
- 19-20: International Solidarity and support with the General Strike in Greece on 19 and 20 October and the struggle of PAME expressed by WFTU. 163 organizations from 80 countries all over the world sent solidarity messages that were read at the demonstration of PAME with more than 70 thousand demonstrators.

- 20-21: KESK Trial in Izmir, Turkey. On invitation of KESK the WFTU participated in the trial of trade unionists and was represented by Apostolos Sotiropoulos, Permanent Representative in UNESCO who expressed our internationalist solidarity and made bilateral meetings to deepen our relations with Turkish trade unions.
- 24: 2nd Annual Conference of Joint Trade Union Coordination center (JTUCC) held in Nepal. WFTU was represented by H. Mahadevan, Deputy General Secretary of WFTU who delivered a speech on behalf of the WFTU.
- 25-10 November: 36th Session of the General Conference of the UNESCO held in Paris, France. WFTU was represented by Apostolos Sotiropoulos, WFTU Permanent Representative in UNESCO.
- 26-27: TUI – Public and Allied Employees, a sector organization of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), held in Rome its 1st Conference for Europe, hosted by the Italian Unione Sindacale di Base (USB), to carry out the decisions of its 9th Congress, held in 2009, in Brasilia, and the decisions of the WFTU 16th Congress, held in 2011, in Athens. The growth of the TUI-Public and Allied Employees in the European continent and the resulting consolidation of its organization is a fundamental condition for the success of the class-oriented trade union action, in defense of the rights and interests of the public service employees, as well as in defense of these services as common good and of democracy for the peoples of Europe. The affiliation of USB Italy to WFTU, which is fighting trade union of Italy fighting against the Italian opportunism, the bureaucracy and the careerism that dominate in the big traditional Italian trade unions is an important step for the strengthening of class oriented movement in Europe and the development of WFTU's presence in Europe.

NOVEMBER

- 3: The delegation of WFTU, PEO and PAME visited Damascus in Syria and had discussions with GFTU Syria and other organizations. Comrade George Mavrikos, comrade Sotiris Fellas and comrade Giannis Pasoulas took part in this delegation. The World Federation of Trade Unions and the whole delegation expressed their support to the people and the workers of Syria who struggle for their rights. Our delegation underlined in each meeting that the Syrian people are the only ones that have the right to democratically and freely choose their own present and future. We expressed our support for political and democratic freedoms, for a new constitution and for not privatizing the strategic sectors of the economy. We expressed our support to GFTU Syria in their attempts to improve the wages of workers, social security and free access of workers to free, public social benefits like healthcare, education and all social services. Our delegation condemned the interventions of the USA and its allies, the mean interventions of the government of Turkey and the sultans of Qatar, who hypocritically want to show to the world that they "care about democracy". In reality the imperialists, their allies and instruments aim at creating the so-called "New Middle East" consisting of small countries with puppet regimes, where the government of the USA, the EU and NATO will determine the exploitation of the natural resources, will support the policy of Israel, will hit the Palestinian people and the Lebanese resistance, will propagandize at ideological, political, economic and cultural level the kind of man that works for the interest of the capital and the transnational corporations.
- 3-18: 312th Session of the ILO Governing Body held in Geneva. WFTU was represented by Osiris Oviedo de la Torre, WFTU Permanent Representative in ILO, Apostolos Sotiropoulos, WFTU Permanent Representative in UNESCO.
- 5-6: 3rd International Session of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine held in Cape Town, South Africa. WFTU was represented by comrade Alexandra Lymperi and comrade Ba Biziz Ali Ibn Ali Elfaki from SWTUF, Sudan.
- 8-10: Founding Congress of CBT – CCP held in Venezuela. WFTU was represented by Valentin Pacho, WFTU Deputy General Secretary.
- 9-12: 18th WFDY Assembly held in Lisbon. WFTU was represented by comrade Philippe Soulier from CL-CGT France.
- 11-13: 8th National Conference of AICCTU held in the town of Bhilai, Chattisgarh, in India. WFTU was represented by Osiris Oviedo de la Torre, WFTU Permanent Representative in ILO who delivered a speech on behalf of the World Federation of Trade Unions referring to the Indian trade unions affiliates and their active role, the WFTU celebration of its 66 anniversary in the framework of a successful international day of action in October 3rd and the successful XVI Congress held at the beginning of April in Athens.
- AICCTU submitted an official Affiliation request as a full member of WFTU that approved at the WFTU Secretariat Meeting on December 12.
- 11-13: XVII Ordinary Congress of the National Union of Workers of Panama (CNTP) held in Panama. WFTU General Secretary George Mavrikos participated in the Congress.
- In the framework of his visit to Panama, the WFTU General Secretary George Mavrikos met with young trade unionists of FAT Panama and coordinated a regional meeting with representatives of the trade union movement of Central America and discussed on the challenges to be met and the priorities to be traced by the WFTU and its affiliates in the region. After the CNTP Congress, the WFTU General Secretary placed flowers at the Monument dedicated to worker immigrants who worked in the Panama Canal.

- 16-19: 13th Congress of CGTP held in an atmosphere of excitement in Lima, Peru with the participation of over 600 national delegates and 35 trade unionists foreign guests from around the world. The official opening of the conference was declared by the Secretary of WFTU George Mavrikos. WFTU was represented also by its President Shabban Azzouz and WFTU Deputy General Secretary Valentin Pacho, who contributed also to the preparative works of this Congress.
- o In the framework of the Congress, an international conference was organized jointly by WFTU - CGTP Peru ,with the participation of more than 600 delegates from Peru and more than 30 international delegates from WFTU affiliates and friends from all over the World. Keynote speakers were the General Secretary of WFTU George Mavrikos, the President of WFTU Mohammed Sabban Azzouz, Fikile Majola General Secretary of NEHAWU South Africa and Joao Batista Lemos, WFTU Vice-president from CTB Brazil. The theme of the conference was the global economic crisis, its consequences for workers, the response of class unions and the role of the WFTU. WFTU Deputy General Secretary Valentin Pacho played a main role in the preparative works of this Conference.

In the framework of his visit to Peru, the WFTU General Secretary George Mavrikos coordinated a regional meeting with WFTU affiliates of Adina region.

- 17-19: The 1st International Symposium on the situation of women in Metal and Mining held in Cuba. Organized by the Trade Unions International of Workers in the Metal Industries (TUI-M) of the World Federation of Trade Unions and the National Metalworkers Union of Cuba (SNTM), the event was attended by over 40 delegates, both men and women, from America, Africa and Europe. Unions from Cuba, Mexico, Brazil, Haiti, South Africa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cyprus and the Basque Country were represented at the gathering and, in addition to discussing the issues that women face in metal and mining sectors all over the world, participants gave a detailed explanation of the situation in their own countries.
- 19: The WFTU Chile organized in the capital city Santiago, Chile a seminar with the participation of 120 militant trade unionists. Main speaker was the General Secretary of WFTU George Mavrikos and the subject of his speech was "The corruption of trade unionists - social phenomenon". Comrade Marcela Maspero, Member of WFTU Presidential Council from Venezuela, as well as WFTU representatives from Argentina and Uruguay participated in this Seminar.
- 19-20: UITBB Secretariat Meeting held in Lisbon, Portugal. The WFTU Secretariat was represented by Artur Sequeira.
- 22-23: 5th Congress of NASU held in Abuja, Nigeria. WFTU was represented by comrade Kareem Motajo, Member of WFTU Presidential Council from NUATE, Nigeria who delivered a speech on behalf of the WFTU on the subject "ITS TIME TO REBUILD THE CLASS ACTION BASIS OF OUR TRADE UNION STRUGGLE".
- 26-27: 6th Congress of BMP held in Philippines. WFTU was represented by comrade Vladimir Tupaz, Member of WFTU Presidential Council from TUPAS, Philippines who delivered the greeting message to the Congress from the WFTU General Secretary.
- 28: 143th Session of FAO Conference held in Rome, Italy. WFTU was represented by comrade Rita Martufi, WFTU Permanent Representative for FAO.
- 28: RMT Meeting on the subject "Nationalization not Privatization" held in Lisbon, Portugal. WFTU Secretariat was represented by comrade Artur Sequeira from Portugal.

DECEMBER

- 4: NUMSA organized a international seminar on Trade Unions, Class Struggles and Climate Change in Durban, South Africa. WFTU was represented by its General Secretary who addressed the Seminar and presented the position and proposals of class oriented trade union movement on the issue of environment. On December 5 comrade Mavrikos attended a joint seminar of NEHAWU, NUMSA and CEPPWAWU in Inkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital in Durban and interacted with the participants on all current ideological and political matters related to the international class trade union movement and the duties of militant trade unionists to overcome the capitalist crisis.
- 4-7: XVth ILO Asia and Pacific Regional Meeting held in Kyoto, Japan. The WFTU delegation was headed by H. Mahadevan, Deputy General Secretary who addressed a speech in the Meeting on behalf of the WFTU.
- 7 -9: The Second Meeting of the Trade Union Youth in Central America promoted by the WFTU Sub-regional Office for Central America together with the WFTU Youth Secretariat held at the offices of UNDECA in Costa Rica. The wide participation of young workers (72 participants) from the countries of Central America, (Costa Rica, Panama, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Mexico) was a very important progress that show the efforts of the class oriented trade union movement and the WFTU in Central America. The subjects of the Meeting were: the economic crisis of the capital, the social and economic situation of young workers in every country of Central America, workers rights and trade union freedoms, the working solidarity and the organization of the class struggles of the young workers in Central America.

- 10-20: A WFTU delegation of 15 women trade union leaders from Latin America visited China to participate in the annual seminar jointly organized by ACFTU and WFTU. On the occasion of this meeting, the delegation started the coordination to form a WFTU Women Secretariat for Latin America.
- 10-11: in the framework of the 13th International meeting of Communist and labor parties in Athens, a bilateral official meeting between WFTU leadership and NEHAWU, POPRCU and SADTU, major trade unions of South Africa took place. The discussion focused in the analysis of the present economic situation and its consequences to workers globally and particularly in South Africa and resulted in concrete initiatives to take place during 2012 in sectoral level to promote cooperation and coordination of action in South Africa.

OTHER ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT 2011

Hosting of Foreign Delegations:

During 2011, many delegations from a wide range of countries visited the Central Offices of the WFTU.

July 5-6: The leadership of the All-Italian militant trade union Organisation USB (Unione Sindicale di Base) held an official visit in Athens. USB submitted an official Affiliation request as a full member of WFTU. On behalf of WFTU, the General Secretary thanked the leadership of USB and stated that WFTU is satisfied because a class oriented, fighting trade union was founded and functions in Italy.

July 6: The leadership of the ETUF Egypt held an official visit in WFTU Central Offices.

November 23: A delegation from the Youth Federation of Vietnam composed by its President Nguyen Phuoc Loc and other members of the Youth Committee had a bilateral meeting with members of the WFTU Youth Committee in WFTU Headquarters. They had meaningful discussions in a friendly and comradely spirit. They discussed about the international situation for the young working class, the role of the trade union movement in the current international situation and the problems they have to face under the conditions of international capitalist crisis. They also discussed about the situation in Vietnam. The delegation was accompanied by the Ambassador of Vietnam in Athens, Mr. Vu Binh. In this context it was decided to work more closely together and to organize cultural events, seminars, international meetings and conferences in Vietnam on timely issues. This meeting opened new possibilities for the co-operation and coordination between the Young Committees in Greece and Vietnam.

November 23: A delegation from Malaysia visited the WFTU Headquarters after an official invitation from the WFTU. The delegation composed by Michael Tan Eng Hong, President of NUBE, J. Solomon, General Secretary of National Union of Bank Employees (NUBE), Narenthra Rao, Treasurer of NUBE, S.Nadarajan, General Secretary of National Union of Drink Industry Workers Peninsular Malaysia (NUDIW) and Abdul Razak, President of The Railwaymen's Union of Malaysia (RUM). At the meeting participated also the President of the TUI BIFU, comrade C.H.Venkatachalam from AIBEA India. The visit was completed with the affiliation request that the three Trade Unions deposited to WFTU headquarters.

Posters

- Poster for the 16th World Trade Union Congress - poster for the 16th World Trade Union Congress held in Athens on April 2011.
- "Workers Rise Up! Against the capitalist barbarism and exploitation" - May Day Poster
- Poster for the international campaign for the recognition of the Palestinian State with the 1967 borders and East Jerusalem as its capital.
- Posters for the International Action Day on 3rd October

Publications

- "Athens Pact" in 7 languages
- "Report of Action 2006-2010"
- "Congress Regulation"

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- Thematic Documents for the Water, the Health and Safety in the Workplaces and the Planetary Problems
- Documents for the Working Women, the Media, the HIV/AIDS, the International Organizations, the Latin America and the Caribbean, the Capitalist Crises and Asia
- “Handbook” of the Congress
- CD with Congress Materials
- Congress Bags, Notepads, Hats and Pens
- Participants Cards and others
- During the Congress, a four page newspaper in three languages was distributed to the participants covering the daily news of the Congress.

Congress Decoration – Propaganda:

There was an effort to present a unified and modern artistic concept in the Congress Decoration that would give a militant tone and working class optimism. The venues were measures and the designs were made

- Logos of the Congress
- Posters of the Congress: Main International Poster, Posters for the Opening Ceremony in Greek
- Banners for the Congress that were used to propagate the Congress all over Athens
- In total about 45 different designs were prepared and printed for the decoration of the Congress Venues (backgrounds of the Presidium, large banners, hanging banners, 3D logos, flags, stands and poster for the Airport, rostrum design etc.)
- Video on the 65th Anniversary of WFTU (1945-2010)
- Video Action of WFTU 2006-2011
- DVD Collection on the 16th World Trade Union Congress
- Photo-Album on the International Action Day
- Photo-Memorabilia from the 16th World Trade Union Congress
- Reflects Edition Issue 3 on September 2011
- Numerated copies of the commemorative picture of the opening ceremony of the 16th Congress.

Dear comrades

This strong and diverse record of working- class activity throughout 2011 provides a firm foundation on which to develop further initiatives for the newyear 2012.

We cordially thank all our members and friends.

We thank all our organizations, our Regional Offices and our TUI's and all those who move forward with us.

(The document was prepared by comrade H. Mahadevan, Deputy General Secretary and approved by the Secretariat)

ASSESSMENT OF THE 16TH WFTU CONGRESS

**Workers Rise up!
Against capitalist barbarism
For social justice
For a world without exploitation**

Un nouveau chapA new glorious chapter has been added to the history of the World Trade Union movement with the resounding success of the 16th World Trade Union Congress of WFTU held during 6-10th April 2011 in the national capital of Greece, Athens. It was a historic event in the annals of the International progressive working class movement in the recent decades.

The participation of 828 representatives from 101 countries of the world, from all the continents, speaks volumes about the widespread popularity of WFTU and the deep penetration it has made since the 15th Congress in Havana.

The projection of a video dedicated to the 65 years of WFTU and its contribution to the working class movement vividly exhibited the WFTU's worthy role against exploitation, imperialism, colonialism and apartheid.

Similarly the Audio visual report of the last five years of the actions of WFTU remained a testimony to the growing role of the organization since the last Congress.

The ILO representative who attended the delegates' session, Mr. Dan Cunniah exclaimed about these peak of activities by WFTU in the last 5 years.

The inaugural session, attended by over 4000 in the jam-packed stadium of Tae Kwon Do was a marvelous experience to all the international participants also The militant songs and thunderous slogans with the flags, banners and mottos of those young workers, men and women, who came from all parts of Athens was a fitting tribute to the commencement of the memorable Congress.

The participation of the delegates in the proceedings of the Congress, was extensive, 115 speakers representing all the major trade unions from each and every participating country, took part in the discussions.

It was not just quantity of participants and speakers, but their presentations and interventions were qualitatively enriched, with full of political and ideological contents; they explained the struggles of the working class in each country to counter of the capitalist offensive.

'Athens Pact' the main document presented to the 16th Congress, in continuation of the Havana Declaration, not only analyzed the international economic crisis and their adverse consequences on the working people, but also clearly identified that the crisis is of the capitalist system and our duties are very important for the reconstruction of the movement in class perspective, the organization of the struggles for the overthrow of the anti-popular policies and of the system that creates it. The role of the ITUC in collaborating with the instruments of imperialism was well traced in the document, by advocating cooperation with the IMF & WB, by not participating in the militant initiatives such as strikes, demonstrations etc, transforming the trade unions into bureaucratic structures, by often taking the side of the employers at various levels."

Athens Pact correctly summed up the characteristics of the present situation thus:

- “Deeper exploitation of work force
- Depreciation of workforce with sweeping anti labour changes
- Increase of productivity with contemporary or newer technology
- Mergers, re-purchases in all essential branches and gigantism of monopolies
- Intensity of imperialist aggressiveness and promotion of plans for the so called “New Middle East”
- Putting the burden of the crisis on workers and countries
- Generalization of limitation of social allocations

The tasks underlined by the ‘Athens Pact’, based on the worldwide experiences of the working class, as was revealed in their speeches, were:-

- “Decisive, unyielding trade union struggles against monopolies unified in each country, industry, region
- Unification of the working class on class basis
- Politicization of trade union struggles with the objective of changing the correlation of forces, with the perspective of defeating the slavery pursued by monopolies and imperialism
- More coordinated struggles with other movements like peace movement, the youth movement, the women’s movements etc.
- WFTU must, de facto, take a role of rallying and mobilizing for action and struggle of the working class and its allies.”

Apart from the main document the Congress had enriched the participants with the various additional , specific documents dealing with important topics such as HEALTH & Safety of Workers in our time, International Labour and Trade Union movement in the 21st century, Developing countries debts - The trap and the way out, For the management of water resources, The global environmental problems and WFTU, The current situation of working women, International Organizations- their role today; International co-relations and beyond” and others written by progressive experts in various fields and translated into many languages.

The 16th Congress thus remained a knowledge building event to the leaders and cadres of the class oriented working class movement.

The Congress laid great emphasis on the improvement of sectoral trade union organization (TUI’s) and Regional offices. Separate, specific meetings were organized for the Regions of Europe, America, Asia Pacific, Africa, Middle East and their problems on organization, future tasks were considered in these discussions. Each such Regional meeting was widely participated by the trade unions of the concerned regions and conducted by the presidium consisted of the leaders of the respective region.

The need for strengthening the various TUIs of WFTU viz Agriculture, Financial Services, Construction & Allied employees, Education / Teachers, Energy, Metals & Mining, Public Services, Hotel & Tourism, Transport were also considered in the Congress. The main document, Athens Pact extensively dealt with the various aspects of TUI & Regional offices and their role in mobilizing the workers on sectoral/ regional levels based on the objectives and principles of WFTU.

Every participant in the Congress was able to fully involve in the deliberations because of the excellent arrangements for translating the proceedings in English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Greek, Portuguese and Russian. A fleet of professionals were working continuously for the translation of the documents and the utilization of modern technology was very much in sight in this world congress.

The new leadership of the WFTU was elected by secret ballot. Ballot papers were distributed to all the delegates. Already, the Nominations Forms for different posts were circulated to the delegates.

Openly and democratically, for the posts of President and General Secretary Com. Mohammad Shaaban Azouz and Com. George Mavrikos were directly elected in the delegates’ session, unanimously by lifting of hands by all delegates. The election of the functionaries took place and the delegates elected the members of the Presidential Council and Finance Commission casting their votes in the Ballot Boxes.

The 40-member Presidential Council met and elected the 17 Vice Presidents, 15 members and a 6 member Secretariat besides of the President & General Secretary. The members of the Presidential council in an atmosphere of

unity and internationalization committed themselves to intensify their efforts for the defense of the working class rights around the world. The elections, thus was yet another experience by itself for all the delegates who took part in the process.

The success of the 16th Congress mainly dependent on the meticulous and elaborate preparations made at various stages, from the inception to the end. The documentation of these preparations at different stages, were presented to the congress. It is no exaggeration to declare that the important role played by PAME, the militant trade union of the Greek working class, was the prime mover in the successful launching of the Congress. The delegates of the 16th Congress cordially appreciated the assistance of the working class of Greece for the big success of the Congress; we remind the a big part of the Congress cost was covered by money collected through an open financial campaign organized by PAME inside the sectors and workplaces.

The volunteers, young men and women, tirelessly and smilingly worked and earned the admiration of all delegates world over. They were everywhere at the hotels where the delegates were accommodated, in the several transports that conveyed the delegates to the conference & back as well as at the conference. A comradely and fraternal atmosphere prevailed throughout the Congress.

A special mention has to be made and rich encomium must be paid to the staff of the WFTU headquarters who worked for several months, night and day, for the successful conduct of the 16th congress. They were totally devoted to the cause and deserve all admiration and encouragement, is the unanimous and considered view of the Secretariat.

In order to meet the present and future requirements of our world body and improve the organizational democratic functioning, the WFTU's Constitution was suitably amended. The terms of the office of the Chief functionaries were accordingly prescribed under the constitutional amendments, besides amending the preamble. This was felt to be a long outstanding organizational requirement and the 16th congress fulfilled that

Working women meeting was a special event in the 16th Congress. WFTU has fully taken the task of defending the economic, political and social rights of the working women as a primary moral obligation and the congress resolutions have approved this responsibility. Many interventions centralized on the significance of the opportunity given by WFTU to the new trade unionist women to enhance such important experience. The conclusion of the women meeting underlined the necessity for WFTU to establish Women Sector Committee.

The International Action Day and the demands therefore viz "(i) Government funded Social Security for all (ii) Right to form trade unions and Right to collective bargaining (iii) Better wages for Decent living (iv) Working hours – 7 hours per day, 35 hours per week on a five day week (v)Solidarity with the people of Palestine (vi)Freedom to the 5 Cubans who are illegally kept in US Jail on false charges" are very significant and this has drawn the attention of the world working class to carry forward the future, collective struggles.

In fine, the historic 16th Congress re-confirmed that the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) shall continue to march forward as a class oriented, open democratic, militant organization, engaged in class struggle and against imperialism and capitalism.

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The WFTU Secretariat



Report of Action 2011
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