WFTU'S HISTORIC PAST, ACTIVE PRESENT AND INSPIRING FUTURE

THE PARIS CONGRESS
THE BIRTH OF THE WFTU

3 October, 1945

From Right to Left : Giuseppe di Vittorio (Italy), Louis Saillant (France), Walter Citrine (Great Britain), Phillip Murray (USA) and T. Tarasov (USSR). Standing in the centre in Vicente Lombardo Toledao (Mexico)
WFTU’s Historic Past, Active Present and Inspiring Future

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PREFACE

Today we are faced with a completely new situation, new world with health emergency due to Covit-19 Pandemic on one side and dominated by the forces and ideologies of globalisation, neo-liberalisation and privatisation. It is becoming more evident now that the multi-national corporate and the financial capital are enemies of the working class. They are all united and highly organized and are out to destroy the workers, their trade unions and their rights. The Pandemic times are being used to fast track the changes in labour laws. The working class in various Countries remains divided and that is why they are able to move towards their goals of weakening and marginalizing the trade unions through policy changes through the ruling regimes. The forces of national independence, national development and sovereignty keep aloof from the workers and their trade unions and vice-versa instead of standing stoutly against those who try to re-impose slavery and bondage of new types.

The trade unions must close their ranks worldwide against the common enemy. They should learn from the greatest lessons of world history of the working class.

We should re-collect today that these concerns were clearly reflected in the Manifesto issued by the London Conference in February, 1945 (The preparatory conference for formation of world organization of trade unions) which underlined:

"Organised labour, with so great a part in winning the war, cannot leave to others-however well intentioned they may be - the sole responsibility of making the peace. The peace will be a good peace, an enduring peace, a peace worthy of the sacrifices by which it has been won-only if it reflects the deep resolve of the free peoples, their interests, their desires, and their needs."

The Constitution of the WFTU, adopted in 1945, pledged,
among the aims of the WFTU: "To combat war and causes of war and to work for stable and enduring peace."

The Founding Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions in its declaration stated, "Today the labour movements of all free nations are united in a World Federation which speak with authority on behalf of the Working People of the whole world. Thus the workers of the United Nations who made such an immense contribution to the achievement of victory have united their strength in a single mighty organisation".

The founding General Secretary of the WFTU, Cde Louis Saillant characterized the foundation of the WFTU in the following words: "The WFTU is the Child of Unity, of the workers' joint struggles against fascism, of the will to build peace and to liberate colonial peoples, of the struggles for better living conditions, the battles against exploiting monopolies and warmongers." His statement reflects clearly the aims and objectives of the WFTU.

From the beginning the WFTU was based upon four fundamental organisational principles. It is Unifying, Universal, Democratic and Class based character. These principles have always guided the activities of the WFTU.

On this 75th Anniversary of WFTU, we need to pledge once again to carry forward the legacy of consistent struggles to defend the hard won rights of the workers through great sacrifices for more than 150 years and to advance those rights for achieving societies based on justice and equality.

This effort to bring this book on the occasion of 75th anniversary of WFTU is to reminiscence the first world conference in London, followed by the founding conference of the mighty organization in Paris with representatives from across all the continents to carry forward the dreams of the working class, the work among various sections, the conferences held, the leaders elected to fulfill the tasks set by the international meets, the challenges and the way forward. The readers will find it useful as a brief introduction to the history of WFTU.

Amarjeet kaur
General Secretary AITUC
With profound respect and love, this book, brought out on the occasion of 75 years of the World Federation of Trade Unions, is dedicated to the memory of the founding fathers of the WFTU:

Louis Saillient, A. Le Leap, Benoit Fracho (FRANCE)
Li Li San, Liu Shao Chi, Lui Nung-1 (CHINA)
V. Kuznetsov (SOVIET UNION)
S. Di Vittorio (ITALY)
S.A. Dange (INDIA)
Lazaro Pena (CUBA)
V. Lombardo Toledano (MEXICO)
Harry Bridges (U.S.A.)
E. Thorton, E.V. Elliot (AUSTRALIA)
A. Diallo, Ibrahim Zakaria (SUDAN)
B. Blockziji (NETHERLAND)
E. Zuupka (CHECHOSLOVAKIA)
WFTU Committed to the cause of
Stable and Enduring Peace

A view of the World Congress of Peace Forces (Moscow) 1973
The Founding Congress

The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) was established in Paris on 3rd October 1945. The First World Trade Union Congress (Paris, 3-8 October 1945) which voted to establish the WFTU was attended by delegates representing 67 million workers from 56 national organizations from 55 countries and 20 international organizations.

The First World Trade Union Congress was preceded by the World Trade Union Conference held in London from 6 to 17 February 1945 and which accomplished much of the preparatory work. The London Conference was attended by 204 delegates from 53 national and international organizations representing 60 million workers worldwide. The conference had as co-chairpersons, representatives of the British TUC, the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) of the United States and the All Union Central Council of Trade Union of the USSR. They were assisted by three vice-chairpersons – from the CGT of France, the Chinese Federation of Labour and the Confederation of Workers in Latin America. Walter Citrine, General Secretary of the British TUC, was the General Secretary of the Conference.

The Foundation of the WFTU was thus seen as indicative of the new era that had opened with the defeat of fascism at the hands of the anti-fascist alliance of states. The working
people and the democratic forces saw in that victory the new future of the world, where imperialism and colonialism would retreat and where freedom, peace, democracy and prosperity would advance for all humankind.

**Basic Aims & Objectives of the founding Congress**

The Constitution of the WFTU adopted in 1945 placed among the aims of the WFTU: “To combat war and the causes of war and work for a stable and enduring peace.”

The second resolution adopted by the First World Trade Union Congress outlined the principles for a fundamental charter of the rights of the trade unions and their immediate demands.

The right of the working people to organize themselves; freedom from every form of discrimination based on race, creed, color or sex; the right to work and to paid holidays; adequate rates of pay and a higher standard of living (housing, food, etc.); social security providing guarantees against unemployment, in sickness, accidents and old age. The resolution on the “people’s right to self-determination” clearly put forward the slogan of national independence:

“Victory over the fascist powers was based both upon the united military might of the United Nations and the active struggle of the people to secure their full enjoyment of our basic liberties and the right of self-determination and national independence”.

“It would indeed be but incomplete victory if the common people in the colonies and territories of all nations were now denied the full enjoyment of their inherent right of self-determination and national independence”.

**Achievement of a united movement**

The first four years of the WFTU- 1945 to 1949 showed the great potential of a united world trade union movement.
Despite the initial opposition of certain bureaucrats, the WFTU was given consultative status at the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The WFTU took the initiatives for the adoption of ILO conventions on the right of association and collective bargaining. Powerful support was given to workers struggles for their rights and demands.

The WFTU organized an intense solidarity campaign in support of the anti-fascist forces in Spain and Greece and managed to convince the U.N. to recommend to member states the withdrawal of their ambassadors from Madrid. The defense of trade union rights was at the heart of the solidarity actions with workers who were victims of repression, including workers in colonial territories. On two occasions, July 1946 and February 1947, special missions were sent to Iran when trade unionists were arrested and democratic liberties suppressed. A similar mission was sent, in March 1947, to South Africa following the brutal repression on striking miners.

The growth in membership and influence of the trade union movements all over the world has been most remarkable during this period. The world trade union movement actively helped the organizing process in the newly-independent countries.

**Intervention of the Cold War – Setbacks, Splits and Reemergence**

The split came in the shape of a letter from the British TUC, read out by its President Arthur Deakin at the WFTU Executive Bureau meeting in Paris on 19 January 1949, demanding “suspension of all WFTU activities for a period of 12 months”. He said that if this was not accepted, the British TUC would withdraw from the WFTU.

The motion was rejected as it did not fall within the competence of the Executive Bureau. The matter was referred to the Executive Committee and to the Congress. Following this,
Arthur Deakin, James B. Carey and E. Kupers (Netherlands) walked out of the meeting. Soon afterwards, several organizations withdrew from the WFTU. The split was formalized. In December 1949, those who withdrew met in London and formed the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU).

It is thus clear that those organizations which now constitute the WFTU never intended to divide the world trade union movement. They have always been striving to promote the unity of workers the world over.

The WFTU held its Second World Trade Union Congress, as planned in Milan from 29th June to 9th July 1949. Delegations from 61 countries were present at the Congress representing around 71 million members. The congress rejected the British TUC’s proposal to cease activities. An open Letter was adopted by the Congress addressed to trade union activists in the United States, Great Britain and other countries whose centers had pulled out of the WFTU, urging them to find a way to reach an agreement around common aims.

The 13th World Trade Union Congress (Damascus, 1994) was attended by 418 participants from 160 national, local regional and international trade union organizations representing more than 300 million workers from 84 countries on every continent. The constitutional amendments approved by the Damascus Congress define WFTU’s current aims and objectives.

As set forth in the declaration adopted by the London World Union Conference in February 1945 and the resolutions and principles adopted by the First World Trade Union Congress in Paris in October 1945, the WFTU is a democratic, class-based international trade union organization of struggle of all wage-earners, which supports and encourages action by trade unions in every country to obtain the independent rights and demands of the workers, to defend their interests, to combat all forms of domina-
tion and subservience, exploitation and oppression, and to bring about socioeconomic development, and which develops and coordinates co-operations and solidarity.

Trade union organizations from all countries in the world that wish to unite on the basis of the principle of independence in order to achieve common aims join the WFTU on a voluntary basis, irrespective of differences in their political, philosophical and religious beliefs, in the race of their members, or in social regimes. As an international organization, and notwithstanding the relations established at national level by member organizations, the WFTU maintains its independence from governments, political parties and employers.

Objectives

The WFTU therefore proclaims its prime objective is to contribute to the emancipation of the working people by means of struggle.

Against all forms of exploitation of people and for obtaining and guaranteeing living and working conditions for all workers which would allow them the widest possible benefits from the fruits of their labour, in order to obtain for them and their families the time and the means to live in conditions appropriate to our epoch which is one marked by the headlong progress of science and technology; against colonialism, imperialism, domination and expansionism in the economic, social, political and cultural spheres, for the elimination of racism and underdevelopment; to guarantee sovereignty, freedom and security of nations, non-interference in their internal affairs, respect for their political, economic and social independence and the establishment of a new and just international economic order, for the right to full employment and the guarantee of this right, for full and adequate social security legislation to protect workers and their families in the event of sickness and old age, and every other type of assistance
and social security; for training, education and culture for all workers, thus enabling them to gain access to any responsibility or position within their capabilities, for protection of the working environment, effective measures to maintain and promote ecological standards and sustainable development, for the achievement of social, economic and political democracy, the defense and development of workers and trade unions’ right and freedoms, respect for human rights and the implementation of the Universal Declaration of Trade Union Rights, for the prevention of a nuclear war and the dissolution of all military alliances and blocs, against aggression and war and to promote international détente, the establishment of a just and lasting peace, peaceful coexistence and mutually advantageous cooperation amongst all people and among States; an end to the arms race, especially in nuclear arms and the total prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons and progressive arms reduction leading to general and complete disarmament.

The Organizational picture of WFTU (as per Durban Congress)

In the five years that passed from the 16th Congress until today we tried to implement the resolutions we had voted in the last Congress in Athens; Resolutions that obliged us to work for the Organizational Strengthening of the WFTU in the workplaces and in each region. The Congress mandate us to increase and enhance our numerical strength.

- In the 16th Congress we had 78 million members. Today here in the 17th World Trade Union Congress we come with 92 million members. An increase of 14 million new members. An increase of 18%.

We want to applaud all the Organizations that with their action promoted the positions and the principles of the WFTU, and they assisted in this important numerical strengthening of the family of the WFTU.
This increase in numbers is a result of collective work. It is a result we achieved all together.

Along with the increase in numbers, we also made other positive advances in our organizational structure.

- 7 new Regional Offices were founded and started their operation during the past five years.
- 1 new Sectoral TUI was founded.
- More and better schools of trade union training were organized. More and more qualitative international fora and activities were conducted.
- The organizational growth of WFTU is reflected also in the participation of this Congress. In our last Congress 850 delegates took part, today we have here 1520 delegates. In our previous Congress 101 countries participated. Today with us are representatives from 132 countries.
- Today with us we have more Trade Unions then in the previous congress.

This is the real image. We have become stronger. We continue to grow. The international working class expects so much from the WFTU. The WFTU is growing – our responsibilities are growing. Our objective in the next Congress of WFTU is that the WFTU will have 100 million members from all corners of the world.

In the organizational field we also contributed greatly:

- In the creation of new Trade Unions and Federations.
- In the improvement of the functioning of Trade Union Organizations and also by
- Cultivating the need for the deepening of collectivity, of internal democracy and of respect to the membership in the base.

If we had to draw a conclusion from our action in the organizational field, we could safely say that we made significant steps forward. However, the needs are many. Everyday
there are new needs, new priorities present themselves, Today the life and the expectations of the working people put upon us new complex duties. Our effort for the organizational strengthening, for the increase of membership, for the enrolment of new members, for the foundation of new trade union organizations where it is necessary, for the increase of the presence of women and young workers in the leadership of the trade unions is an ongoing battle. Today we have the obligation to fulfill these objectives.

**WFTU at the present time**

Addressing the 103rd Plenary session of the International Labour Organization (ILO), WFTU General Secretary Com. George Mavrikos stressed the following points as WFTU Action Program.

1. We call for struggle against unemployment. The unemployment kills the dreams of young people. The unemployment is an enemy of the trade union movement and an ally of the capitalists. The WFTU has declared October 3rd every year as International Action Day against unemployment and series of universally important issues. We all must take part in this struggle, with a concrete program and initiatives.

2. The right to strike is in danger. Governments and the bourgeoisie have their own lecture on Convention 87. Their aim is to abolish the right to strike and place conditions that make strikes impossible. It’s the duty of all of us to defend the right to strike. Strike is a unique weapon in the class struggle and even more in our times, when the attacks against the rights and conquests of the workers are constant. It is a right, registered in the Convention 87 of 1948 and in national laws. It’s wrong to send this issue to the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

3. About a month ago, on May 13th 2014 in the town of Soma in Turkey more than three hundred of our brothers lost
their lives, because the mine they were working in didn’t have the necessary health and safety measures. The employer’s thirst for bigger profits killed more than three hundred workers. For the WFTU, the struggle for health and safety measures is a basic priority. For the international class-oriented trade union movement, workers Life is the most important principle. So, the struggle for health and safety measures is a first-grade priority, along with the struggle for salaries, the struggle against unemployment.

4. Today, while we are discussing here in Geneva at the ILC thousands of our brothers, our colleagues are imprisoned. Many activists in different countries are tortured; the migrant workers discriminated; Trade Union Democracy denied and deplored. We shall have to overcome the hurdles unitedly conducting militant struggles.

5. Despite having over 90 million members which should entail WFTU 5 titular members in the governing body of ILO, these seats are occupied by ITUC and others through undemocratic and non-transparent procedures. As in the UN system we have been demanding proportionate representation for WFTU in the world body. We will continue the struggle for democratic functioning of ILO’s governing body.

The Political and Economic Crisis

“Neo-liberalism holds to a theory

- That the State (or Government) needs to reduce its intervention in economic and social activities.
- That labour and financial markets should be regulated in order to liberalize the enormous creative energy of the markets.
- That commerce and investments should be stimulated by eliminating borders and barriers to allow for full mobility of capital, goods, service and labour.
We are witnessing a world-wide economy in which states are losing power and are being replaced by markets centered in MNCs which are the main units of economic activity in the world.

Neo-liberalism refers to the policies and processes whereby a relatively handful of private interests are permitted to control as much as possible of social life in order to maximize personal profit. The economic consequence of these policies is, a massive increase in social and economic inequality, a marked increase in severe deprivation for the poorest nations and people of the world, a disastrous global environment, and unstable global economy and an unprecedented bonanza for the wealthy.

Thus, neo-liberalism is indeed capitalism with gloves off, because profit making is the essence of democracy; any government that pursues anti-marketisation policies is anti-democratic, no matter how much informed popular support they enjoy. Therefore, it is best to restrict governments to the job of protecting private property and enforcing contracts. Neo-liberalism is merely the current version of the battle for the wealthy few to circumvent the political and civil powers of the many.

The mythology of free market also submits that governments are inefficient institutions that should be limited so as not to hurt the magic of the natural laissez-faire market. Corporations themselves are effectively totalitarian organizations operating along non-democratic lines. That our economy is centered around such institutions severely compromises our ability to have a democratic society. The corporate news media, the PR industry, the academic ideologues and the intellectual culture writ large play the central role of providing the necessary illusions to make this unpalatable appear rational, benevolent and necessary if not necessarily desirable. Through a variety of institutional mechanisms signals are sent to intellectuals, Pundits and Journalists pushing
them to see status quo as the best of all possible worlds and away from challenging those who benefit from the status quo. Neo-liberalism’s loudest message is that there is no alternative to the status quo and that humanity has reached its highest level; though some periods were also designated as “end of history” in the past and events thereafter highlighted the silliness of these messages.

Economic policies dictated by the world economic trio (WB-IMF-WTO) which are driven by the MNCs operating on speculative capital. International finance system collapsed under Capitalist system. 25% of the world GDP is based as “dark face” of the free market capitalist system. Cutting Salaries of public employees, market flexibility in the labour market by cutting the cost of fringe benefits, cutting social benefits, social spending, making requirements to obtain pension more difficult, and freezing public investments, eliminating or limiting plans or policies for equality of minorities. The attempts to economically enslave Greece and the heroic fight by the Greek working class (PAME) are recent lessons. Union-Free environment and Individual agreements in the name of Labour law reforms, governments such as the Indian Government attempts to destroy unionization, right to collective bargaining. Making easy for employers to close down factories etc. are conspired and the Indian working class is on a relentless struggle against those anti-worker measures.

We are in need of trade union cadres at all levels. Cadres who:

- Believe in the general line and the strategic objectives of the WFTU and will implement in practice and bring to life these aims. Cadres that have faith in our demands and in the line of the WFTU. Since faith makes us bold and determined in the class-oriented struggle.
- Cadres who love the class they belong to the working class and will fight next to their fellow workers with patience,
with understanding, with substantial assistance aiming for the maturing of class consciousness of the workers.

- Cadres who implement in practice and not only through words, the collective spirit, the principles of criticism and self-criticism. Cadres who put the “We” over the “Me”.

- Cadres who attack careerism, bureaucracy, corruption and elitism. Who unmask and expose the role of the sold-out trade unionists; Cadres who are courageous against the bourgeoisie.

- Cadres who defend the WFTU and its positions first and foremost inside their own countries with bravery and arguments. Not only outside of the country. Firstly, inside their own country. Inside their own sector, inside their workplace.

- Cadres who make it their priority to help new trade unionists to become valuable leaders, so that they can become the new blood and will continue and strengthen the class-oriented trade union movement. Cadres who understand the need for constant renewal at all levels.

- Cadres who be internationalist. Who respect the history of the working class in their countries and internationally, who honour the martyrs of our class and who actively express the international solidarity for our brothers in need in all parts of the world.

- Cadres who respect the traditions, the culture and the right of each worker to believe or not to believe in religions.

We are optimistic that with these criteria and with the care of all of us, we will be able to form a trade union manpower who will be identified by their loyalty, their organizational, ideological and political abilities, for their militancy and courage and for their experience.
Role of WFTU – the future

The Athens pact adopted in the 16th conference of WFTU and Durban declaration of the 17th Congress called upon the working class to understand that the struggle conducted against the capitalists is not only economic, not only against greater and deeper exploitation of the workforce but also a generalized struggle, ideological, political, cultural, social and environment one.

World over, several struggles are being launched by our affiliates as well as others. “Arab Spring” starting from Jasmine revolution, Occupy Movement etc. are some of the significant examples. Vietnam's socialist market economy, Latin America’s ALBA, creation of CELAC (Community of Latin American & Caribbean States) China’s Socialism with its own characteristics are some alternate economic systems pursued against the neo-liberal globalization and dominant finance capital.

WFTU has advanced the international campaign on Globalization of rights – for public education, decent housing, clean water, free medicine, right to food. This has to be carried forward. These basic issues should not be continued as profit providers for capitalists. The future campaigns, demonstrations and other forms of struggles should be on the broad principles-based demands;

Alternate system of Government with social ownership, control and planning.

1. Radical transformations towards the new economic order built on certain principles; economic justice, equitable development, people’s participation in the shaping of economic policy, food and energy sovereignty, Universal access to essential services & public utilities, protection and promotion of human rights, using industrial policy for creating purchasing power of the people for ensuing living wage, protection and promotion of jobs.

2. Reorient budgets, repeal and reverse the policies that
brought the crises. More public investment for social infrastructure.

3. Progressive tax system; dismantle tax havens; arrest movement of speculative capital.

4. Phase out WB, IMF and WTO to build a new international financial architecture, full scale socialization of banks.

5. Every investment should result in job creation and job retention, no jobless growth.

6. Abandon capitalist practices of capital-intensive industrial structure, lean model production, easy exit policy.

7. From everyone according to ability; to everyone according to necessity.

On this historic day, the 75th anniversary of WFTU we shall re-affirm and carry the struggle forward to create history.

Let us again recall WFTU’s basic principles and carry on our future tasks at all levels. Unit level, national level, regional level as well as international level. The struggle brings results, the struggle is our power, the struggle is our weapon. We have to defend our right to struggle.

Let us continue to plan, to organize and to support the struggles of the workers and their fair rights.

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THE KING IS NAKED
George Mavrikios, General Secretary, WFTU

There is no vaccine, nor will it be found to humanize capitalism. It contains social inequality from its “womb”.

The entire planet is deeply immersed in the coronavirus pandemic. To this day, there are 921,002 infected and 46,153 dead, according to official data. The situation is tragic on all continents. Thousands of families mourn their dead, hundreds of thousands suffer from the disease and millions of people live with anxiety and fear. We express to all of them our solidarity.

Monopoly and transnational groups are making use of the pandemic, laying off workers or limiting their rights. Many governments, taking advantage of the coronavirus, prohibit democratic and trade union rights. Their objective is to track the movements and activities of citizens by electronic means. It has been proven at a global level that freedoms have been jeopardized in the wake of the pandemic.

This situation has once again exposed the barbarism of the exploitative social system in which we live, as well as its inability to face the crises in favor of the peoples.

No matter how hard the capitalist governments, the bourgeois class and the leaders of the reformist unionism try to obscure the truth and hide the responsibilities of the capitalist system, they will not succeed.

They will not be able to put the people’s minds in quarantine. They will not make it to prohibit the minds of simple people from thinking and judging, from drawing conclusions according to their own experience.
The conditions in which we live during this period demonstrate that:

**FIRST**: The moral superiority of the working class against the parasitism of the ruling class is confirmed once again. While parasites speculate, workers risk their lives in the front line of the pandemic fire, producing all the essentials for life. While powerful industrialists, kings, cardinals are hiding in their palaces, the manual and intellectual workers are struggling on the front line to produce food, medicine, transport, cleaning, communications, energy and everything necessary to make life possible. The poor peasantry, along with the popular strata, contribute to the effort to continue the production of goods.

On the other side, one can see the ruling class which is speculating. Ruthless and inhuman, it is taking advantage of the pandemic, increasing prices, stealing from the pockets of simple people, hiding products in order to generate artificial shortages. As in wars, in crises too, they only believe in one god: profit.

On the one hand, then, one can see the working class with its allies and, on the other, the bourgeoisie with its instruments. Two worlds. Two ethics.

**SECOND**: Who bears the full burden of treatment and healing? The private or public sector? In many European countries, simple people, in their despair, came out on their balconies to applaud the heroes of public health, public hospitals, scientists of public health structures. This slandered public system, these slandered doctors and nurses as well as the entire staff are waging an unequal fight. They are waging an unequal fight because all those who have been barking for years asking for “less state and privatizations”, both social democratic
Workers & Peoples united, for a world with social justice

Against monopolies & imperialism
Historic Events of the WFTU

London, 25th Feb. 1945. Trade Union leaders from countries fighting the forces of the Berlian Rom-Tokya Axis meet to discuss the setting up of a single world trade union centre: a World Federation of Trade Unions.

Paris, Sept. 1949. The Meeting of the WFTU's Executive Committee at which it was Decided to reject the proposals of the splitters who sought to smash the WFTU.

From L. to R.
V.V. Kuznyetsov,
Louis Saillant,
Giuseppe Di Vittorio,
Guyanese agricultural workers, mainly employed in the sugar Plantations, protest against the living conditions imposed on them by the American and British firms which are till today the real owners of land in this country.

The Latin American and the Caribbean regional meeting looked into ways of joint action to find a reasonable solution to the debt crisis which was seriously affection workers in the part of the World.

Comrade S.A. Dange, General Secretary, AITUC with other participants on dias. A minute’s silence in memory of those who worked and died to bring success to the WFTU.
WFTU Delegation meeting with Hon’ble President Shri K.R. Narainan

The Vice President of India Sri Krishan Kant inaugurating the Congress
14th WFTU Congress in Delhi, 25th-28th March 2000

Some Glimpses of Delegate
14th WFTU Congress in Delhi, 25th-28th March 2000

Some Glimpses of Delegate

Women activists with K.L. Mahendra
14th WFTU Congress in Delhi, 25th-28th March 2000

Volunteer of the WFTU Conference

Various Trade Union Leaders from India

Indian Delegation in WFTU Presidential Council held in Tehran, Iran, 26-27 February, 2018
Indian Trade Union in WFTU Congress, 5-8 Oct. 2017

A view of the Dias, H. Mahadevan Presiding

The glimpses of procession on the last day of the WFTU Congress on 8th Oct.

A view of the Dias in South Africa

Some of the Indian Delegates from all participating unions and federations in the WFTU Congress
Some Activities of WFTU affiliates in India
Some Activities of WFTU affiliates in India
Some Activities of WFTU affiliates in India
We Greet
World Federation of Trade Unions

On its glorious
75th Anniversary
3rd October, 1945 – 2020

Workers & People to unite
for a world with social justice,
against monopolies and imperialism

Workers of the world to unite
against exploitation
To fight against injustice,
discrimination and poverty

ALL INDIA BANK EMPLOYEES’ ASSOCIATION
and neo-conservative governments, with their policies have deprived the public sector of human resources and equipment.

Even so, this public health sector, this abandoned sector, fights today like an invincible army; many times without weapons, without individual protection, but with courage. Until today, 61 doctors in Italy got sick and lost their lives, they died in the first line of this unequal struggle. The same happens in Spain, France, Greece and the USA ...

On the other side one can see speculators from private monopoly groups who steal from the public sector, who sell their hospital beds and virus tests at over-expensive prices, exploit the suffering of ordinary people and stain their profits with blood, in collusion with the governments.

THIRD: This crisis highlighted the truth once more; that is to say that only between workers and peoples can authentic, sincere solidarity and support develop. The example of the heroic Cuba that sent 60 doctors to the north of Italy, in the heat of the battle, is an opportunity for the peoples to seriously think and evaluate. On the day that Cuban doctors arrived in Italy, Germany refused to send medical machines to Italy, Italy prohibited exports to Greece, Spain did the same, the US state of California refused to sell masks to New York, other US states had been hiding medical ventilators etc.

During the summit of the European Union leaders on March 26, 2020, a group of countries (Germany, the Netherlands) said no to measures requested by countries with a large death toll such as Spain, Italy and France.

Capitalism is a jungle, with predatory alliances and dog-fights...

A dog-eat-dog world...
On the other side one can see the humanity and solidarity that only workers and socialist society can display.

**FOURTH:** The pandemic, with the data available to date, strips the USA policy bare; the policies of a country that is at the top of the imperialist pyramid. USA admirers worldwide now see their admiration turn to disappointment.

This country has endless missiles, fighter jets, submarines and mercenaries.

*But what do they have when it comes to masks?*

*Medical ventilators?*

*Public hospitals?*

*Social Security?*

*Hospital beds available for poor people?*

There are huge shortages in all of this. Now they are requesting medical supplies from the People’s Republic of China and the Russian Federation.

The United States is the country with the worst healthcare system for the poor, the unemployed, and the economically weak. The worst in the world!

- Nothing is free in their hospitals. One must pay for everything and, in fact, at very high prices for everyone, without exceptions.
- There are 28 million uninsured people
- 33 million people are underinsured.
- There are 8 million people who, although they pay their taxes, do not have legal documents.
• Unemployed, elderly, and low-income people receive basic assistance only if the application they must submit is approved.

And, while the popular strata in the USA suffer the pandemic and the policies of their government, President Trump announced a package of measures of 500 billion dollars for the strengthening of monopoly groups. In addition, packages of $29 billion were announced for airlines, $17 billion for security companies etc. At the same time, the gun lobby in the USA has filed a lawsuit so that gun stores continue their operation. In a country where, according to official data, in 2019, 40,100 people have lost their lives to guns, of which 24,100 have been suicides.

In this regard, capitalists in the USA, Brazil, the United Kingdom and other countries of northern Europe increase their pressure in order to make all companies work, arguing that no protection measures are necessary. The economy is everything, the life and health of workers is nothing. It is this strategy that statements like those of Trump, Bolsonaro and Boris Johnson serve, who affirmed that in a few days they would get rid of the pandemic.

FIFTH: The inter-imperialist antagonisms for the production of the vaccine and effective medicines against the coronavirus are showing the true face of the transnational corporations. When it comes to jointly deciding on anti-labor measures and anti-worker policies they unite against their common enemy, the workers and their struggles. But when it comes to speculation, they are killing each other. Each one tries to steal the other’s secrets. They know that whoever discovers the vaccine first will skyrocket his/her profits. It is a dogfight for profit, not for the protection of public health.

Therefore, according to the above, it is confirmed that not all of us are equal in the face of the pandemic, nor does the
slogan “all united to get out of the crisis” have any pro-worker content. If the rich become infected with the disease, they have the possibility of receiving a different treatment than the unemployed. Furthermore, in the crisis it is the simple people who will suffer the consequences at the labor, salary and economic levels.

So, it is certain that the bourgeois class and its mechanisms are going to take advantage of the pandemic to drastically limit the democratic rights and freedoms of workers and peoples.

In these circumstances it is important for workers to understand that capitalism only generates and reproduces disease, torment and exploitation. Capitalism is anachronistic, it is barbaric. It cannot be humanized. The reformists who present the modernization of the exploitative system as a solution become servants of social exploitation.

There is no vaccine, nor will it be found, to humanize capitalism. It contains social inequality from its “womb”.

The pandemic stripped capitalism naked, removing its mask and fancy clothes.

So today, the duty of all militants is more necessary, more urgent.

We must unite the workers and the peoples for a society without capitalists and capitalist exploitation.

All the workers, together, we can do it.

Our struggle against daily problems is just. Our struggle for the social liberation of the working class is necessary.

(This article was written in April 2020 by George Mavrikios, General Secretary, WFTU)
Resolutions Adopted at Paris Congress (Oct. 1945)

(Foundation Conference of WFTU)

The first resolution adopted by the Paris Congress declared that "one of the primary tasks of the WFTU and the trade union movements of all countries is to fight for the speedy and complete eradication of fascism.

The second resolution outlined the principles for a fundamental charter of the rights of the trade unions and their immediate demands. The Congress strongly reaffirmed the basic demands of the workers:
- the right of the working people to organise themselves:
- freedom from every form of discrimination based on race, creed, colour or sex:
- the right to work and to paid holidays:
- adequate rates of pay and a higher standard of living (housing, food, etc.)
- social security providing guarantees against unemployment, in sickness, accidents and old age.

The resolution on the "people's right to self-determination" clearly put forward the slogan of national independence:

"Victory over the fascist powers was based both upon the united military might of the United Nations and the active struggle of the people to secure their full enjoyment of basic liberties and the right of self-determination and national independence."

"it would indeed be but incomplete victory if the common people in the colonies and territories of all nations were now denied the full enjoyment of their inherent right of self-determination and national independence."
The Congress supplemented this demand for political independence with the call for economic independence, as well.

**Resolution on the Programme of Economic and Social Demands of the World Federation of Trade Unions.**

**The decisions of the First World Trade Union Conference of London held in February 1945.**

1. The World Trade Union Conference held in London in February 1945, in its Declaration on post-war reconstruction and the immediate demands of the trade unions, drew up a concrete programme of defence of the economic and social rights of the workers.

   This declaration asked firstly for aid for the populations of war-devastated countries, reconversion to peace-time industry with full employment and in the interests of the working masses, and help to all those who had shared in the war effort against the fascist powers.

2. On post-war problems the Conference declared "The problems of permanent economic reconstruction must be faced in the same spirit as those of the transition period. The working classes have made untold sacrifices in the cause of human freedom during the present war. A post-war world must be created which will be worthy of all who have fought and toiled to save democracy and civilisation from destruction."

3. For this, the first necessity was to guarantee the workers' right to be free from all forms of economic slavery and to receive for their work a wage sufficient for their needs and appropriate to their qualifications and efforts.

On these lines, the following demands were put forward:

- government responsibility for the application of a policy of full employment;

- the development of production by an investment policy guided by the public interest:

- a taxation and financial policy aimed at raising purchasing power:

- more ambitious housing schemes:
Sectoral Movements
Initiated by WFTU

In addition to the trade union struggles on common and general problems of the working people the WFTU within the same Trade Union structure and movement, attaches great importance to the problems and struggles of the workers most exploited and discriminated against, such as:

Women workers, young workers and the migrant workers and EMT (engineers, managerial staff and technicians).

Working Women

The WFTU maintains that no trade union can function properly and fulfill its obligation and responsibility without taking into account the growing role of women in the production sphere and in society.

In the industrialized countries, more than one-third of trade union members are women. Nevertheless, in these countries, as well as in the developing countries, there are vast sectors of women workers who are yet to be organised in trade unions and this has been a major task.

Despite the efforts made by working women and trade unions, the basic problems of inequality and discrimination continue to exist in many sectors and regions. The social infrastructure required to combine work and family responsibilities is not commensurate with the actual extent of women's employment and their needs.

The WFTU convened the first World Conference of Women Workers held in Hungary on 14 -17 June 1956. The agenda of the conference was:
1) The united struggles of working women and the trade unions for higher wages, for application of the principle of "equal pay for equal work", against all forms of discrimination, for better living conditions, for their rights and for peace.

2) For more active participation of working women in the life and leadership of the trade unions, for a wider recruitment to the trade unions.

"On June 14, 1956, the First World Conference of Women Workers opened in Budapest. 499 delegates attended, of whom 320 were members of Trade Unions affiliated to the WFTU, 167 were from non-affiliated organisations and 12 representatives of various organisations including the International labour Organisation (ILO), the Women’s International Democratic Federation (WIDF) and the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY). Participants included very well known trade union leaders and working women directly from factories, offices, plantations etc. The countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America were well represented with divergent political Orientation which gave World Conference of Working Women a
truly representative character. Some delegates were unable to attend the Conference instance, those from Cyprus and India who were refused their passport at the last moment. The report on the 1st item of the agenda was presented by Germine Guille, Secretary of the CGT of France. The 2nd item of the agenda was presented by Tsune Deushi, head of the Women Department of the Teachers Union. (NIKKYOSO) in the Saitama province, Japan.

"The documents adopted at this 4 day Conference were: (i) General Resolution (ii) An Appeal to Working Women the world over (iii) a memorandum, addressed to the Director General of the ILO.

"The results of the Conference were given extensive publicity in the press in countries all over the World including many Trade Union Press/Publications.

"The results of the Conference found reflection in the activities of Trade Union activities in their demands put forward in the struggles.

Since this was the first World Conference of Women Workers its documents are being reproduced in this booklet for
ready reference. The readers can see how in those days in 50s, the WFTU was conscious of its political and social responsibility to the working women's problems and their place in the Trade Union Movement.

**Appeal from a First World Conference of Women Workers**

*(Budapest, June 14-17th, 1956)*

We, the representatives of women workers of 44 countries meeting in Budapest, Hungary. June 14-17. 1956, in the first World Conference of Women Workers, greet the millions of women workers throughout the world, whose warm and wholehearted support and united effort helped to make possible the holding of this historic gathering.

The enthusiasm and interest shown in all countries during the preparations for the conference, vividly demonstrated in the course of our discussions, expresses our hopes and the confidence we have in our unity, a struggles to win our just demands and end the discrimination of which women workers have for too long been victims.

On the initiative of the World Federation of Trade Unions the preparations for this Conference mobilised the most varied trade union organisations, who gave their help and support which has strikingly demonstrated the indispensable role of the trade unions and the decisive support they can provide to the actions of women workers, rated by common struggle we have already won a number of victories.

These successes are proof of our possibilities. By maintaining and strengthening our unity, joining our trade unions and playing a full part in activities, we shall win still greater improvements in our working and living conditions.

Our Conference has been a magnificent demonstration of unity. Women workers from five continents, from countries of different social systems, women with different coloured skins,
opinions and trade union affiliations have met together, have discussed in a serious and friendly way their problems and experiences, and have thrashed out their main demands and the way to achieve them.

Our Conference is only the beginning of a world-wide united effort by women workers and their trade unions to win their demands.

Women Workers of all Countries!

We want to put an end to our low wages. When we do the same work as men, show the same skill and accept the same responsibilities, we should receive the same pay. The wage discrimination of which we bear the brunt is an extra source of profits for the employers and a perpetual drag on the wages of our brothers and husbands. "Equal pay for equal work" is in the common interest of all workers.

We want to end all forms of discrimination practiced against us as regards wage, hiring, promotion, dismissals and technical qualification, but above all we want to affirm our right to work.

Do not let us tolerate any longer, speed-up, increased exploitation and lengthy hours of work which reduce us to physical and nervous wrecks. Let us fight for shorter hours specially the 40-hour week without loss of pay.

Let us fight for better housing the protection of our work, the right to maternity benefits, pensions, satisfactory social services and benefits and for every kind of measure which would lighten our burdens.

Women Workers of the World!

All these advances cannot be secured unless peace is maintained throughout the world.

Let us demand with more determination than ever before friendship between all nations and the safeguarding of world
peace. Let us fight to ban the production, stocking, testing and use of atomic and thermonuclear weapons and fight for a reduction of armaments.

In colonial and dependent countries, women workers are fighting courageously together with their peoples for sovereignty and national independence - fundamental conditions for the improvement of their conditions.

Let us express our complete solidarity with them.

**Women Workers in all lands!**

Let us take heart from the success we have obtained and boldly go forward in firm unity to win more substantial victories.

The first World Conference of Women Workers has clearly expressed our essential demands and has outlined what must be done to achieve them.

Discuss these recommendations everywhere, in factory, farm, office and at every place of work, popularise these ideas by conferences and meetings, in leaflets, journals, through the
radio, etc. These demands are the basis of our united action.

Enroll in the trade unions if you are not yet organised. Play a full part in all aspects of trade union life and leadership for it is the trade union which defends our rights and guides us.

We women workers are not alone, we can count on the effective help of the trade unions.

Divided we are weak and at the mercy of the employers. Hand-in-hand, organised in our trade unions let us strengthen the bonds of friendship and unity.

Let us go forward to higher wages, equal pay for equal work, shorter hours, a better life and peace.

Budapest, June 17, 1956
Working Youth

The WFTU has since its foundation, paid particular attention to the problems of the working youth and their movement regarding employment opportunity and unemployment, vocational training and education, and their rights, and privileges.

The WFTU established and continues to maintain working relations globally through Working Youth Departments of various National Trade Union Centres within the framework of the UNESCO. WFTU established good fraternal working relations with working youth representatives from divergent political or Trade Union affiliations including organisations from the ICFTU and WCL. In the UNESCO and ILO for a, the WFTU along with the WFDY and IUS, all along raised forcefully the demands for solution of the young workers problems.

The WFTU was the first to organise World Trade Union conference on ROLE OF YOUNG WORKERS IN SOCIETY AND AT WORK in Warsawa (Poland). Three preparatory regional/continental conferences were held in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The WFTU publications carry good coverage of the problems and aspirations of young workers.

The WFTU invariably pays special attention to the problems of the working youth. The WFTU has sponsored 4/5 major international conferences of working youth in Prague, Varna and Nicosia. The International Conference on the Place and Role of Working Youth in Labour and Society, brought together delegates from 99 trade union organisations of 76 countries and 13 regional and international trade union organisations. It approved a new Charter of Demands of Working Youth stressing the need to guarantee young people the right to work, education and culture, and freedom of professional and political activity. The charter inter-alia shows the contrast, how the rights of youth are actually guaranteed in the socialist countries and it highlights the burning problems
of youth in the capitalist countries, where millions of young people are unemployed today.

At the initiative of the WFTU and in co-operation with the then Central Council of the USSR Trade Unions and Trade Union Federation of the Kazakstan Republic, an Asian-Pacific Regional Trade Union Seminar on Problems of young workers was held at Alma-Ata in January 1988. 42 working youth trade union delegates from 20 Asian Pacific countries including representatives from the WFTU, the ILO, World Federation of Democratic Youth (W.F.D.Y.) and International Union of Students.

The Asia-Pacific continent forms two-third of the world in respect both size and population. This continent comprises countries with diverse socio-economic systems capitalist, socialist and developing. The young workers problems in this continent reflect problems that exist in all other continents and as such the deliberations and the final Declaration adopted in the Alma-Ata Seminar is a comprehensive one reflecting common global problems of young workers. The Declaration shows how the WFTU is conscious of the problems of the young workers and its responsibilities.
The WFTU and Migrant Workers

(Extracts from the Charter of Trade Union Rights and Economic and Social Demands of the Workers in the Capitalist Countries at the present time - Chapter XI)

Often driven out of their home counties in search of work by economic and social development, directed and established in the sole interest of capitalist accumulation, which results in structural imbalances between the capitalist countries and within them, tens of millions of men and women leave their countries to earn their living under conditions which are very often hostile and discriminatory with regard to civil, political, economic, social, trade union and cultural rights.

Their living and working conditions and quality of life are often unfavourable. The capitalists and the monopolists often encourage emigration and immigration in order to obtain cheap unprotected labour, which thus enables them to resist the demands of the workers in their own countries by threatening their security of employment.

Still worse, Conditions are offered to seasonal and frontier workers, who are often illegally smuggled and taken on wholesale in the poorest areas of the developed countries. They are men and women without rights, often literate, who
leave a life of poverty for one which is deprived of rights and human dignity.

The workers and their trade unions acknowledge them as comrades in all struggles, as their equals in opposition to capitalist exploitation. They oppose the human degradation, the debasement of the labour of foreign workers and their exploitation by the monopolies and capitalists.

They reaffirm:

✈️ the right of every human being, regardless of sex, race, social or national origin, to enjoy the right to work in his own country;

✈️ the obligation for states to pursue policies aimed at achieving full employment as soon as possible;

✈️ the need to regulate migratory movements at international level so as to ensure uniform guarantees for the rights of workers and their families through the application of the following principles;

✈️ severe penalties for all illicit traffic in human beings from one country to another, and between regions of the same country;

Transport TUI Conference Delegation paying homage at Lenin Mauolium, Moscow (1977)
the right of trade unions to participate in representing migrant workers on an equal footing in the preparation, negotiation, conclusion and supervision of bilateral or multilateral agreements on immigration;

the recruitment of workers by a labour commission stipulating guarantees by the state to which workers emigrate, to the following minimum rights:

full and comprehensive trade union freedom, including eligibility for trade union office;

assurance of employment and access to different jobs and promotion;

equal remuneration on the principle of equal pay for equal work;

vocational and in-service training and the right to literacy, training and life-long education;

equality of treatment with regard to social security benefits (unemployment benefit, family allowances, maternity grants, medical care, pensions);

adequate housing for the workers and their families;

schooling and education for the children immigrants

the right and opportunity for migrant workers to send for their families to join them.
WFTU on Social Security

The WFTU has always fought for full and guaranteed social security. The Fifth World Trade Union Congress (1961) adopted a Charter of Social Security containing demands for social security for expectant mothers and mothers with newborn babies, in case of illness, or occupational diseases, disablement or old age, and stressing the need to increase family allowances and pensions for the families whose breadwinners have died.

The Charter spells out guarantees and demands relating to medical assistance, labour hygiene and safety and the right to work, employment, a guaranteed minimum pay, a shorter working day without loss of pay, paid holidays and a home. It demands discrimination-free social security for all, the financing of guaranteed social security by the employers or the state or by both (without the employees’ contribution), adjustment of pay according to the rising cost of living, and the management of social security by the trade unions or by representatives of the employees.

The following resolution was adopted at the 14th congress of WFTU at New Delhi

The 14th World Trade Union Congress meeting in New Delhi from 25 to 28 March 2000

Declaring that the right to pensions and other social security benefits was won after many long years of determined trade union struggles all over the world and cannot be withdrawn or tampered with;

Considering that neo-liberal policies that seek to degrade pensions and social security payments affect retired workers the most:

Considering the efforts to dismantle the hard-won social se-
curity benefits in old age on the plea of “averting old age crisis”:

**Appeals** to all trade union organisations to support the demand for legal provisions to ensure that:

- Pensions are fixed and revised in conformity with the movement of wage rates and linked to consumer price indices:
- All taxes on pensions are withdrawn;
- Pensions are paid regularly every month and all arrears settled immediately:
- Health care is provided free to all retired persons.
- Pension funds are not privatised.
- Contributory Pension/Provident Fund Schemes should not be scrapped and replaced by self-financing old age pension schemes.

The Congress urges all retired workers and pensioners to reinforce their links with the trade union movement in order to strengthen the struggle in defence of their rights and interests.
WFTU on Protection of Environment

The rapid progress of science and technology and their increasing application in production and the economy generally poses numerous new problems linked with the need to protect the environment. The development imposed by the capitalist drive for profit leads to disastrous consequences in this respect.

The WFTU has repeatedly taken a stand on the problem especially, it did so at the European Trade Union Conferences held in Geneva in 1975, 1977 and 1979. Generalising the experiences of trade unions and non-trade union organisations, the WFTU Commission on Environmental Problems drafted proposals which the Ninth World Trade Union Congress examined at length.

Neither the working people, nor their unions regard population growth and the application of modern technological methods as the cause of a deteriorating environment. The cause lies in the capitalist way of utilising natural, scientific and technological resources, in the monopoly drive for maximum profit.

WFTU on New Technology

The World Federation of Trade Unions recognises without reservation that the New Technology occupies a very important and essential place in the on-going unprecedented socio-economic developments including employment and working conditions. The new technology have brought about cumulative effect and impact on the industry and the challenges posed to the labour movement.
“But the impact of new technology cannot be judged in isolation of social relation. That is why Working People and their Trade Union movement including the WFTU are highly critical of the selfish manner capital makes use of the new technology.”

“The trade union movement including the WFTU/TUIs recognises that science and technology have become an important factor in economic development as other factors such as land, labour and will therefore, be major instruments in distribution of the wealth of nations in the coming decades”.

The WFTU and TUIs are not opposed to modernisation of economy through introduction of appropriate new technology. But introducing new technology the Capital only ensures its own higher/super profit at the cost of labour. The labour in turn justifiably demands their equitable share of the benefit (Profit) of the new technology in the form of security of employment, reduction in the working hours without loss of earning, more annual leave with pay, additional social security and health protection etc. etc.
### Elected General Secretaries and Presidents of WFTU since its foundation in 1945 till date

#### General Secretaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>General Secretary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1945-69</td>
<td>Louis Saillant</td>
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<tr>
<td>1969-78</td>
<td>Pierre Gensous</td>
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<td>1978-82</td>
<td>Enrique Pastorino</td>
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<td>1982-90</td>
<td>Ibrahim Zakaria</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990-2005</td>
<td>Alexander Zharikov</td>
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<td>2005-</td>
<td>George Mavrikos</td>
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#### President

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Walter Citrine (Great Britain)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>Arthur Deakin (Great Britain)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Giuseppe Di Vittorio (Italy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>Agostino Novella (Italy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Renato Bitossi (Italy)</td>
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<td>1975</td>
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<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Indrajit Gupta (India)</td>
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<td>1990</td>
<td>Ibrahim Zakaria (Sudan)</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>Antonio Neto (Brazil)</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>K. L. Mahendra</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Shaban Assouz</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Michael Mzwandile Makwayiba</td>
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World Trade Union Congress organised by the WFTU

I  Paris  25 September- 9 October  1945
II Milan  29 June-9 July  1949
III Vienna  10-21 October  1953
IV Leipzig  4-15 October  1957
V Moscow  4-15 December  1961
VI Warsaw  8-22 October  1965
VII Budapest  17-26 October  1969
VIII Varna  15-22 October  1973
IX Prague  16-22 April  1978
X Havana  10-15 February  1982
XI Berlin  16-22 September  1986
XII Moscow  13-20 November  1990
XIII Damascus  22-26 November  1994
XIV Delhi  25-28 March  2000
XV Havana  1-3 December  2005
XVI Athens  6-10 April  2011
XVII Durban  5-7 October  2016

Indian Veteran Trade Union Leaders in WFTU

❖ S.A. Dange. Founder Vice-President, of the WFTU in 1945 and continued for several years and Member WFTU Executive Bureau Since 1949 to 1986.

❖ Indrajit Gupta. Vice-President of the WFTU since 1996 to 1998 and President, of the WFTU from 1988 to 1990 onward.

❖ K.L. Mahendra, President of WFTU from 2000 to 2005.
Historic Events of the WFTU

2nd World Trade Union Congress endorses the polices and action programme adopted WFTU's Executive Bureau

A group of Participants at the London Conference received by King Georges VI of England, 1945

9th Congress, Prague

15th Congress, Hawana

16th Congress, Athens

17th Congress, Durban

George Mavrikos, WFTU Vice-President in period of 2003 with Yasser Arafat, Palestinian leader, September, 23rd 2003

The WFTU General Secretary addressed the 106th ILC Plenary Session
Fidel Castro addressing the 10th Congress of World Federation of Trade Union (WFTU) in Hawana, Cuba

Giuseppe Di Vittorio was elected president of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) in July 1949 during the 2nd WFTU Congress in Milan, Italy.