Preface

From 1991 to 2005 the WFTU found itself in very difficult conditions. It lost a lot of its forces. Its buildings and assets were stolen or “confiscated”. It found itself isolated after fixed judgments by the courts of the Czech Republic. Its glorious history and its great contribution were being slandered. So in December 2005 we received a WFTU that was slandered, isolated, with a big financial debt, Offices outside the city of Prague in a private house in the middle of a field; with an old (70 years old average) and bureaucratic staff with no belief in the struggle and with no visions. Many WFTU members were hiding their affiliation to WFTU etc.

From 2005 until today we collectively made a big leap towards the strengthening of the WFTU which regained its dignity, pride and ideological superiority.

Today all members are excited with this new course and they trust and recognize the collective bodies of the Organization, the Presidential Council and the Secretariat.

Our cadres from the base to the leadership in their large majority gave their best for this upward course. The role of the young staff (37 years old average) that work until today with faith in the struggle and have the assistance of the workers as their vision is also important.

In the following pages you will find the proofs that confirm this leap of progress and what follows is only a small sample of evidence.

“The unity of the working class is a strategic option. We seek to unite all employees, regardless of their gender, language, religion, skin color or political beliefs...

We want unitary struggles that not only improve the lives of the workers, but also that do not numb their consciences within the framework of the exploitative system. For that reason, a skill in unity strategy is required, so that the practices of the reformists do not capture us...

We have to be firm when it comes to promoting class unity. The unity with class content has to pave the way towards the emancipation of the workers”

WFTU General Secretary
15th World Trade Union Congress
Havana, Cuba 2005
Over the last years, the world has changed dramatically at all levels:

Two wars in Europe, in Yugoslavia and in Ukraine. Imperialist interventions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Mali, Libya, Yemen, Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP 2006-2020 current billion US$)

Life expectancy at birth (years)
The coronavirus pandemic, the economic crisis of capitalism and the climate crisis have affected developments at all levels. Primarily in economy; after all, economy is the basis of politics.

So, we moved and acted under these objective conditions:

Poverty headcount ratio at $5.50 a day (2011 PPP) (% of population)

External Debt - GNI (current billion US$)
Labour Statistics over the last 20 years
Labour Statistics over the last 20 years**

World Unemployment
(% of total labour force - modeled ILO estimate)

World Unemployment Youth
(% of total labour force ages 15-24 - modeled ILO estimate)

World Female Unemployment
(% of female labour force - modeled ILO estimate)

*ILO Data*
WFTU statistics between World Trade Union Congresses

The massification of the WFTU ranks underlines the upward course of this whole period. Unions, whether new or old, met with our large militant family.

The increase in numbers proves that the class and internationalist line of the WFTU expresses the workers and the unions.

WFTU membership
2005 : 48 million
2022 : 105 million

119% increase
As the struggles, the morale and the demands of the workers rise, as the class characteristics of the movement deepen, the WFTU will become even stronger.

A strong world working class means a strong WFTU and vice versa.

The leap from 50 to 105 million members is not just a quantitative figure.

It is a quality leap and puts us all in front of increased duties and responsibilities.
The **WFTU days of action** have now become an institution. Since they started and every year, we have raised current and critical issues collectively and with class unity, highlighting that only the class unity is the one that brings results for the workers. The majority of our members - within their countries - organize demonstrations, protests, important activities. These militant initiatives underline the stable orientation of the WFTU in militant action! Action! Action and action all over! Action within our countries, within our branches, raising the banners of the WFTU (see below selected photos).

The **struggle for democratic-union freedoms and rights** played a central role in every class-oriented mobilization of the WFTU: for the protection of the right to strike, for democracy inside the unions, for the protection of the fighters of the popular movement. The struggle of the WFTU continued even in the adverse conditions of the coronavirus pandemic and
WFTU Foundation Day

the capitalist crisis, at a time when the capitalist states were utilizing new technologies and forms of labor (teleworking, etc.) to increase the exploitation of the working class, to intensify repression and monitoring the popular movement, to abolish historical achievements of our class.

The WFTU internationalism became a reality with the containers of solidarity sent to the peoples suffering from imperialism (Iraq, Libya, Palestine, etc.), with the great international strike against the apartheid of the state of Israel, with our consistent struggle for the liberation of the 5 Cuban heroes, with our relentless struggle to write off the debt of African countries. We rejected the slanders of the yellow trade union leaderships and exposed their role as a servant of the imperialists. This action annoyed the imperialists who did not even hesitate to ban the entry of the Secretary General of the WFTU in the USA!
The WFTU Presidential Council met continuously, with a quorum each year, planning the action of the WFTU on the basis of its Congresses’ decisions. Even within the confines of the pandemic, the WFTU leadership took advantage of new technologies, maintaining its collectivity and having direct contact with the WFTU affiliates around the world.

2006: Belgium, Brussels 20-21 December

2007: Geneva, Switzerland, 11 June

2008: Sudan Khartoum, 14-15 January

2009: Nicosia, Cyprus 8-9 March

2010: Ho Chi Minh Vietnam 22-23 February

2011: Athens Greece, 6-10 April

2012: Johannesburg, South Africa 9-10 February

2013: Lima, Peru, 6-8 March
2014: Rome Italy, 14-15 February

2016: Hanoi Vietnam, 5-6 March

2018: Tehran Iran, 26-27 February

2015: Geneva Switzerland, 6-7 June

2017: La Havana Cuba, 3-4 May

2019: Athens Greece, 3-4 April

2020: Virtual, 15-16 December

2022: Virtual, 1-2 February
Meetings of the WFTU General with leaders of States

Cuba - Raúl Castro Ruz

Palestine - Yasser Arafat

George Mavrikos as WFTU Vice President

Bolivia - Evo Morales Ayma

Syria - Bashar al-Assad

With the President of Nepal

Cyprus - D. Christofias
Secretary George Mavrikos and Governments

Meetings of the WFTU General Secretary George Mavrikos with leaders of States and Governments

China - Xi Jinping

Vietnam

Venezuela - N. Maduro

Hugo Chávez Frías

Venezuela - H. Chávez, N. Maduro

South Africa - Jacob Zuma

Greece - Prokopis Pavlopoulos

Greece - Karolos Papoulias
The role of the **WFTU Regional and Sub-regional Offices** is crucial. They coordinate, inform and guide WFTU members and friends.
Sub-regional Offices

Regional and Sub-regional offices are the eyes of the WFTU in every corner of the globe.
The sectoral organizations, the WFTU TUIs are the heart of our trade union organization.

Within sectors of strategic importance, within the workplace, in direct contact with the base and the workers, they support and connect the leadership of the WFTU with the workplaces.
In 2005 there were 4 TUIs under the WFTU umbrella. These 4 TUIs constitute 36.3% of the WFTU TUIs that operate today.

Today 11 TUIs operate in the 5 continents covering all the major sectors. The 7 TUIs founded after the 15th WTUC amount to 63.6% of the existing TUIs.
Action of the Special Committees

Four Auxiliary WFTU Committees were founded and established for Immigrants, Working Women, Working Youth as well as Legal Support of Trade Unions.
The Committees were staffed with young cadres and are an important tool for every small or big struggle of the WFTU, inside and outside the International Organizations.
The WFTU has actively participated in every International Organization in which it holds a permanent representation.

However, the WFTU had no illusions about the role of the International Organizations and the limited scope of action they offer; It did not bow down to them, did not cultivate illusions, warned the workers about what International Law means and who is in charge of international organizations. We denounced and exposed the discrimination within the ILO, we fought against the monopoly of the yellow trade unionism.

Our Committees were renewed with young and fighting cadres, militants from all continents, from the class-oriented movements of their countries. They carried out the call of the WFTU that shook the workers’ mobilizations all over the world: No one must feel alone in his/her struggles!
WFTU Monuments

The WFTU monuments erected in the period 2005-2022 in Kaisariani (Athens, Greece) and in Durban (South Africa) keep alive the memory and the contribution of the international class trade union movement for the next generations. The same purpose was served by the WFTU events on history issues, the open competitions for writing books and drawing posters, the publications for important and historical union figures, organized by the WFTU.
The WFTU: always in the crosshairs of imperialism

The consistent anti-capitalist stance of the WFTU has always angered its enemies: the imperialists, the reactionary governments and the bosses; that’s why since its foundation and many times throughout its history, it has been targeted by the enemies of the working class and of its lackeys.

- During the first decades of its existence: it was persecuted in 1949 by the French government and expelled from its offices in Paris at the behest of the imperialist hawks. The same operation was repeated in Vienna in 1953, at the second WFTU headquarters, when the Austrian police raided the WFTU offices and confiscated part of its archive. The same thing happened after the tragic events of the counter-revolution in the Czech Republic, in 1991, when the Czech neo-capitalists seized the WFTU offices, expelled our organization and dragged it to courts.

- Since 2005, in each country imperialism has been following different methods of intimidation and repression to prevent the action of the WFTU:

- In Colombia, state and paramilitary groups killed dozens of militants and class trade unionists; Furthermore, every time WFTU representatives visited the country, authorities monitored, terrorized and harassed trade unionists; they even planted a bomb outside the area where the WFTU leadership was meeting with lawyers and social organizations against the murders!

- The USA has persecuted trade union forces which are WFTU affiliates; moreover, the country’s reformist trade union leaders have fined WFTU US affiliates for their internationalist solidarity with class unions, and the government has even banned the entry of the WFTU General Secretary, George Mavrikos, into the country!

- Israel has repeatedly obstructed the free trade union activity of the WFTU in retaliation for our organization’s consistent stand on the side of the Palestinian people: it imposed travel restrictions, carried out humiliating controls and even arrested and deported Alexandra Liberi, a cadre of the WFTU Head Office!

2015 - Protest at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece after the Israeli persecutions against the WFTU
crosshairs of imperialism

- In Denmark, the state in cooperation with the Danish yellow trade union leaders threatened the WFTU cadre Emil Olsen; they tried to force him to resign after their attempt to bribe him in order to renounce the WFTU failed. “You either leave the WFTU or get fired” were the words of the capitalists ... The result: The whole family was fired!

- In Paraguay, WFTU militant Ruben Villalba was jailed after the state-sponsored massacre in Curuguaty for daring to claim land for the landless.

- In Italy, on the eve of the 18th WFTU Congress, the pro-war and anti-labour Italian government set up provocations against the USB, a WFTU affiliate, raided its offices and fabricated charges against it.

At the opposite end are the yellow trade union leaders who have always enjoyed and continue to enjoy the favour, support and understanding of the capitalists and their governments.
The WFTU never ceased its **activity of information** and sensitization of the working class during its upward course. It published more than 200 posters, organized solidarity campaigns, edited dozens of books on all burning issues for the world working class, launched book contests on the history of the international trade union movement in which militants from all over the world were awarded.

The WFTU did not stop promoting issues of **culture of the working class**. We highlighted the importance of preserving the mother tongues, supported the workers’ artistic creation, promoted the great intellectual creations of art for social liberation.
We struggle against the Imperialist Interventions and Violence in Yemen

22th January 2018 Athens, Greece
The WFTU, through its action, chose to inspire every new trade unionist by showing him/her that we are proud of our past. WE DO NOT FORGET the martyrs of our class, WE DO NOT FORGIVE the capitalists and their crimes. The study and highlighting of history, of the past of the class trade union struggles played an important role throughout the action of the WFTU in the previous period. The slogan “History is an open window to the present and the future” set the tone against the falsification of history by the imperialists, while drawing useful and up-to-date lessons for today.

We also fought for the preservation and rescue of the historical archive of the WFTU in order to become a tool for every young fighter.

Paris, October 3, 1945. The World Trade Union Conference decides to constitute itself as the 1st World Trade Union Congress. The World Federation of Trade Unions was born.
Even the "Cosmic Kite", Diego Armando Maradona, supported the WFTU (here with the general secretary of the WFTU, George Mavrikos, at the funeral honors of Fidel Castro, Cuba, 2016).
Ramón Cardona Nuevo, Cuba

El futuro lo es del movimiento sindical clasista, de la FSM (“The future belongs to the class-oriented trade union movement, to the WFTU”)

Vincent Kapenga, DR Congo

Fédération Syndicale Mondiale: aux côtés des travailleurs de la RD du Congo, toujours! (“World Federation of Trade Unions: alongside the workers of the DR of Congo, always!”)

Katerina Kastridou, Greece

Παγκόσμια Συνδικαλιστική Ομοσπονδία: Ο διεθνισμός της στην Ελλάδα και τα Βαλκάνια (“World Federation of Trade Unions: Its internationalism in Greece & the Balkans”)
contests winners

Hussein Karabsa, Palestine

José Maria Lucas, Spain

La FSM (Federación Sindical Mundial) y el MOS (Movimiento Obrero y Sindical) en el Estado Español entre 1945 y 2017 (“The WFTU and the Workers and Trade Union Movement in the Spanish State between 1945 and 2017”)


النقابي الراحل "الرئيس إبراهيم زكريا" (“A trade unionist we lost – Ibrahim Zakaria”)
WFTU Missions across the world
in 100 countries

world
WFTU Leadership 2005-2022

General Secretary

Secretariat

Adib Miro
Syria

Hariharan Mahadevan
India

Valentine Pacho
Peru

Osiris Oviedo
Cuba

Abdimalik El Naneem
Sudan

Swadesh Dev Roye
India

Divanilton Pereira
Brazil

Gilda Chacon Bravo
Cuba

El Sadik
Sudan

Adnan Azzouz
Syria

Alberto Reyes
Panama

Artur Sequeira
(observer) Portugal

Presidents

Shabban Azzouz, Syria

Mzwandile Michael Makwayiba, South Africa
# WFTU Presidential Council Members 2016-2022

## President
1. SOUTH AFRICA - NEHAWU  
   Mzwandile Michael Makwayiba

## General Secretary
2. GREECE - PAME  
   George Mavrikos

## Secretariat
3. INDIA - AITUC  
   H. Mahadevan
4. BRAZIL - CTB  
   Jose Divanilton Pereira da Silva
5. INDIA - CITU  
   Swadesh Dev Roye
6. PANAMA - FAT  
   Alberto Enrique Reyes
7. SUDAN - SWTUF  
   Abdelmalik Elnaeem Ahmed Awad
8. SYRIA - GFTU  
   Adnan Azzouz
9. PORTUGAL (Observer)  
   Artur Sequeira

## Vice-Presidents
10. CUBA - CTC  
    Ulises Guilarte de Nacimiento
11. CYPRUS - PEO  
    Pambis Kyritsis
12. DPR KOREA - GFTUK  
    Ju Yong Gil
13. FRANCE - FNAF  
    Freddy Huck
14. GREECE - PAME  
    George Perros
15. IRAN - WORKERS HOUSE  
    Ali Reza Mahjoob
16. PALESTINE - NATIONAL UNION OF PALESTINIAN WORKERS  
    ABU ALWAFA President
17. PANAMA - CNTP  
    Alfredo Graell Anino
18. PERU - CGTP  
    Valentin Pacho
19. SOUTH AFRICA - NUM  
    William Mabapa
20. SUDAN - SWTUF  
    Yousif Ali Abdelkarim
21. SYRIA - GFTU  
    Jamal Kadri
22. VIETNAM - VGCL  
    Nguyen Dinh Khang

## Members
23. ANGOLA - Força Sindical Angolana  
   Maria Ruth Contreiras Luís
24. BAHRAIN - Bahrain Free Labour Unions Federation (Al Hurr)  
   Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan
25. BANGLADESH - BTUC  
   Igor Arroyo
26. BASQUE COUNTRY - LAB  
   MEBIAIME TANGONO Antoinette
27. CAMEROON -CCT  
   Jose Ortiz
28. CHILE - SNITMECA  
   Joaquin Romero
29. COLOMBIA - FUNTRAENERGETICA  
   Vincent Kapenga Kandolo
30. CONGO R.D. - CTP  
   Luis Chavarria
31. COSTA RICA - UNDECA  
   Etienne Moussavou
32. GABON - CGT-FL  
   Julia Amparo Lotan
33. GUATEMALA - UNSITRAGUA  
   Komal Chand
34. GUYANA - GAWU  
   RAMENDRA KUMAR
35. INDIA - AITUC  
   Dr K Hemalata
36. INDIA - CITU  
   Sunarno
37. INDONESIA - KASBI  
   Pierpaolo Leonardi
38. ITALY - USB  
   Premal Kumar Khanal
39. NEPAL - CONEP  
   Miguel Angel Ruiz Estrada
40. NICARAGUA - CST-JBE  
   Success Enijojuanle Leke
41. NIGERIA - National Union Of Hotels And Personal Services Workers  
   Evgenii Kulikov
42. RUSSIA - Soyuz Profsoyuzov Sowuia  
   Cheikh Alassane Sene
43. SENEGAL - FGTS  
   Janaka Adikari Appuhamilage
44. SRI LANKA - INTER COMPANY EMPLOYEES UNION  
   Ali Riza Kiçıkıkosmanoğlu
45. TURKEY - Nakliyat-IS  
   Oscar Andrade
46. URUGUAY - Sunca  
   Marco Tulio Diaz
47. VENEZUELA - FUNTBCAC  

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39
National stamps 75th Anniversary Honor and dignity
HYMNE DE LA FSM

LA FSM

En quarante-cinq tu es née à Paris
et comme un haut cyprès tu as grandi
Avec le drapeau rouge et un soleil radieux
internationalisme et solidarité

Tes bras comme la mer embrassent les travailleurs
Ils embrassent les Asiatiques et les Africains
Ton action de classe dans le monde entier
Amérique Latine, Europe, Moyen Orient partout est renommée

Tu unis Noirs et Blancs contre l’injustice
Contre l’exploitation, pour un monde socialiste
VIVE LA FSM ANTICAPITALISTE
VIVE LA FSM ANTIIMPÉRIALISTE

HIMNO DE LA FSM

LA FSM

En cuarenta y cinco en París naciste
Y desde entonces como un ciprés creciste
Con la bandera roja y un sol de claridad
Con internacionalismo y solidaridad

En tus brazos como mar caben los obreros
todos los Asiáticos y Africanos jornaleros
Tu acción clasista, famosa en toda la tierra
América Latina, Europa, Medio Oriente, siempre fue pionera

Unes todas las razas contra la injusticia
contra la explotación, por un mundo socialista
VIVA LA FSM ANTICAPITALISTA
VIVA LA FSM ANTIIMPÉRIALISTA

Singers: Greek version: Thodoris Karellas, English version: Savvas Chrysostomou, Spanish version: Juan José (Juanjo) Anaya Fuertes
Choir: Stelios Alexandrakis, Dimitris Zisis, Nikos Moschos, Stamatis Samoilis, Maria Barouti, Sylvia Bekiri, Nasi Sakioti
WFTU ANTHEM

LA FSM

In nineteen forty-five in Paris you were born
Since then like a tall cypress you have grown
With a bright red flag and a bright sun
With international solidarity as gun

Your hug like the sea all the workers holds
It holds all the Asian and African folks
Your class-oriented action became a famous song
In Latin America, Europe and the Middle East it has been so strong

You gather Blacks and Whites against exploitation
For a just society with class orientation
VIVA LA FSM ANTICAPITALISTA
VIVA LA FSM ANTIIMPERIALISTA

ΥΜΝΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΠΣΟ

LA FSM

Το σαράντα πέντε γεννήθης στο Παρίσι
Δυνάμωσες, εψήλωσες, έγινες κυπαρίσσι
Με κόκκινη παντιέρα και ήλιο λαμπερό
Με αλληλεγγύη και με διεθνισμό

Η αγκαλιά σου θάλασσα χωράει τους εργάτες
Χωράει τους Αφρικανούς κι όλους τους Ασιάτες
Η δράση σου η ταξική σ’όλη την Οικουμένη
Λατινική Αμερική, Ευρώπη, Μέση Ανατολή πάντοτε ξακουσμένη

Ενώνεις μαύρους και λευκούς κόντρα στην αδικία
Κόντρα στην εκμετάλλευση για μια άλλη κοινωνία
VIVA LA FSM ANTICAPITALISTA
VIVA LA FSM ANTIIMPERIALISTA

Trumpet: Nikos Sarris (3 trumpets), Horn: Tasos Bakouris (3 horns)
Trombone: Yorgos Pavlidis (2 horns), Tuba: Antonis Argiopoulos (1)
Music and orchestration: Nikos Moschos, Lyrics: George Karab
15th World Trade Union Congress
Habana, Cuba
1-4 December 2005

16th World Trade Union Congress
Athens, Greece
6-10 April 2011

17th World Trade Union Congress
Durban, South Africa
5-8 October 2016

18th World Trade Union Congress
Rome, Italy
6-8 May 2022