



WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

4th Presidential Council

February 22-23, 2010, Ho Chi Minh city Vietnam

2009 Report in Brief

Monthly report of WFTU activities in 2009 WFTU Posters and Publications

Dear comrades and friends

Please see below a report in calendar format of initiatives and activities undertaken by the WFTU in 2009. This summary includes only the most important activities and those international activities in which the Central Office of the WFTU has participated. In addition, many other initiatives were organized by our Regional Offices, by our TUI's – our branch organisations - and by the National Organisations which are affiliates and friends of the WFTU.

From this summary report, the growth and development of the WFTU and its class-oriented trade union activities during 2009 can clearly be seen. We highlight in particular our militant new initiative in calling for April 1st to be designated as an 'International Day of Action for Workers' Rights and Against Exploitation'.

As a result of all this action, 24 trade union organizations from all over the World requested their affiliation to the WFTU in 2009.

At our Presidential Council to be held in the heroic Ho Chi Minh City city of Vietnam on 22 – 23 February 2010, we will review and analyse our activities over the past year. We will seek to build on the positive points and find ways to address any areas of weakness. In this way the WFTU will be in a stronger position to prepare for the 16th World Trade Union Congress.

JANUARY

- ⊕ **16–18:** Beirut International Forum held in Beirut, Lebanon. WFTU represented by **Castro Abdallah** of FENASOL.
- ⊕ **20:** European Regional Meeting held in Vienna, Austria and European yearly plan of activities adopted.

FEBRUARY

- ⊕ **9–13:** 8th European Regional meeting of the ILO held in Lisbon, Portugal. WFTU represented by **Jose Dinis**, General Secretary of TUI Construction.
- ⊕ **12–13:** 3rd International Trade Union Forum held in Beijing, jointly organized by WFTU, ACFTU, ICATU and OATUU. This forum was on the subject of *“Scientific Development, Decent Work and Workers Rights”* and saw the participation of tens of delegates from many countries. In its third year, it has now become established as an important international trade union event. The WFTU was represented by its General Secretary, G. Mavrikos.

- ⊕ **16-26:** WFTU delegation tour of Asia, including Bangladesh, Nepal, Cambodia, and Laos. In the course of many cordial bilateral meetings and discussions, invitations were extended to the trade union leaderships of these countries to visit the WFTU Central Offices.
- ⊕ **23-25:** FNTMMSP (Peru Federation of Metal) held its 11th National Congress in Peru Lima. WFTU represented by **Jesus Gete Olarra**, General Secretary of TUI Metal.
- ⊕ **24-25:** Global Dialogue Forum on the Financial Crisis organised by the ILO. WFTU represented by **Osiris Oviedo**, WFTU's permanent representative to the ILO in Geneva.

MARCH

- ⊕ **2-13:** Annual Women's Conference held in the UN headquarters in New York on the theme of: "The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS". WFTU represented by **Lorena Jaime**, Scientific Councillor.
- ⊕ **10-12:** WFTU organized a preliminary meeting for the TUI Banks-Insurance and Finance Sector. The meeting ended successfully with the election of a Secretariat headed by **CH Venkatachalam** of AIBEA India. Finance sector trade unions from the following countries are participating in the new TUI: Kenya, Taiwan, Brazil, Syria, Belarus, Basque Country, Greece, Cyprus, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Uruguay. The WFTU regards the establishment of this new TUI as an important step in the coordination of action within that sector which has been harshly affected by the economic crisis. WFTU represented by **G. Mavrikos** and **Valentin Pacho**.
- ⊕ **5-27:** Meeting of ILO Governing Body. WFTU represented by comrades **Adib Miro**, **Osiris Oviedo** and **Apostolos Sotiropoulos**, who made a significant contribution with speeches and in discussions.
- ⊕ **8-10:** 3rd WFTU Presidential Council Meeting held in Cyprus, hosted by PEO. 2008 Report and 2009 Action Plan debated and adopted enthusiastically by all members. A highlight – marking the increasing strength and breadth of presence of the WFTU - was the approval of 15 new affiliation applications from Canary islands, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Mexico, Venezuela, Cameroon, Congo, Sri Lanka, Catalonia and Galicia.
- ⊕ **30-31:** 9th Congress of CTA Argentina held. WFTU represented by **Pascual Carneiro**, General Secretary of CTB Brazil.

APRIL

- ⊕ **1:** Inaugural 'International Day of Action for Workers' Rights and Against Exploitation' organised by the WFTU. This bold new initiative met with great success around the world - demonstrations, actions and strikes were held in more than 45 countries, calling for demands and targets proposed by the WFTU. This initiative marks a significant step in the New Course of the WFTU.
- ⊕ **4-7:** 5th National Conference of GEFONT Nepal held in Kathmandu. WFTU represented by comrade **H. Mahadevan**, Deputy General Secretary, Asia Pacific Regional Office.
- ⊕ **6-9:** 36th Conference of the Arab Labor Organisation held in Amman, Jordan. WFTU represented by its President, **Mohammed Shabban Azouz**, a distinguished and widely-respected personality amongst Arab peoples, and by comrade **Adib Miro**.

- ⊕ **14-17:** Asian Unions Conference on the financial and economic crisis held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. WFTU represented by comrade **H. Mahadevan**.
- ⊕ **19:** Trade Union Meeting organised by Friends of the WFTU, France, held in Marseille, France. WFTU represented by comrade **Valentin Pacho, Deputy General Secretary, and comrade Joseph Lop**.
- ⊕ **29-30:** A jointly-organised and hosted Seminar of WFTU's European Regional Office and FTUB Belarus on the subject of "Strengthening trade union defence of workers' rights in the context of the world financial and economic crisis" was held in Minsk, Belarus. WFTU represented by comrades **Cleanthes Cleanthous and Adib Miro**.

MAY

- ⊕ **1-3:** Visit by WFTU General Secretary, G. Mavrikos, to Cuba, where he participated in celebrations held to commemorate: May Day; the 50th Anniversary of the 1959 Revolution; and the 70th Anniversary of the Cuban Workers Federation (CTC). These events were celebrated in rallies that took place in Havana's Plaza de la Revolution and the main squares and avenues of the provinces. A very successful Regional meeting and Solidarity Event were held in the WFTU's Havana Office. Comrade Mavrikos, met there with more than 200 Latin American leaders of trade unions affiliated to or friends of the WFTU.
- ⊕ **1-3:** 4th Congress of CONEP Nepal held. WFTU represented by comrade **CH Venkatachalam**. **This was a very successful Congress which will have a significant positive impact on the country's working class, as well as on the wider area.**
- ⊕ **14 May - 3 June:** Seminar on 'Decent Work' held in Geneva by the International Institute for Labor Studies. WFTU represented by comrade **Premal Kumar Khanal**, General Secretary of CONEP Nepal. Comrade Khanal made a very strong and positive contribution to the Seminar and promoted the positions of the WFTU on this topic.
- ⊕ **22-24:** Women's Conference held in Brazil by the Brazilian Confederation of Women (CMB). WFTU represented by **Maria Pimentel** of CGTB Brazil.
- ⊕ **24-25:** European Trade Union Conference on the economic crisis was hosted by PAME, Greece, in Athens. WFTU represented by **G. Mavrikos and Valentin Pacho**.

JUNE

- ⊕ **2:** The WFTU planned for the ILC annual Session in Geneva and organised a Preparatory Meeting of affiliates and friends.
- ⊕ **11:** Participation by a large delegation from WFTU in the ICATU Solidarity meeting with Palestinian People.
- ⊕ **16:** **The WFTU organized a Solidarity event with CTC Cuba in a central hotel in Geneva to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution and the 70th Anniversary of the foundation of CTC. The main speakers at the event were: Raymundo Navarro, Head of International Relations of CTC; the Minister of Labor of Cuba and the Cuban Ambassador.**
- ⊕ **17:** **The WFTU held its informal Presidential Council and the Council of Friends.** As in previous years, these informal meetings attracted many participants from organisations friendly to the WFTU and from independent trade unions not affiliated to either of the two internationals. The aim of the informal meetings is to

provide an open and democratic forum, within which participants are encouraged to put forward their proposals and suggestions and to freely state their opinions.

- ⊕ **18-20: In cooperation with the ILO, the WFTU's Latin America Regional Office organized an inaugural Meeting of Women Trade Unionists from Central America and Mexico in Nicaragua. The WFTU was represented by Martha Martinez and the meeting was a great success.**
- ⊕ **20-21: 5th Ordinary Congress of CIG Galicia held in Santiago de Compostela. WFTU represented by Valentin Pacho.**
- ⊕ **28-29: The Congress of the Public Services TUI was hosted by the Brazilian Confederation of Public Services in Brazilia, Brazil. WFTU represented by Valentin Pacho. The Public Services TUI represents a very large and influential sector and its Congress enjoyed great success with a large number of delegates from all continents participating. A new leadership was elected with comrade Sebastiao Soares elected as General Secretary, comrade Lulamile Sotaka from South Africa re-elected as President and comrade Arturo Sequeira from Portugal Vice President.**

JULY

- ⊕ **9-12: WFTU hosted a high-level, seven-member delegation from the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU), headed by Ms. Sun Chunlan Vice-Chairwoman and First Secretary of the ACFTU Secretariat. The delegation visited the WFTU headquarters in Athens, where they had an official meeting and discussions with the General Secretary of the WFTU. During their visit, the delegation met with the President of the Greek Republic, the Minister of Labor and the Greek Parliament and other trade union and political representatives.**
- ⊕ **9-10: The 8th National Conference of BTUC Bangladesh was held in Dhaka. WFTU represented by H. Mahadevan.**
- ⊕ **19-21: WFTU organized an International Trade Union Seminar on Working Women on the issue of: "*The role of female trade unionists in promoting the organisation of more working women for a better future for commerce in Nile Basin countries*". The Seminar was organized in Cairo, Egypt in cooperation with the Nile Basin Trade Union Federation of Commerce Workers. The WFTU was represented by Dr. Elsadiq Ali. Working women trade unionists from 7 countries of the area (Egypt, Kenya, Ethiopia, Burundi, Rwanda, Sudan and Tanzania) participated in the Seminar, as did a number of European representatives.**
- ⊕ **27-29: In celebration of the 82nd anniversary of the Vietnam General Confederation of Labour (VGCL), the WFTU jointly organised with VGCL in Hanoi an International Trade Union Seminar on the "*Global Economic Crisis and Trade Union Action to secure employment for workers*". The Seminar was attended by the WFTU General Secretary, George Mavrikos, and was a resounding success, deepening the participants' understanding of the crisis and its effects on workers rights.**
- ⊕ **28-30: The World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) organized a Seminar in Havana on how "We will defeat imperialism". WFTU represented by Carlos Perez from Cuba.**

SEPTEMBER

- ⊕ **9-11:** 62nd United Nations DPI-NGO Conference “For Peace and Development: Disarm Now!” held in Mexico City. WFTU represented by WFTU Permanent Representative at the UN, **Dr. Frank Goldsmith**, and by **Fernando Caceres** from CUT Mexico.
- ⊕ **18-19:** Meeting of the European Regional Office (EUROF) of the WFTU held in Athens, attended by WFTU General Secretary, **George Mavrikos**, and **Valentin Pacho**. Participation in the meeting was strong, with trade unions from 17 countries being represented. Resolutions passed contained a rich range of proposals for action and initiatives to be taken in the interests of the working people of Europe.
- ⊕ **18-20:** Solidarity event with Palestinian People hosted in Lebanon by CGT of Lebanon. WFTU represented by comrade **Adib Miro**. This was a high-level and significant event, with representatives including the Presidents of the Republic and of the Parliament, leaders of political parties and social organizations, the General Secretary of ICATU and leaders and members of Lebanese trade unions.
- ⊕ **20-25:** 10th National Congress of COSATU held in Johannesburg. WFTU represented by General Secretary, **George Mavrikos**. During his stay in South Africa, the General Secretary attended many trade union and political meetings.
- ⊕ **21-23:** 2nd Nuestra America meeting held in Sao Paolo, Brazil. WFTU represented by comrades **Valentin Pacho and Ramon Cardona**.
- ⊕ **24-27:** 2nd CTB Congress was held in Sao Paolo, Brazil. WFTU represented by comrades **Valentin Pacho and Ramon Cardona**.

OCTOBER

- ⊕ **5-6:** WFTU organized an International Conference in the European Parliament in Brussels on “*The international economic crisis and the role of Trade Unions*”. The WFTU was represented by its General Secretary and the members of the Secretariat. The Conference was attended by 31 trade unions from 27 countries. The participants discussed the role of trade unions in issues such as the economic crisis and decent work. This important initiative of the WFTU represented a continuation of the Symposium organized in Lisbon, Portugal, as well as our meetings in Nepal, Cuba, Nigeria, Belarus etc.
- ⊕ **12-15:** International Workers’ Symposium on the Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining, organised by the ILO. WFTU represented by **Osiris Oviedo de la Torre**.
- ⊕ **27-30:** WFTU hosted a delegation from CONEP NEPAL (President and General Secretary of CONEP) to the WFTU Central Offices in Athens, Greece. The General Secretary of WFTU and the two comrades from CONEP engaged in meaningful bilateral discussions and worked up a detailed action plan for cooperation in the organisation of seminars, meetings and activities in various sectors, including the education sector.

NOVEMBER

- ⊕ **5-7:** Inaugural Congress of European Working Women held in Prague, Czech Republic, organized by WFTU’s European Regional Office. WFTU represented by **Osiris Oviedo de la Torre**.
- ⊕ **9-20:** ILO Governing Body Session held in Geneva. WFTU represented strongly by 3 comrades: Osiris Oviedo, Adib Miro and Apostolos Sotiropoulos. More work needs to be done within the ILO and more information and preparation is needed to increase the effectiveness of the WFTU in the GB Sessions.

- ⊕ **14-15:** Celebration of the anniversary of WFDY and international seminar on “The crisis of capitalism and the attacks on the rights of the youth will be defeated by the anti-imperialist struggle!”.
- ⊕ **17:** European Meeting of the Transport TUI held in Lisbon, Portugal and European action plan for the transport sector (air, naval and land) decided.
- ⊕ **18-22:** 36th Session of the FAO Conference held in Rome, Italy. WFTU represented by colleague Sofia Tselemarkou, food and agriculture specialist, who delivered a speech outlining relevant WFTU policies.
- ⊕ **19-21:** Following an invitation from the General Union of Sahara Workers (UGTSARIO), **comrade Quim Boix** attended the Solidarity Conference with Sahara workers (EUCOCO) in Barcelona.
- ⊕ **18-20: Inaugural International Conference on Working Youth held in Lima, Peru, organised by WFTU in cooperation with CGTP Peru. WFTU represented by comrade Valentin Pacho, Deputy General Secretary. The Conference was attended by 32 trade union organisations representing 25 countries from all continents, as well as many local participants. The event was highly successful, with participants exchanging their experiences and discussing proposals for the coordination of struggles. The conference concluded with the election of a Coordination Committee.**
- ⊕ **23: Meeting held in Athens between the WFTU leadership and the TUI Presidents and General Secretaries. The debate was very fruitful and concrete activities were agreed on in the various sectors. The TUI leaders agreed to support the WFTU International Action Day of 2010 and committed themselves to also organize similar Action Days in their respective sectors.**
- ⊕ 23 November–1 December: ILO meeting of experts in Safety and Health in Agriculture. WFTU represented by comrade **Souad Mahmoud** from UITA Tunisia, who attended all the Sessions and made a noteworthy contribution and excellent speech on the subject.
- ⊕ **24:** 4th Congress of KSSH held in Tirana, Albania. WFTU represented by comrades of PAME, who attended the Congress and engaged in bilateral discussions.
- ⊕ **26-28: Inaugural meeting of WFTU affiliates and friends from Central America, the Caribbean and Mexico** held in Heredia, San Jose, Costa Rica. 60 trade unionists representing 27 trade union organizations from 8 countries attended this meeting. WFTU represented by **comrade Ramon Cardona**.
- ⊕ **30 November–2 December:** UNESCO International Conference of NGOs held in Paris, France. WFTU represented by its permanent representative comrade **Apostolos Sotiropoulos**.
- ⊕ **30 November-3 December:** HIV/AIDS Seminar held in the ILO Educational Center in Turin, Italy. WFTU represented by comrade **Boris Boniface Mbah**, National Executive Secretary of FESCOS Cameroun, subject specialist, who made a significant contribution to the Seminar.

DECEMBER

- ⊕ **4-5: Transport TUI Regional Meeting held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, hosted by FUTAC, the Latin American Federation of Transport.** WFTU represented by comrades **Valentin Pacho and Ramon Cardona**.
- ⊕ **9-13:** SACP Special National Congress in Polokwane, South Africa. WFTU represented by colleague Mohammed Iqnaibi of the General Union of Palestine workers (GUPW).

- ⊕ **11: WFTU organized an African Regional Seminar in Nairobi-Kenya on the subject: “*Struggling against HIV-AIDS*”. This Seminar was a significant activity which had a wide impact in the region, attracting attendance by trade unionists from South Africa, Nigeria, Libya and Kenya. Attendees presented the work and experience of their respective trade unions around this issue. WFTU represented by **Dr. Elsadig Ali, Member of the Secretariat of SWTUF of Sudan**.**
- ⊕ **22-23: WFTU’s Asia Pacific Regional Office, in cooperation with the Bangladesh Trade Union Confederation (BTUC), held a Meeting and Seminar in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Seminar was on the subject of “*Rights at work and Social Protection in the Asia-Pacific Region and Evaluation of Social Dialogue in these countries*”. All WFTU affiliates and friends from the wider area participated in both events conducted by comrades **H. Mahadevan** and **Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan, General Secretary of BTUC**, and made worthwhile contributions to the seminar.**

OTHER ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT 2009

Hosting of Foreign Delegations:

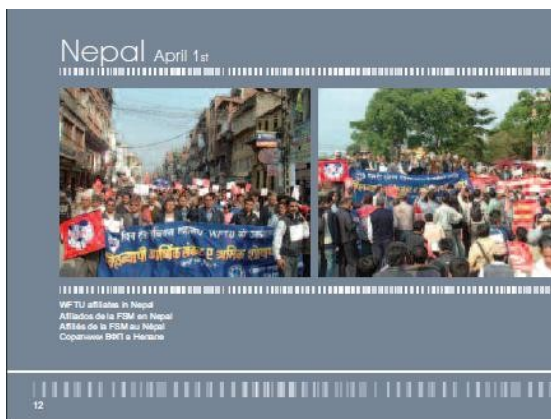
During 2009, many delegations from a wide range of countries visited the Central Offices of the WFTU in Athens and held discussions with the leadership.

Posters and publications 2009:

- **"*Globalisation, economic crisis and their effects on workers rights*"** - this publication deals with the work of the International Trade Union Seminar in Lisbon, Portugal



- **April 1st, International Day of Action against exploitation,** poster and booklet with the activities in all countries.



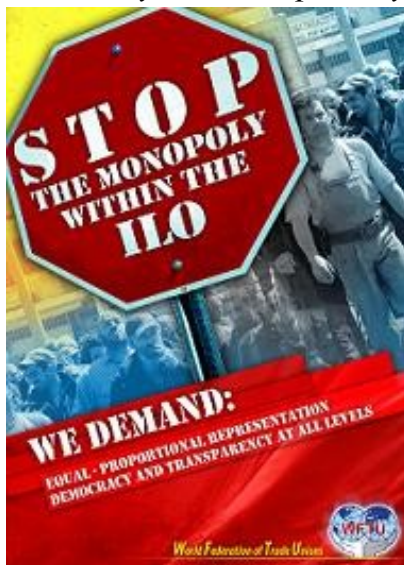
○ **Poster May 1st 2009 :**

"Stop dismissals. Capitalists should pay for the economic crisis. Stop exploitation"

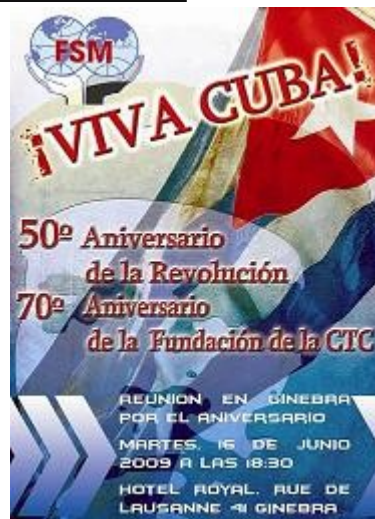


○ **Poster and declaration**

'STOP the monopoly within ILO, we demand equal and proportional representation, democracy and transparency at all levels'



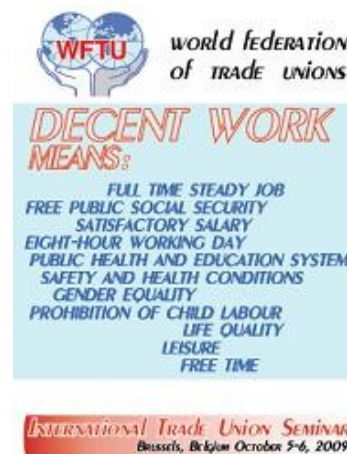
○ **Poster for Solidarity event with Cuba** in Geneva on June 16th.



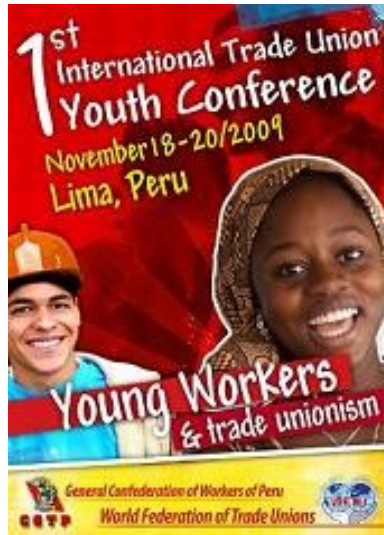
- **Poster for the Working Women Seminar** in Cairo Egypt with Nile Bassin countris in July 19-21, 2009



- **Poster for the Seminar in Brussels on Decent Work** on October 5-6,2009.



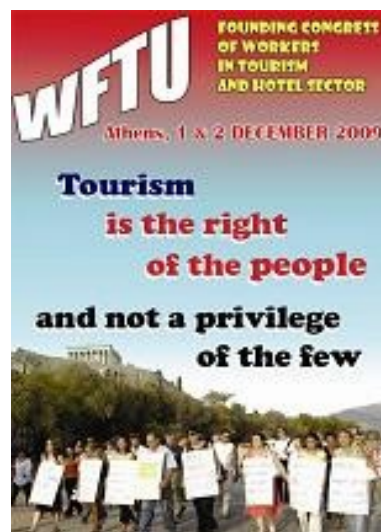
- **Poster for the 1st International Trade Union Youth Conference** held in Peru



- *“The WFTU and our youth”* – this publication is a speech of the WFTU General Secretary on the subject of working youth.



- **Poster for the Founding Congress of Workers in Tourism and Hotel Sector (TUI of HOTUR)**



Dear comrades

This strong and diverse record of working-class activity throughout 2009 provides a firm foundation on which to develop further initiatives for the new year 2010.

We cordially thank all our members and friends.

We thank all our organisations, our Regional Offices and our TUI's and all those who move forward with us on the new course set by the WFTU.

Athens, December 2009
The Secretariat