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WFTU : 70 years
Champion of Class Struggle

Fundamentally different from Class Collaborationists





Author amongst CITU Leadership at the Demonstration organized by WFTU affiliates and friends in the International Action Day on October 3rd, 2013, in New Delhi India



George Mavrikos, General Secretary addressing the Rally for the 14th Congress of CITU in Kerala India

WFTU: 70 Years Champion of Class Struggle

**FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT
FROM CLASS COLLABORATIONISTS**



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PREFACE

To commemorate the occasion of celebration of the 70 years of the foundation of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) the Secretariat of the WFTU has decided to bring out booklets on different topics and the present work is one of the several such booklets.

The Presidential Council meeting of WFTU held in Geneva on 6th and 7th June 2015 has adopted and launched various programmes to mark the celebration of 70 years of WFTU. The central function is scheduled on 3rd October 2015 in Brazil where WFTU representatives from all over the world shall take part in the function. While world-wide people oriented programmes of celebrations have been going on, on 3rd October millions of workers in every continent shall be participating at the action oriented activities launched by the affiliates and friends of WFTU including strikes, demonstrations, rallies, conventions, seminars etc.

In this booklet we have attempted to very briefly recall the historical background of the world working class movement which provided the enabling environment for the foundation of WFTU. It is worth to note that "The founding congress of the WFTU achieved by far the highest and broadest international trade union unity ever secured by the working class." Fight against the hegemonic design of the imperialist forces and the ideological struggle against the class collaborationist elements within the trade union movement and the ultimate split and birth of ICFTU under the drive and patronage of imperialist forces constitute a very interesting reading of the booklet.

Specific reference to the struggle of the people of Latin America, Asia-Pacific and Africa and the solidarity struggles launched by WFTU is historic testimony to the commitment of WFTU to the doctrine of internationalism of working class. Without preaching and practicing the path of class struggle such achievements is unthinkable.

In the booklet we have presented some historical facts to put before the affiliates and friends of WFTU that in course of its proud and eventful journey through the path of class struggles for last 70 years, the WFTU has remained loyal to its lofty ideals and carrying out the organizational functioning strictly within the frame work of trade union democracy. Precisely because of its loyalty to the cause of the working class, social progress and the most treasured aims of the human race, WFTU has achieved its unique place of support and respect in the international working class movement.

The current systemic crisis of capitalism has been discussed in a unique frame drawing

reference from 'Truman Doctrine' and 'Marshall Plan' and 'Reagan Doctrine' and 'Baker Plan' and ultimately the 'Wall Street Crash' of September 2008. This section has really put before the readers an update about the perspective and activities of WFTU in the current context..

The 15th congress of WFTU held at Havana, Cuba in 2005 reinvigorated WFTU's renewed forward march through the path of class struggle and fight against the imperialist forces. This has injected new life in the organization. The historic 16th Congress of WFTU held in Athens, Greece on 6-10 April 2011 firmly reinforced the organizational path charted in the foundation congress: 'Open – Transparent – Democratic – Class Oriented' broad based united movement of the working class, which is fundamental to the organizational principles of WFTU.

I must acknowledge with gratitude that I have extensively taken help on historical matters from Comrade Sukomal Sen's book: "International Working Class Movement" published in 2011. Further, valuable for this booklet was the utilization of the archives of WFTU itself.

Without taking any name, I would like to put on record that comrades at the central offices of WFTU, Athens have contributed in various ways in bringing out the booklet. I am really thankful to these comrades. Without the help of the concerned comrades at CITU centre, New Delhi I would not have been able to complete the project. Fraternal greetings to these comrades.

Finally, I want to appreciate comrade George Mavrikos, General Secretary of WFTU, who with his theoretical and organizational abilities has given an new dynamic to the new course of the WFTU. I hope this booklet will be of value to this new course.

Swadesh Dev Roye
Deputy General Secretary of WFTU
New Delhi, September 2015

Founded on 3rd October 1945 at the Paris Congress, the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), truly the first unified International Federation of Trade Unions, is celebrating the glorious 70 years of its foundation. Presidential Council of WFTU in its session at Geneva on 5th and 6th June 2015 has drawn elaborate programmes to commemorate the event. Millions of members, supporters and well wishers of WFTU all over the world shall participate in the celebration. On this historic occasion, in course of the present discussion, we propose to delve into the twist, turns and triumphs the WFTU has come across.

The Foundation of WFTU

The foundation of the WFTU was a turning point in the world working class movement. Right from its very foundation the new World Trade Union Organisation has been characteristically different from those which had previously existed. The most significant features of WFTU has been that it was open to all, really united, bringing together all the workers not on the basis of their political beliefs or their affiliation to one or the other trend in the working class movement, but based on their class interests, regardless of any other alien consideration.

However it is very important to recall that the formation of WFTU was not a sudden development. There was an enabling objective situation centering round the international working class movement following the defeat of Fascism. The working class in capitalist countries intensified its activities, attained higher political awareness and realized better organization. At the same time international ties of working class witnessed expansion and strengthening. Now these were contributory factors behind foundation of WFTU. However, most important point is the persistent efforts put to bring this unique organization into being. The setting up of the World Federation of Trade Unions was a major victory of the champions of proletarian internationalism and the unity of the international workers' movement. The founding congress of the WFTU achieved by far the highest and broadest international trade union unity ever secured by the working class.

In the matter of aims and objectives and path to pursue the ultimate goals, WFTU has been firm believer of class struggle. However WFTU has always been alive to the reality that unification of the anti-imperialist forces warrants broad-based united approach. While the ideology of working class must be relentlessly propagated from the platform of WFTU, at the same time it must not be forgotten even for a moment that WFTU is a mass organization of the working class and not a political party. In a mass organization of the huge world-scale dimension like WFTU there are bound to be affiliates and rank and file members with

varying degree of ideological understanding. In such a situation what is of paramount importance to safeguard and strengthen the broad based united character of the organization is strict adherence to principle of democratic functioning. Trade Union democracy must be the core concern for safeguarding the 'unity in diversity'. At the foundation congress itself a solid frame work for trade union democracy was laid down and put to practice. In the make-up of the congress and of the leading committees, regulations a full representation of every country and streams were provided due democratic voice. Moreover, the movement, animated by a thoroughgoing practice of self-criticism and a deep spirit of internationalism, was geared to protecting the interests of the workers in all parts of the world.

Some Highlights of the Foundation Congress

"The WFTU is the Child of Unity, of the workers' joint struggles against fascism, of the will to build peace and to liberate colonial people, of the struggles for better living conditions, the battles against exploiting monopolies and warmongers", with these words the founding General Secretary of the WFTU Comrade Louis Saillant characterized the foundation of the WFTU. The characterization in few words made it eloquently clear the aims and objectives of the newly founded unified World Trade Union Federation.

It is interesting to recall that irrespective of philosophical and political differences, the documents of the founding congress of WFTU, including its programme and ideological frame work, were adopted unanimously. This means that the delegates from the highly industrialized countries – the United States, Britain and France – the representatives of the colonial countries and the ones which had realised their political independence but which had barely set out on the path of industrial development, and the delegates of the Soviet Union, all accepted the viewpoint of class struggle and the progressive transformation of human society.

It is a historical fact that amongst the delegates of the founding congress there were some class collaborationist elements also. These elements obviously created serious controversies and sharp differences at the Congress on several issues. For example, on the question of national independence for colonial countries, there were different attitudes. When, for instance, S.A.Dange (India) welcomed the prospects opened up by the establishment of the WFTU in the following terms: "For our working class the simple thing is national independence and for that our people join the international trade union movement", Walter Citrine of the British TUC replied that he did not think the WFTU was "the medium whereby this is to be done. If once we get into the maze of politics this international will perish." When the Standing Orders Committee proposed a resolution condemning colonialism in Vietnam and Indonesia, Mr. Kupers, delegate from the Dutch trade unions, came to the rostrum to deny the justification of the Indonesian people's struggle for independence.

Apart from the highlights noted above, we further mention below excerpts from an article published in WFTU monthly journal World Trade Union Movement written by Vicente Lombardo Toledano, one of the founders of WFTU and former President of CTAL and former Vice President of WFTU on the occasion of 15th anniversary of WFTU. The excerpts capture the message of unity of working class to fight the danger of fascism leading to the formation of WFTU; the assembly of delegates in the foundation congress representing every region of the world and people oriented aims and objectives and adoption of the path of unity and struggles in adherence to the doctrine of class struggle.

"In the early twenties of this century fascism came to power in Italy. In 1933 Hitler became Chancellor of the German Empire. By virtue of these two developments fascism had become the most dangerous aspect of imperialism. It represented violent dictatorship by finance capital, the theory and practice of force for the solving of social and political problems, the complete destruction of the rights and liberties

of bourgeois democracy. The world working class, realizing the danger involved in fascism, began to come together to manufacture their own weapon for the struggle-international trade union unity”.

“Far from the battle-fields, the Congress of Industrial Organisations (CIO) in the United States, an organisation which then had more progressive views than the American Federation of Labour (AFL) openly supported the need for the unity of the working class.”

“In Latin America, the CTAL had at a number of its meetings adopted decisions aimed at promoting unity. It realized, in fact, that even if fascism was defeated by force of arms, the capitalist system had reached the stage when ruling circles in the highly industrialized countries saw in fascism, the embodiment of their own social philosophy, and repudiated it purely because of their contradictions with Nazi Germany and her allies, not on grounds of principle.”

“In the colonial countries of Africa and Asia each with its own clearly demarcated character, the workers were looking ahead to their liberation, and also wanted to make their contribution to the unity of the workers of the world.”

“When the Conference opened, there were representatives present from every region of the earth. Side by side with the Australians were representatives from the working class of the United States. Delegates from India rubbed shoulder with those from Soviet Union. Alongside the French were delegates from Africa. Side by side were delegates from Latin America and from the European countries where the war’s final and biggest battles were taking place”.

“After overcoming many difficulties, we reached unanimous decisions and decided to create a new body which would unite all the workers of the world regardless of race, religion, nationality or political opinions. This body was to fight to preserve and strengthen international trade union unity. It was to accept the class struggle as reality, and as the

driving force of the working class movement in the capitalist countries. It was to fight to win everywhere recognition of the rights of the working class and of democratic liberties, to raise the standard of living of the workers and peoples, to help to organize the trade unions in the under-developed countries, to educate all the members of the trade union organizations in the principles of international working class solidarity, to continue the struggle to root out all forms and manifestations of fascism, and to resist war and its causes in order to secure a lasting and stable peace.”

In course of its proud and eventful journey through the path of class struggles for last 70 years, the WFTU has remained loyal to its lofty ideals and carrying out the organizational functioning strictly within the frame work of trade union democracy. There is not a single case of these principles having been violated. It has grown in size, and its authority has also substantially increased among the working class. Precisely because of its loyalty to the cause of the working class, social progress and the most treasured aims of the human race, WFTU has earned its unique place in the international trade unions map

The historic 16th Congress of WFTU held in Athens, Greece on 6-10 April 2011 firmly reinforced the organizational path charted in the foundation congress : ‘Open – Transparent – Democratic – Class Oriented’ broad based united movement of the working class, which is fundamental to the organizational principles of WFTU.

Class Collaborationists Separated From WFTU

Founded on the fundamentals of Class Struggles, the WFTU, from the outset, was a part of the broad anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist movement which developed in many parts of the world with the ending of World War II. The capitalist classes in all countries, plus their right-wing Social Democratic agents, were very well aware of this basic fact. This was why they promptly engaged in hatching deep-rooted conspiracies to cripple WFTU.

We have already noted above the conducive situation which emerged after the defeat of Fascism and the heightening struggles of working class in capitalist countries and trade union related developments all over the world which constituted the background for foundation of the WFTU. Significantly the factors leading to the split of WFTU and foundation of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) in 1949 was more in the interest of capitalist class, and against the interest of working class.

Although the immediate cause for formal split in WFTU was the opposing stand on 'Marshall Plan', the basic differences over a range of questions had emerged within the WFTU even before the Marshall Plan surfaced. The point of main divergence was centering round opposing the hegemonic design of the imperialist powers and role of trade union movement.

The US Hegemonic Design

The victory over fascism in 1945 was the achievement of unprecedented broadest possible Anti-Fascist Alliance in which a decisive role was played by the Soviet Union which opened up new horizons for the peoples in their struggle for national liberation and social progress. Immediate result of the victory can be traced in the establishment of the Socialist States in Europe, intensification of national liberation struggles and breaking down of the colonial empires and the then advancing people's revolution in China. Shaken at these developments the imperialist powers headed by the US imperialism got into anti-people play.

The US ruling classes taking advantage of the damage suffered by the European States drew ploy of establishing its hegemonic authority over the world. With the Britton Woods agreements the US imposed worldwide supremacy of the dollar and achieved a leading role in the world capitalist financial system. At the same time, proceeded to ensure their political stronghold for which they sought military supremacy, in

particular the monopoly over atomic weapons.

Imperialist powers engineered events of the period were attempt to dislodge the Government of Czechoslovakia, conflict in the Middle East, expulsion of Palestinians from their homeland and the denial of right to set up their own national state, division of Germany to revive German imperialism along its 1937 borders and virtual colonization of Southern part of Korea by the US. In 1949 the war mongers created North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a military alliance headed by the US with blatant aggressive arms. Thus within a few years of the end of second world war, the imperialist powers led by US imperialism threatened world peace embarking on a policy of confrontation in international relations. At the same time, the imperialist powers declared the onset of so-called cold war period. Obviously WFTU was against the hegemonic game of the US imperialist supported by their European allies.

The imperialist powers knew it well that without breaking the solid international unity of the working class achieved with the foundation of WFTU it will not be possible to push through their evil design to dominate all over the world. How the State and money power was deployed by the US imperialist in dividing the trade union movement in Europe and elsewhere surfaced subsequently. For example, Thomas W Braden, Director of the section of international organizations of the CIA between 1950 and 1954 wrote in 1967 for the Saturday Evening Post:

“In 1947, the communist CGT staged a strike in Paris which threatened to bring the French economy to a standstill. It was feared that the government would fall ... In the midst of this crisis, Irving Brown appeared. [This man was the Director of the notoriously famous American Institute for Free Labour Development which was financed by large US consortium and was one of the largest post-war operators of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)]. With funds from the Dubinsky trade union (AFL – Ed.) the “Force Ouvriere” was organized as a non-

communist trade union. When the money ran out, he turned to the CIA. Thus, the secret subsidies to free trade unionism began ... without which post-war history could have followed a very different path ...”

‘Truman Doctrine’ & ‘Marshall Plan’

In the year 1947 what came to be known as the notorious “Truman Doctrine” the US imperialist proclaimed itself something of a ‘World Policeman’ assuming the right to intervene against any government in the world which was not quite to its liking. At the same time, General Marshall the then Secretary of the State of USA presented to the United States Congress with his plan for so called reconstruction of Europe later came to be known as ‘Marshall Plan’.

Actually the Marshall-plan was a scheme which would bring capitalist Europe under the economic and political tutelage of the United States, as it soon did. This imperialist set-up did not in the least worry the conservative American trade union leaders, nor was the British repelled by it.

Only a few weeks after the Marshall Plan was announced, as the WFTU revealed, a meeting of the representatives of AFL and CIO was held in Switzerland, where the renegade Love Stone was also present, where it was decided that if they could not compel the WFTU to accept the Marshall Plan they would split it and organize a new federation.

The split occurred at the Executive Bureau meeting of WFTU at Paris on 19th January 1949. The British TUC President Arthur Deakin read out a letter demanding “suspension of all WFTU activities for a period of 12 months”. Failing which the British TUC would withdraw from the WFTU. James B Carey from the US was more direct and blunt: “It is no use pretending that the WFTU is anything but a corpse. Let us bury it.” The motion was rejected as it did not fall within the competence of the Executive Bureau. Hence matter was referred to the Executive Committee and to the next Congress. Following this decision of the Bureau Arthur Deakin, James B. Carry and E. Kupers (Natherlands)

walked out of the meeting.

In spite of the unfortunate development at the Bureau meeting at Paris in January 1949, the second Congress of the WFTU was held in Milan (Italy) from 29th June to 9th July 1949 which was attended by delegation from 61 countries. The Congress rejected the British TUC proposal to suspend activities of WFTU and also adopted resolution unanimously opposing the Marshall Plan. An open letter was also addressed from the congress to the trade unionists of USA, Britain etc. The understanding of WFTU about the Marshall Plan was clarified in an open letter excerpted below:

“Amongst us, the delegates to the Second World Trade Union Congress are to be found representatives of France, Italy, Holland, Luxembourg and other countries covered by the Marshall Plan. Not only has it not improved their conditions of life, but this Plan has resulted in further privations and in misery and unemployment. To British workers this Plan has brought the lowering of their standard of living and wage freezing. For the workers of America, the Marshall Plan has also meant an increased burden. Far from stopping the growth of unemployment, it has aggravated the workers’ situation. It is for these reasons that we are opposed to this imperialist plan of servitude and are for the maintenance and development of the national economy and the liberty and independence of every country.”

Birth of a Class Collaborationist TU Organisation

The class collaborationists, who split the WFTU, launched ICFTU in December 1949 in London. The French government backed up the splitters by closing the international headquarters of the WFTU in Paris, forcing it to re-locate in Vienna. Capitalist all over the world hailed the split in the WFTU particularly in the United States. The Wall Street engineered the breaking up of WFTU with the motive to divide the working class movement and to establish capitalist domination all over the world. ‘Under the title, “WFTU Broken Up - Next Steps for

Free Trade Unions.” The AFL Executive Council, on February 4, 1949, declared, “The American Federation of Labour and the free trade unions throughout the world can only vigorously applaud the severance by the British Trade Union Congress, the CIO and the Netherlands Federation of Labour of all relations with the so-called World federation of Trade Unions.” It urged the immediate formation of a new international, and it promptly began to move in this direction. Even American sources had commented about the U.S. machination thus: The Industrial and Labour Relations Review of Cornell (April 1950) suggestively remarked, “It is hardly exaggerated to state that the ICFTU has been sponsored by the United States unions.”

After functioning ten days as a conference, the London gathering adopted a constitution and went into the first congress of the International Confederating of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU). The new labour federation, created by American imperialism to fight the WFTU, was thus born.

The ICFTU, in its programmatic statements, made a big show of defending the interests of the workers, but its real purpose was made clear by its all-out support of the Marshall plan and by its virulent attacks upon the countries of Socialism and of people’s democracy. Its aim was not to fight the capitalists and imperialists, but the left-wing of the world working class movement. This elementary reality surfaced with its red baiting, fostering split all over the world, refusal of the offer of the WFTU (Milan, 1951) of joint action in the workers’ daily struggles and its general acceptance of the pro-war line of American imperialism.

The WFTU have had been the international of a new type, infused with militant and dynamic spirit, which is unknown in the ICFTU. The contrasting characteristic of difference in spirit and role of the two organizations is captured in the fact that while the ICFTU officially drags behind the Anglo-American imperialists trying to save world capitalism – vast sections of the membership of the WFTU are actually

committed to build socialism. The WFTU is the vanguard of the trade union movement of the world.

The man who directed the splitting campaign, James Carey, Secretary-cum-Treasurer of the CIO, is the same notorious bureaucrat who was so active in splitting the WFTU, later said, "In the last war we joined with the Communists to fight the Fascists; in another war we will join the Fascists to defeat the Communists."

In the meantime in December 1955, the AFL and CIO merged into a new federation. Mr. Meany, the president of the AFL-CIO, declared class collaborationist policy for the new organization. He contemplated a general "no-aggression pact" with big business, based on the deceptive collaboration between capital and labour. In deprecating strikes to the president of the National Association of Manufacturers, he said, according to the New York Times of December 10, " I never went on strike in my life, never ran a strike in my life, never ordered any anyone else to run a strike in my life, never had anything to do with a pick line.... I had no experience with that type of power."

The Conflicting Role of WFTU and ICFTU during the Cold War Period

The ICFTU and the WFTU have followed opposite policies throughout the cold war; the former generally supporting the programme of American imperialism and the latter systematically opposing it. In accordance with the basic policy of the Second International, the ICFTU, during this most critical period in world history, saw an enemy only on the left, especially in the countries of people's democracy and socialism. As we have already noted , the ICFTU backed the Truman doctrine, the Marshall plan, the Atlantic pact, the Korean War, the imperialist butchery in Malaya, the re-armament of Germany, the American occupation of Formosa, the refusal of Wall Street's politicians to ban and destroy the atom bomb and practically every other ramification of American imperialist policy. The ICFTU thus violated the most vital

interest of the working class throughout the world.

The work of the ICFTU, was particularly insidious in its covering up of the imperialist war propaganda of the monopolists with a veneer of labour phrases. But the ICFTU sank to its lowest levels, in the service of the imperialists by its systematic splitting attempts of the WFTU on world scale, and by its disruption of the labour movement in many individual countries – France, Italy, Germany, United States, Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The substance of ICFTU policy throughout the cold war had been a united front with American monopoly capital against the peace and democratic forces of the world and in defense of the world capitalist system.

At the third world congress of the ICFTU, held in Stockholm in July 1953, when the British and other delegates wanted peace negotiations conducted with the Soviet Union, the Americans objected, calling it “appeasement”. “A struggle between the British and United States delegates over this issue resulted in defeat for the policy of peaceful co-existence.” The British leader, Sir Vincent Tewson, general secretary of the British Trades Union Congress, who had been president of the ICFTU and who was opposed by the Americans, did not run again and was supplanted by the Meany figurehead, Omar Becu of Belgium. A similar fracas occurred at the 1955 congress of the ICFTU in Vienna, with many Europeans denouncing the American labour dictators as warmongers. As the United States government was having increasing difficulty in controlling the United Nations, so also were its labour lieutenants found the going more and more stormy in dominating that creature of American imperialism, namely ICFTU.

On the other hand, the WFTU has, from the outset of the cold war, carried on an energetic struggle for peace and against the world domination plans and policies of American imperialism. The WFTU is a founding section of the world peoples’ movement for peace. It has not

only carried out a far-flung peace campaign upon its own account as a trade union movement, but also as a member of the World Council for Peace, in the Executive of which it has delegates. The WFTU unions were major factors in collecting signatures for the several petitions of the World Peace Council, with their hundreds of millions of names attached.

The WFTU and its affiliated unions have steadily supported the struggles of national liberation movements and revolutions in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. They have fought against the huge armament appropriations and also against the unbearable tax burden on working class. They have battled vigorously against all infringements upon the peoples' democratic rights, the trend toward fascism – which was almost everywhere a part of the imperialists drive toward war. They have revived the 'May Day', long sabotaged by the right Social Democrats, and have again made it a day of international demonstration and struggle.

The post war years have witnessed many great strikes, mostly imbued with an anti-war spirit. Notable were the vast strikes in France and Italy in 1949 and 1953, the big Spanish strike of 1951, the huge strikes in Indonesia in 1953, the several, Japanese general strikes in 1953, the big strikes in Brazil, Chile, and other Latin American countries in 1953-55, and various struggles in Africa and other countries of the world.

Fundamental Difference between WFTU and ICFTU

The WFTU and ICFTU differ fundamentally in their structure, composition, methods of work, and political outlook. The WFTU, to paraphrase Lenin, is an international of a new type. Incorporating the historical experience of the working class, it also looks forward to the new world system of Socialism that was first born in Russia. The ICFTU, in contrast, was wedded to the past, and its leaders were trying to utilize it as an instrument for the preservation of the obsolete capitalist system.

The WFTU faithfully reflected the then existing state of the workers, awakening as they were in all parts of the globe, in as much as it has been truly a world organization. At that time besides it's following in the industrial countries, it also had powerful organizations in the colonial and semi-colonial countries and it was thoroughly in harmony with the vast national liberation movements in the imperialist colonies. But the ICFTU like the IFTU, before it was primarily an organization of industrial Europe. It was essentially alien to the undeveloped regions of the world. Whatever organizations it had in these countries had been built largely in cooperation with the employers and the capitalist governments in order to combat the growing organization and influence of the WFTU.

As the true trade union organization of the working class, the WFTU and its affiliated unions pursue their policies upon cultivating the welfare of the whole class upon the workers in agriculture as well as in industry. The ICFTU and its affiliates, however, followed essentially the historical right-opportunist orientation of class collaborationist. The trend was also more and more for the leaders of these reformist trade unions- in Asia and Latin America, as well as in Europe and the United States, to become the direct and often subsidized, representatives of the employers and the capitalist states.

The methods of struggle of the WFTU were also on altogether a qualitatively higher plane than those of the ICFTU. WFTU policy was based upon the class struggle, while the ICFTU followed the line of class collaboration. The latter organization was saturated with the dry-as-dust bureaucratism characteristic of Second International organizations in general, which was typified in the defunct International Federation of Trade Unions that was superseded by the WFTU.

The WFTU, on the contrary, conducted vivid working class fighting activities, emphasized, among innumerable manifestations, by the multiple activities of its Trade Union Internationals, by its firm support of all important strikes, by the immense world-wide May Day demonstrations which it cultivated , by its specific & intense

international campaigns / conferences, by its extensive literature, by its widespread defence of trade union rights, social security, unemployed, civil rights in general,.... of the special demands of women and young workers, of working class education, and the like and above all, by its militant fight for world peace. The WFTU has been a real international trade union centre, always alert and alive to all the needs and mood of the world's working class.

WFTU Upholds Political Task of Working Class

From the beginning, WFTU has been working for total emancipation of the toiling people, WFTU affiliated unions not only support the economic demands of the workers but they also help to raise these demands to a broad political level and to mobilize behind them the maximum support of the workers and their allies. This sharp political consciousness of the WFTU and its affiliates placed them up to an altogether qualitatively higher level of working class understanding and activity than the ICFTU and its organizations. In other words WFTU's perspective goal is Socialism while ICFTU is a defender of class exploitative capitalism.

WFTU supports day to day struggles of the working class for immediate relief including achieving legislative protection for workers especially in the interest of the vast unorganized masses. But it considers such success as minimum relief and not maximum and permanent solution. WFTU believes constant struggles by workers to achieve shortening of working hours, raise wages, Improve the workers' standard of living.

Progressive trade union movement must be made up of the most class conscious elements among the workers, who are most developed in Left ideology and who constitutes the best fighters in the front lines of the class struggle. The Political establishment of the working class coordinates all the organized and unorganized sections of the working class under one general political leadership, and it conducts the many phased struggles against the employers and the state, all the way to

the establishment of Socialism. Lenin said, “The Party is the highest form of class association of the proletarians. The Party is the political leader of the working class.”

Nevertheless, the WFTU is not a political party, nor is it affiliated to or controlled by any political party. However, its affiliates all over the world support political struggles of working class and democratic people. Also, in the United Nations and in its separate parts - ILO, UNESCO, etc.- the WFTU is the tireless advocate of the interests of workers. WFTU believes that life, structure, outlook, and policies of the trade unions under capitalism must be aimed at abolishing capitalism and to begin the great march to Socialism in which working class plays the leading role in alliance with the entire toiling people.

International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

In early November 2006, in Vienna, two organizations of common ideological mooring but operationally competing – the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and World Confederation of Labour - came together and founded the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). The whole perceptions of both the constituents behind the event were that the capitalist globalization of political institutions and the globalization of business and markets must be complemented by the globalization of trade unions. These were, obviously, class-collaborationist approach and these trade unions and their merger constituted a reformist challenge to trade union movement, particularly to class-oriented WFTU, which was founded with a revolutionary vision.

A related development had already taken place in 2002. The 10 Trade Secretariats of ICFTU started to call themselves Global Union Federations (GUFs). The change of name was the result of new lines of work under capitalist globalization. Now-a-days the GUFs are concerned with the introduction of what they call Global Framework Agreement. These agreements merely deal with peripheral issues leaving aside basic

issues of major monetary matters like wages and compensation. The exploitation of cheap labour in developing countries by the MNCs is hoodwinked by the GUF engineered so called frame work agreements. This is also an example of class collaboration. Question arises why there should not be MNC based global agreements incorporating all issues relating to service condition including wage etc for all workers of MNC operating from different nation states.

ITUC and the Capitalist Agencies - World Bank, IMF, WTO & OECD

ITUC's intimate connection with the most hated anti-people, anti-worker, anti-trade union and destroyer of economic sovereignty of the underdeveloped and developing nation states, the instruments of imperialist powers – World Bank, International Monetary Fund and World Trade Organization is wide open and universally known fact. Moreover close relation of ITUC with OECD, the G-20, the block of the richest capitalist countries of the world are also well known internationally.

ITUC participates in regular sessions with these agencies. Representatives of these agencies participate in the conferences and meetings of ITUC. In fact the official inauguration of the 2nd congress of ITUC held at Vancouver, Canada on 21-25 June 2010 was done by the Managing Director of IMF Mr. Strauss-Kahn. Mr. Pascal Lamy, Director General of the WTO also addressed the ITUC congress. Actually ITUC is almost a part and parcel of these capitalist agencies. The question naturally arises - is it the definition of a democratic and independent trade union federation? In sharp contrast, the WFTU has been fighting these agencies tooth and nail, rather leading from the front with its affiliates in their intense fight against these agents of imperialism all over the world.

The facts and analysis mentioned above amply confirm how ITUC activities are designed to suit the purpose of capitalist interests and

imperialist strategies. This reformist International Confederations stands in direct contrast to the class-struggle oriented WFTU. The class collaborationist trade union contributes to the interest of the Capitalist and their Governments and supported by their financial and political support.

It shows clearly how the two opposite streams of international trade union movement, one based on revolutionary ideology of class struggle and basic social economic change runs in direct contrast with another class collaborationist trade unions like ITUC and its associates all over the world.

Pre and Post Liberation Struggles of the People of Africa, Asia and Latin America

Fight against imperialism is the foundation pledge of WFTU. It is committed to fight for national liberation, human rights and trade union rights, pro-people transformation of society and against war and for peace in the world. Right from its foundation WFTU, true to its ideological and political commitment, has been consistently supporting and actively contributing in the liberation struggles of the colonies of imperialist powers. While inside the WFTU, the British TUC and the US AFL opposed the question of holding an Asian Trade Unions Conference or implementing the decisions of an African trade union meeting in Dakar. Basically what was at stake, again, was the question of supporting national liberation struggles of the countries of Asia and Africa. As was in those days, so too even today, these basic commitments are non-negotiable for WFTU. On the contrary the ITUC continues to side with the imperialist powers.

The most deserving people and their struggles of the countries of Africa and Latin America have been the top priority of WFTU. On the other hand the trade union movements of Asia, Africa and Latin America have been in the leadership of WFTU since foundation. Today WFTU has the greater significance in the people's movement in the

developing countries of Africa, Asia, Middle East and Latin America. On the question of extending solidarity, WFTU is always in the forefront for solidarity to nations who receive threats and attacks from the US and allies based on the principle that every nation has the right to choose its own path of self-determination. According to Comrade Mavrikos, General Secretary, WFTU, "We cannot afford to be neutral when the Cuban and Palestinian struggles for self-determination are threatened by US imperialism and world institutions under imperialist control such as UNO, ILO, WB, IMF, and WTO."

WFTU's resolute, open and vociferous opposition to Western imperialist powers against hegemonic design and cruel interference by the US and its allies in the sovereign rights of the countries of Africa and Middle East has been receiving the appreciation of the working class of these countries. More and more trade unions of these countries are joining the WFTU. Functioning of WFTU is continuously expanded in the regions and several new work centres are established. The next world congress of WFTU is slated to be held in South Africa. Palestine, Africa and Arab countries' concerns are widely propagated by WFTU all over the world by holding seminars, observing day of protest and solidarity etc. In the meantime in Europe very encouraging organizational development is taking place in increasing scale. Important Confederations and Federations have been formally joining the WFTU.

Alarmed at these developments, the imperialist powers have pressed into service the ITUC to scuttle the popularity of WFTU in the region. Now ITUC has resorted to unethical means to hinder the progress of WFTU in the African and Arab countries. Same is the situation with the Asian countries. Nepal, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines are cases in instance.

The fact is that whenever the ITUC shows any new methods of work, such as in its efforts to reach the masses in the developing continents, this is done with the hidden intention to block the work of the WFTU, the pioneer in these areas.

Seven Decades of Solidarity with Struggles of South African People

WFTU has been working as an integral part of the relentless struggles, sacrifice and victory of the people of South Africa for almost last seven decades. In shaping the trade union organizations in South Africa in the early days, WFTU has played pivotal role. Comrade George Mavrikos, General Secretary, WFTU in his introductory column on the WFTU publication titled, "South African Workers and WFTU, SHOULDER TO SHOULDER" has noted, "The history of the trade union movement in South Africa from 1945 until today is simultaneously the history of the WFTU. The comrades who were martyrs in that struggle are also martyrs of the international class-oriented trade union movement of the International Working Class, are also martyrs of WFTU"

WFTU's bold, determined, committed and consistent solidarity in action with the South African people in their fight for independence from the hated occupation of their country by imperialist powers, the bitter struggle against apartheid and of course the trade union movement of the country has a proud history since the very birth of WFTU. For example in 1946 the South African miners organized a historic strike. The young WFTU stood by the strikers and appealed to its affiliates and the international trade union movement in general to express solidarity with the striking miners of South Africa. The first General Secretary of WFTU, Louis Saillant had sent a strong protest letter supporting the strike to the then Prime Minister of South Africa, Marshal Smuts on August 23, 1946, demanding for a meeting with the Head of the Government of South African.

Realizing the need for united struggle among the working class of all the African countries, WFTU organized the first Pan-African meeting of the Trade Unions on 10th April, 1947 in Dakar, Senegal. WFTU was the only international trade union organization that struggled for the unity of the South African workers and supported the foundation of South African Trade Union Congress (SACTU), the historic non-racist

trade union organization which became a member and a part of the leadership of WFTU from its very foundation. WFTU fought for the legal recognition of the unions organized and led by indigenous black workers. WFTU promoted the international standing of SACTU and called upon the world working class to observe international events in support of the struggle against apartheid.

One after another the World Trade Union Congresses and other regular and special forums of WFTU had been amplifying the voice of the fighting people of South Africa by emphasizing the issues, concerns and demands of South African people in the documents presented in the respective meetings. The issues were obviously call for support to the struggle of the class- oriented non-racial trade unions of the whole of Africa, struggles of the African people against colonialism and apartheid. WFTU's contribution to unify the Pan African trade union movement formed the basis for first Pan- African Conferences. These initiatives of WFTU provided foundation for the formation of All-African Trade Union Federation (AATUF) and the Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU).

The publication referred above is a very vital initiative of WFTU in bringing before the world as a whole and the international trade union movement in particular many historical facts and also focused considerably on current situation concerning the South African trade union movement and revealed many past ploys of imperialist forces and their agents against South Africa and its people.

The historic evidence of the role of WFTU in the South African trade union movement presented above apart, there are innumerable facts, figures and formulation to substantiate the positive role of WFTU in the present day struggle of the working class of South Africa in close cooperation with COSATU and its affiliate industrial and sectoral trade unions of the country. It has been noted in the book, "The WFTU hailed the founding of COSATU and hailed the support the affiliate of WFTU, SACTU provided to COSATU which represented its most class-oriented

part [...] When COSATU together with the ANC and other forces called in 1992 for a week of Action for Peace, Democracy and Economic Reconstruction, the WFTU extended support and appealed to its international affiliates to extend solidarity with the call of COSATU.”.

In the message to the congress of NUMSA in July 2011 WFTU said, “The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) follows your struggle for living wages and improved conditions of employment for metal workers and wishes success to your fights for the benefit of the workers and the people of South Africa.” At an international trade union seminar in December, 2012 the President of NUMSA stated. “the WFTU has a long history with South Africa’s liberation movement. When SACTU, the forerunner of COSATU was banned with all people’s organizations in 1960, the WFTU became a home away from home for the leadership of SACTU.”

Pioneering Role of WFTU in Solidarity with Arab People

WFTU is certainly the only International Trade Union organization which has been consistently campaigning for the rightful cause of the people of Arab countries and strongly condemning the barbarian role of imperialist powers in the Arab region. WFTU has organized many solidarity meetings and conferences at different places and dates and carried out many worldwide action programmes in support of the people of Middle East countries.

The people of Syria are victims of Imperialist onslaught
The understanding and position of WFTU about the Syrian situation is very bold and open and distinctly different from the pro-imperialist trade unions. The Syrian people are targeted by the imperialist forces due to geographical and political reasons. Imperialist interventions in the internal matters of Syria must be stopped. The so-called Free Syrian Army is armed by foreign governments with Turkey and Saudi Arabia taking a lead role. The WFTU defends the right of the Syrian people to decide on themselves about their present and future without foreign

intervention.

Struggle of Palestinian People

Various criminal acts of the hated Zionist regimes against the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza has been continuing for decades. According to WFTU, the uncivilized and inhuman acts of cruelty and barbarism could not have been carried out by Israel without the economic, diplomatic and military support given by the imperialist USA rulers.

In the meantime WFTU has been providing leadership in the action of the progressive working class of the world in solidarity with the struggling people of Palestine demanding recognition of an independent sovereign Palestinian State with the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. Some other demands are: end of the settlements across the borders of 1967. Demolition of the separation wall in Jerusalem. All the Palestinian refugees to be granted the right to return to their home, based on the relevant decisions of the UN. Immediate release of imprisoned Palestinians and other political prisoners kept in the Israeli prisons. Withdrawal of the Israeli army from all the occupied territories of the 1967 base including the Golan Heights and the Shebaa area of Southern Lebanon.

WFTU firmly believes that all anti-imperialist, patriotic, freedom friendly, truly pro-people and pro-working class trade union movement in the world have a moral and humanitarian responsibility to extend powerful support to the struggle of the people of Palestine.

Anglo-American Deceit in Arab Countries

“Both Bush and Obama are terrified of the Arab Spring. And there is a very sensible reason for that. They don’t want democracies in the Arab world. If Arab public opinion had any influence on policy, the US and Britain would have been tossed out of the Middle East. That’s why

they are terrified of democracies in the region” (Noam Chomsky: 23 June 2011)

The US and its European allies are after the heads of the Governments who are not subservient to imperialist forces, for example, Syria and Iran. On the other hand they (imperialist powers) are openly supporting the brutal suppression of the genuine up-surge of the people against the autocratic rulers of Bahrain, Yemen, Jordan, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia and so on with money and war weapons because the autocratic rulers of these countries are the firm and strategic allies of the imperialist forces. The latest instance is the intensification of the people’s struggle in Kuwait and Bahrain. President Obama and the US administration kept quiet about the Saudi Arabia intervention and the brutal suppression of the people’s revolt in Bahrain.

It is a matter of great shame and deep shocks that US Government; the ‘self-appointed Inspector of nuclear weapon’ “possesses the largest and deadliest stockpile of nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction and is the only country guilty of its use.” Similarly war monger US Agent the Zionist regime of Israel is “the sole possessor of nuclear arsenal in the Middle East with over 200 undeclared nuclear warheads ... Tel Aviv has rejected global demands to join the NPT and does not allow IAEA inspectors to observe its controversial nuclear program.

Arab People’s Struggle against US Onslaught

Liberating the people of the Arab world from the direct or indirect clutches of the imperialist forces and installation of genuine popular rule of democracy in the African and Middle East countries shall go a long way in the fight against imperialism. The specific experience of the struggle of the people of Latin America confirms that anti-imperialist struggle of the people under the leadership of working class wedded to the doctrine of class struggle, is the path through which the Anglo-American imperialist powers can be driven out of the Arab region.

WFTU firmly believes that the International Trade Union movement has a responsibility to extend powerful support to the fighting people of Arab region and to strongly condemn the American imperialist and its European allies for their hegemonic interference in the region.

The Experience of Latin American People's Struggles Against US Imperialism

It may be recalled that most of the countries of the Latin America and the Caribbean were under the stranglehold of US imperialism. The people of the regions conducted bitter struggles in different phases. The fight against the military dictators around the 1980s demolished the dictatorial regimes which gave birth to US controlled bourgeois democratic regimes. Instead of military coups, the US imperialism switched over to 'free market' ideology as a modified means of continuing control over Latin America.

As a consequence of neo-liberal exploitation, Latin American countries experienced huge concentration of wealth in the hands of the top 10 percent of the population. Labour in Latin America faced serious disparities in income and wealth. Number of people living under extreme poverty as well as people below poverty line increased. The continent witnessed menacing rate of industrial sickness and closure of factories. Unemployment grew at alarming rate. In such a situation, the Latin American countries witnessed vast increase in political mobilization of the working class. Under the pressure of mass movement, discredited Governments were defeated in elections in one after another Latin American countries and today the US control over these countries has almost demolished. The recent changes in the Obama administration's policy concerning Cuba are surely a victory for the struggle of the people of Cuba and other countries of the region.

The victory of the pro-left political forces in Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua and some other South American countries as well and their

endeavour for an alternative path to neoliberalism, have delivered a severe blow to US imperialism. The coming together of the 33 Latin American and Caribbean nations at a conference in Venezuela recently and founding a regional forum called Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) is a very significant development.

Socialist Cuba continues to be a beacon of anti-imperialist struggles in the entire Latin American continent. It has played catalytic role in motivating, uniting and mobilising the people of Latin America against US imperialism. Moreover, despite economic blockade and constant conspiratorial onslaught of the US imperialist and other counter revolutionary forces, the social progress achieved by Cuba is a matter of great inspiration to the working class of Latin America as well the whole world.

WFTU in Asia-Pacific Region

In Asia, many trade union centres are affiliated to WFTU. Like India as the founder member and now Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam, Laos and in a few other countries' several trade union centres are affiliated to WFTU. The WFTU constantly identifies itself with the workers and peoples of Asia fighting against aggression, for independence and social progress.

The WFTU did all in its power and used all opportunities to contribute to the defeat of French colonialism in Indo-China, the imperialist aggression in Korea, and to the victory of the Vietnamese and other peoples of Indo-china over US imperialism's forces of aggression including the freedom struggles in India, Bangladesh and other colonial countries in Asia and Pacific Region.

However in the current context it must be admitted that the extensive Trade Union organization in China, India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Korea, Japan, Australia etc. and meaningful international Solidarity- the WFTU, since its foundation had its strong presence felt among the

working class in the Asia-Pacific – the biggest continent in the world.

Challenges before the Working Class of Asia Pacific Region

In view of the ever aggravating systemic capitalist crisis engulfing the US and the EU with no sign of sustainable recovery, the Asia-Pacific Region has become the economic focus of the world. The developing countries in the Asia-Pacific due to different natural advantages are poised to play significant role in the world economy in the days to come. The countries of the Asia and Pacific region have wide range of natural resources and varying levels of economic development. Today the Asia-Pacific accounts for 36 per cent of the world economy. Of course within Asia over 65 per cent of the GDP comes from three countries – China, India and Japan.

In this connection the observation of UNDP Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific is worth noting, “The US cannot and will not continue to be the engine of world growth through increasing import demand in the near future. This means that developing countries in general and particularly those in developing Asia that continue to rely on the US and the EU as their primary export markets, must seek to redirect their exports to other countries and most of all to redirect their economies towards more domestic demand.” The inbuilt message in the observation (by no mean an agency than the UNDP) is loud and clear. The inherent structurally unsustainable characteristic of capitalism and the actual game of the US and EU ruling classes under imperialist globalisation vis-à-vis the developing countries have been thoroughly exposed.

In the meantime many steps have been undertaken by the US imperialist forces directed to achieve quantum jump in heightening the military presence of US in the region. Sixty per cent of the Navel war power of the US has already been shifted to the water of Asia-Pacific Region. The logic is ‘plain and simple’ to establish controlling stake in the emerging economic importance of Asia-Pacific, they need military might and the

rat race amongst imperialist forces has already started.

Now in order to create political instability the agents of imperialism have started propaganda to create confusion among the people of the region over China. False and fabricated stories of military preparation by China are spread so that people of the region is divided and Asia-Pacific region is turned into a hot military zone enabling the imperialist forces to reap undue benefits. This is a new situation full of challenges before the working class movement of the region. The rulers of the capitalist countries of the region are subservient to imperialism. Similarly, military threat to North Korea is also becoming stronger augmented by false campaign by both US and South Korea. Therefore the cudgel of campaign against the imperialist design will have to be taken up under the leadership of the working class of the region as a whole.

The Task Forward and Role of WFTU

The major challenges before the trade union movement of the Asia-Pacific region as a whole is to fight the aggression of imperialist powers and their local agents in order to save effective sovereignty of the nation-states of the region and to counter the onslaught on the working class and the toiling people on the question of livelihood and fundamental rights.

The foremost task is to strengthen cooperation amongst the working people of the region to intensify the struggles against neo-liberal policies under imperialist globalization. The role and leadership of the exploited working class and path of class struggle is supreme.

As a champion of class struggle WFTU has been forth rightly propagating and fighting against the doctrine of imperialist globalization and neo-liberalism and has been critical of class collaborationist trade union organization. Now with the outbreak and continuation of the capitalist crisis while WFTU has emerged as the champion in the fight against

imperialist globalization pursuing the path of Class Struggle, the crisis has also exposed the class collaborationist in the trade union movement for their policy of collaboration with the forces of imperialist globalization.

In the background of the above situation, we have to strengthen the functioning of WFTU throughout the Asia-Pacific Region. The message of the resolve and role of WFTU in the fight against imperialist forces and championing the cause of the working class must be spread in every nook and corner of the Asia-Pacific region.

Activities of WFTU in the Asia-Pacific Region

The WFTU Affiliates in Asia-Pacific meets annually in different countries regularly. These meetings provide the trade unions in the countries of the Asia-Pacific Region with the opportunity to meet and discuss about the specific developments effecting the working class in the region, to specialize the decision of the Congress and the Presidential Council with regional characteristics and focus on improving the coordination and the joint action of the trade union movement at regional level.

Important seminars have taken place all the previous decade in various countries in cooperation with the national federations such as the successful seminar on “Global Economic Crisis and Trade Union Action to secure employment for workers” in July 2009 in Vietnam in cooperation with VGCL, the Seminar on the issue of “Rights at work and Social Protection in the Asia-Pacific Region and Evaluation of Social Dialogue in these countries” organized by the WFTU Asia-Pacific Region Office and the BTUC Bangladesh in December 2009, the Seminar on Labour Migration and the Seminar on Child Trafficking in Philippines in 2009 and 2011, the Seminar on “Media and Trade Union Rights” in Nepal on 2011, the Seminar on Occupational Safety held in Pakistan in December 2012.

On 12 July 2012 the World Federation of Trade Unions and its Bangladesh

Committee responding to the occupational crime of the garment factory collapse (Rana Plaza) that caused the death to around 1,129 people, organized a national seminar on proposed amendments of country's Labour Law-2006 at Reporters Unity Auditorium, Dhaka, Bangladesh. This seminar was attended by eminent lawyers, intellectuals and trade union leaders from different sectors of the country. Speakers at the seminar seriously urged to the government to amend Labour Law-2006 to ensure workers rights and interest accordingly.

Again in June 2013, the WFTU Affiliates in Bangladesh joined together in a Workshop of the WFTU to discuss and organize the struggle for the protection of the working people and the demanding of safety measures at the workplaces against the murderous policy of the multinationals who in seek of profit do not care about the human lives. The organizing of the workers from the ground, the coordination in national and sectoral level and the international fraternal solidarity is the only secure way to pave a future for the working people in Bangladesh that will not include predetermined accidents, deadly earthquake and flooding impacts.

Further, Asia-Pacific Regional Seminars have been organized such as the Workshop on "Collective Bargaining agreements and Membership Development" hosted by VGCL in Vietnam as well as a very successful Workshop on Working Women which was organized in July 2014.

In 2010, the WFTU General Secretary celebrated May Day in Kathmandu, Nepal in a large workers rally organized by the WFTU affiliates in the country. Also numerous other occasions, the General Secretary has visited the Region to attend CITU, AITUC and other Congresses in India, to attend the Asia-Pacific Regional Offices, to visit different countries and hold bilateral meetings with their leaderships.

WFTU missions throughout the decade have visited several countries to familiarize with the living and working conditions of workers in order to coordinate the activities of the affiliates and friends of the

WFTU with the ultimate aim to strengthen the class-oriented trade union movement. Some of the countries visited have been Nepal, India, Cambodia, Laos, Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Pakistan etc.

In an enabling environment of unity and struggle the 4th meeting of the Presidential Council of the World Federation of Trade Unions was held in the heroic city of Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam. The Presidential Council adopted the Report of 2009 that gave full and detailed picture of the past activities of the period under review and plan and programmes succeeding the

The Vietnam Presidential Council meeting was a resounding success which adopted the ambitious Action Plan 2010. It included many activities and initiatives at sectoral, regional and national level. Also in 2010 the WFTU would celebrate the 65 years since its foundation in 1945. In all countries and all sectors the WFTU formed a concrete program. In all International Organizations it had a framework of interventions. The International Action Day of 2010 was decided to be organized on 7th September as an international Action Day of the class-oriented international trade union movement. It is in this meeting the decision of to hold the 16th Congress of WFTU in Athens was adopted unanimously.

The Asia-Pacific Region has the credit of hoisting successfully the founding Congress BIFU in New Delhi, India on 24-25 February 2011. At the decision of the WFTU, the AIBEA has been the host of this important congress of Bank and Insurance sectors Moreover, the Petroleum and Gas Federation of India played a key role in the reconstruction of the TUI Energy of the WFTU by holding the position of the President from 2009 to 2011. Similar was the case for the Sectoral Organization of WFTU on the Construction Sector namely UITBB. The Construction Workers Federation of India successfully held the position of General Secretary of UITBB during 2010-2015.

Latest has been the 2nd World Congress for the Workers in Hotel and

Tourism of the TUI Hotel and Tourism was organized in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 15-16 December 2014 and ended with the election of an Asian President namely Janaka Adikari from ICEU of Sri Lanka.

Trade Union Internationals (TUIs)

The decision to launch the Trade Union Internationals (TUIs) was conceptually adopted at the 2nd World Trade Union Congress of WFTU held at Milan, Italy in 1949. Initially the TUIs were set up as Trade Departments of the WFTU. However after working for few years, based on their positive experiences, these have been named and have been functioning as TUI with its own constitution and sovereignty.

Trade Union Internationals have achieved the stature of vehicles for uniting the workers. The perceptual importance of the TUIs are to be understood from the fact that ever since it was founded, the WFTU worked for the international unity of the workers and for their growing solidarity, not only with national trade union centres, but also with industrial trade union federations of workers employed in various economic fields. TUIs have become important components of the international trade union movement. Independent and democratic International Trade Union organisations comprising their respective Industrial Trade Union Federations from countries all over the world were aimed at micro-level unity of the workers on class basis.

The TUIs form part of the WFTU structure. The TUIs have their own Constitutions which should, however, be in harmony with basic aims and objective of that of the WFTU. The policies of the TUIs shall also be in keeping with that of the WFTU. The WFTU cooperates with the TUIs and their industrial branch Commissions which group together from countries all over the world. On a voluntary basis, the organization of workers from their respective industries, professions and jobs are projected to fight for unity of action. The TUIs are centres for the planning, formulation, coordination and stimulation of international trade union activity at industrial levels, for greater unity and solidarity

in the interest of the workers of their respective branches of industry.

The TUIs cooperate with the WFTU in implementing the policies which emerge from the World Trade Union Congress, in formulation of which they participated and in organizing the support and solidarity of the entire international trade union movement. A Consultative Conference of TUIs Secretariat and the WFTU Secretariat is held each year with the aim of coordinating, if necessary, joint initiative and actions within their specific fields of competence.

The TUIs have always regarded it as their class duty to give moral and material help to strikers, foster solidarity with victims of anti-union repression, combat discrimination against labour on racial or other grounds, and fight fascism and militarism. Many of the TUIs have played very effective role in achieving unified international understanding among the trade union movement of the sector concerned all over the world. TUIs are fundamentally different from the so called 'Global Unions' created by the class collaborationists which enjoy the confidence of the employers of the sectors concerned at national and international level. The TUIs function strictly under the principle of class interest of the working class of the respective industrial and service sector concerned. The TUIs are counted as members of the family of WFTU. In fact WFTU looks upon the TUIs as the avenues for direct contact with the grass root level workers. The lofty principle of 'open and democratic' functioning of WFTU is duly reflected in the functioning of the TUIs also.

Starting from the 2nd World Trade Union Congress in 1949 and the immediate following years a total of eleven TUIs were launched which included the major industries like Metal & Engineering, Clothing & Leather, Agriculture & Plantation, Food & Hotel; Mines; Chemical, Oil & Allied; Building & Wood; Commerce; Education; Public Services & Allied; and Transport.

Since beginning the TUIs with their independent initiative but certainly

under the ideological leadership of WFTU have contributed immensely in uniting grass root level workers in their respective industries/sectors nationally and internationally. Many land mark struggles have been fought by the TUIs internationally and regionally. The 13th World Trade Union Congress held at Damascus in 1994 reviewed the activities of the TUIs and recommended certain concrete measures with the aim to achieve revitalization of the TUIs which were as follows:

“To confirm that the TUIs represent one of the two basic pillars of WFTU activity. The need to continue working to rationalize the leading bodies of all components. That the TUIs should take note of all the changes that have occurred in the employment process, the industrial strategies of multinational companies and government policies, and should embark upon a process of thought and decision-making, leading to re-organisation and merger, whilst respecting the identity of each branch. The aim of strengthening and giving greater importance to the activities of the national centres in the regions, and of establishing precise mechanisms linking the work of the TUIs with the regions. That the payment of contributions is the responsibility of every organization, notably towards its general and branch structures. During the transition period, the financial resources of the WFTU should be made available for the current activities of the TUIs and for the processes of reorganization and merger decided upon by them.”

However due to STR (scientific and technological revolution) and restructuring of production process, trade and commerce and related development in working class movement the TUIs have undergone periodical restructuring, bifurcation & integration in order to address the need of organization and struggles. At present there are ten TUIs covering the following industries/services:

(1) TUIs: Agro, Food, Commerce, Textile & Allied Industries (2) Banks, Insurance & Financial Unions (3) Construction, Wood and Building Materials Industries (4) Hotel & Tourism (5) Energy, Chemical, Oil, Natural Gas and Allied Industries (6) Mining, Metallurgy and Metal

Industries (7) Public Services & Allied Workers (8) World Federation of Teachers Unions (9) Transport (10) Pensioners

The 15th World Trade Union Congress was held in Havana on 1- 4 December 2005, which elected Mohamed Shaban Azooz and George Mavrikos as President and General Secretary respectively, coined the concluding slogan: "Towards a WFTU class-oriented, democratic, unifying and modern." Now the period since the Havana congress to the 16th congress at Athens and the succeeding period as well the TUIs have achieved new dimensional development under the renewed initiative the present leadership of WFTU.

WFTU Regional Offices

Since inception the WFTU has been paying special attention to the problems being confronted by the people in general and the Trade Union movement in particular in the colonial countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia. With the passage of time this priority of WFTU has attained more and more enhanced importance. It is not difficult to understand the contributing factors behind such stand and practice of WFTU. Actually the founding political and ideological ethos of WFTU are the main source of inspiration of regional activities, particularly in the regions of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

In 1949, the 2nd World Trade Union Congress, as per recommendation of the Executive Committee of the WFTU, resolved to adopt several measures to further improve the activities in these continents including creation of Regional LIAISON BUREAUX, their function and programme of activity. It was perceived that conditions under which trade union activity is taking place in the countries of Latin America, Asia and Africa differ considerably from those of Europe and considering the difficulties involved in maintaining liaison between the Executive of the WFTU and the Trade Union organisations of the above mentioned countries steps noted above were initiated.

In order to institutionalize the aforesaid perception and steps taken by the WFTU, the Constitution of WFTU was amended to add a chapter on Regional activities at the 7th World Trade Union Congress held at Budapest on 17- 26 October, 1969.

The essential tasks need to be undertaken by the WFTU Regional Bureaux have been summed up as under:

- Achieve greater liaison and coordination among members centres on the same continent;
- Study the possibilities for propaganda more in line with each continent's special circumstances;
- Improve coordination of the WFTU's, TUIs and National Centres' efforts and activities;
- Considerably improve the WFTU Secretariat's collective work with regard to the different continents;
- Have a better and regular knowledge of developments in each continent so as to take appropriate steps in good time.

Regional set-up centric activities of WFTU have been given constitutional shape based on the experience of decades. It is necessary to understand that the focus on regional activities is a natural corollary to WFTU's commitment to fight against imperialist onslaught in the colonial countries, against apartheid and for independence and sovereignty – both political and economic.

Here it may be recalled that the First Congress of the WFTU called for a world free from war and social injustices. It is widely known that the ILO conventions, especially No.87 and No.98 on Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining were adopted on the initiative and with the active participation of the WFTU and its members.

Since then, the history of the WFTU is inseparable from the history of the working class and trade union movement and their struggle for national independence for the colonial countries and for democracy

and human rights all over the world. The united struggle of the workers and trade unions and other anti-imperialist forces led to the global success in terms of de-colonisation and the establishment of new sovereign States. That was the beginning of the victories of post-second world war, and the worldwide movements of solidarity with the struggles of workers and peoples of Korea, Vietnam, Cuba, Chile , South Africa, Palestine, Haiti and others; against the aggressive wars on Iraq and Afghanistan, the struggle for peace and disarmament , development , justice, democracy and the trade union rights.

WFTU: Regional and International Joint TU Forums

During the 1950s and 1960s, several regional bodies sprang up in African and Asian countries which wanted to project their ambitions and nationalism into the international labour movement declaring a desire to be independent from the three major international labour bodies. They encouraged their affiliates to withdraw from the global internationals, which in fact meant withdrawal from the ICFTU.

The WFTU encouraged this anti-imperialist move, and entered into friendly and cooperative relations with these bodies. The first was the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions (ICATU) founded with the professed aims of furthering pan-Arab unity, as well as economic and social development. Then of course, there is the Organisation of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU). Another organization the WFTU gives support is the All-African Trade Union Federation (AATUF). Created in 1961 by the more radical labour figures in Africa (the Casablanca group), this organization, like ICATU, supported regional unity, denounced imperialism, colonialism, and so forth.

Another important regional forum with which the WFTU has been cooperating with importance is composed of ACFTU of China, the WFTU, the Organisation of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU), the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions (ICATU) and the General Confederation of Trade Unions (GCTU) of CIS countries.

WFTU, ITUC and ILO

Capitalist class had their obvious motive and interest behind the foundation of ILO as a part of the League of Nations. They wanted to defuse the then rising struggle of the working class in the post First World War situation and also to divert the attention of the working class from the growing enthusiasm flowing from the emergence of the USSR providing an alternative to capitalist system.

But owing to set back for scientific Socialist forces due to breaking down of USSR and the Socialist states of Eastern Europe, the earlier equilibrium of the forces in the world got seriously altered. It naturally had its ramification on the functioning of ILO being reflected in its sliding towards a 'Northward bias'. This fact has been admitted by none other than one of the past Director Generals of ILO, "The end of bipolar world dissolved a structure of international relations that took shape in 1945 and generally influenced the work of the Organization."

Similarly a comparative study of the role of ILO during the period of Keynesian theory of state sponsored demand management concept of economy to save capitalism during the great depression of 1930s and during the period of neo-liberal economic onslaught is amusing. The former period has been termed as 'Golden Period' of adopting standards by ILO and latter period can be termed as the darkest era in the life of almost a centenary old organization.

Deplorable Record of Ratification

The ILO conventions are adopted by the ILC of ILO, the half of whose participants are from the Governments of respective member countries and the other half is equally distributed between the employees' and employers' organizations of the member countries. For adoption of conventions two-third favourable votes are required from the "tripartite" body. This means that it is the Government and employers' delegates who constitute $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total delegation

determine the decisive votes for adoption of conventions and again it is they who oppose the ratification in their respective countries. So far hardly 30% of the total Conventions have been ratified with varying figures for different member states.

There can be no better glaring instance of double face! The conventions are binding on a country only after their ratification by Government of the respective member states. Thus saving a few, the whole lots of the adopted conventions are only increasing the beauty and weight of the Convention book. The advanced capitalist countries are the leading defaulters in the matter of ratification of ILO Conventions. While the G-7 Countries have ratified on an average 77 Conventions, the USA and Japan have individually ratified only 11 and 40 Conventions respectively. Out of the 189 Conventions, India has so far ratified 43 Conventions only. It is to be noted that India is a member of ILO since 1919.

Neo-liberal Economic Policy Onslaught and ILO

During the whole period of neo-liberal onslaught of imperialism till the outbreak of the current systemic crisis of capitalism which exploded with financial meltdown in the USA, ILO was made to play at the hands of the capitalist class nakedly neglecting the issues and interest of the working class. We have noted above as to how the standard setting role of ILO got almost derailed during the period.

Moreover, during the years 2006-07 under the attempted destructive reform of the UN systems, the imperialist forces attempted to erase the autonomous structure of ILO. To push the ILO into the grip of the perpetrators of imperialist globalization, a proposal was mooted to have annual meetings amongst ILO, IMF, World Bank, WTO etc. It was also proposed to merge the different UN agencies including ILO and to switch over to a so-called structure of “4 Ones” – One Leader; One Programme; One Budgetary framework and One Officer”. The ultimate result of such design would have submerged the distinct identity of

ILO and it would have become just a tool in the hands of imperialist powers. However, due to steep resistance from trade unions and also daunted by discrediting of neo-liberalism the move has been pushed to cold storage, albeit, may be for the time being!

It is necessary to note that the representation of employees in the ILC of ILO, the Governing Body, various Committees set up by the Conference and the International Labour Office, deployment of employees and experts in the Office and so on, continues to be the complete monopoly of the class collaborationist international trade union body called ITUC and that the class oriented world trade union organization – World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) is denied representation. Refusing to accept the scientific proportionate representation norm, representation in all the Fora of ILO is decided on the ground of number of unions participating in ILO Fora affiliated with WFTU and those affiliated with ITUC, without considering the strength of membership (of the two.) represented by the affiliate concerned. It is an atrocious practice of ‘one size fits all’. WFTU has been consistently campaigning against this gross injustice. And this distorted situation is seriously affecting the quality of functioning of ILO. Interest of working class is often compromised by the class collaborationist in collusion with the employers’ side.

Right to Strike must be Defended with Strike Action

On the vital question of right to strike, the position of WFTU and that of ITUC are diametrically opposite. WFTU is committed to defend right to strike by exercising the right itself. WFTU defends right to strike not in words but in action. But ITUC is actually against strike action by the working class. ITUC’s tactic is to cool down the anger of workers, compromise their demands through manipulation and class collaboration.

Now a diabolic situation has been created by the Employers’ group in ILO. In December 2013 in the annual meeting of the Group of Experts,

the employers' representatives have come out with an atrocious position that there is no mention of the right to strike in the ILO Convention 87. Thus a pandemonium on the matter has emerged. In this situation the WFTU has as usual taken a militant position while the ITUC has obviously come out with its true colour by adopting evasive approach. In one hand ITUC have resorted to high sounding rhetoric and on the other hand they are adopting tactic to help the employers' class. ITUC is proposing that the question raised by Employers class should be referred to the International Court of Justice meaning thereby that the right earned by the working class at the cost of lives of martyrs be left to the judiciary of the class divided social system.

What is the track record of ITUC and ITUC affiliated unions concerning right to strike? How many times have ITUC affiliated British TUC, AFL-CIO in USA, LO-Sweden, LO-Denmark or their unions in Finland, in Australia, in Austria, in Switzerland etc., have resorted to strike? It will be sufficient to note that the last General Strike in Britain was in 1926, in USA in 1936, in Australia in 1976! The German affiliate of ITUC DGB openly attacked the strike in transport sector in 2014 and openly supported, together with the employers a government's bill to ban the right to strike to smaller unions.

In 2011, ITUC affiliated UGT and CCOO of Spain signed a "social pact" with the Government and the employers' association, which included a pension reform that increased the age of retirement by two years, from 65 to 67, while wage-cuts have also been agreed with employers' through joint agreements. Of course no strikes can be organized by these Confederations for a policy they are forming together with their "social partners". The WFTU on the contrary says that the right to strike must be defended by the exercise of the right to strike and through class oriented united action of the working class.

We quote below from the speech delivered by Comrade George Mavrikos at the WFTU international conference on Right to Strike held at the ILO premises at Geneva in July 2014:

"The WFTU calls upon the employers to stop the gambling and the

speculations with the Convention 87 as they know that the right to strike was not handed over as a gift to no country's working class but it was earned at the cost of heroic struggles of the working people embracing martyrdom.

The argument that the right to strike is not specifically mentioned in the Convention 87 is a bogus claim. The Convention does not specify the right of the trade unions to defend their member in court, to print leaflets, to picketing, but yet these activities are not targeted by the employers group.

Why we must defend the right to strike?

The very foundation of the trade union movement is the need for workers to join forces in their collective defense and for the advancement of their interests for decent living. Strike is the highest form of struggle and a school of struggle for the working class. During strike the workers realize that they are the builders of the world and nothing can be produced without them.

The various theories claiming that without private capital there can be no development is exposed when workers stop work in the machines, in the computers, in the ship, in the banks. In strike action the workers realize the power of united struggle with class oriented characteristics.

They see in front of their eyes the efforts of the employers to divide and weaken them. They realize in an easier manner that there are no neutral governments as in capitalism they protest the right of the employers. They find on the opposite side the mass media, the local politicians, various parties and hence realize in praxis who is with them and who is against them.

They realize the importance of the workers coordination in regional, sectoral and international level in a very practical way.

The workers realize through the strike the power of the social alliance as they will find the solidarity of other social strata such as poor farmers and self-employed or youth and women organizations very helpful and empowering if it is there. Most importantly the employers know as well as we know that the strike is the most powerful form of struggle for the workers in particular when combined with class oriented demands as it hits where the employers hurt, the profit-making production. The giants with all the means, the political power, the media owners become crippled in front of a united class-oriented workers movement on strike.

However the right to strike was not achieved in courts and will not be defended there. It was achieved with organized, class oriented mass struggles and this is the only way to keep fighting.”

The WFTU calls upon the working class and the trade union organizations to protect the right to strike with all necessary action in the factories, in the streets, in the society, in the parliaments. The right achieved through bitter protracted struggles must be protected through such struggles only.

Abolition of Capitalism Only Can End Capitalist Crisis

We have already discussed above how the ‘Truman Doctrine’ & ‘Marshall Plan’ was imposed on the continents including Europe by the US imperialist and established its domination all over the world. Under the present sub-heading we shall recapture how ‘Truman and Marshall’ was replayed by ‘Reagan Doctrine’ and ‘Baker Plan’ and how the class oriented WFTU and class collaborationist ITUC played, obviously, diametrically opposite role as did on the earlier occasion.

It is very important to note that not only ‘Truman Doctrine’ and ‘Marshall Plan’ could not stop recurrence of the next capitalist crisis which began to surface during the late 1960s and again the crisis re-engulfed the capitalist economies. However as did Truman and

Marshall formula failed so did fail Reagan and Baker prescriptions and the Wall Street Crash came in September 2008.

Due to the inherent contradictions and crisis prone character of capitalist economic system, the Keynesian solution did not last forever. Obviously the economic crisis again gripped the capitalist countries during the late 1960s. By the end of the 1960s, the capitalist economies experienced serious crisis and began to surface “conditions of stagnant production, declining productivity and intensified class conflict over higher wages, greater social benefits and better working conditions. These conditions created a profit-crunch on invested capital.”

In the 1970s, the advocates of neo-liberalism launched aggressive campaign against Keynesianism and thus started creating the ground for the disastrous theory of monetarist and supply side oriented economic policy. The poisonous seed of imperialist globalization was thus sowed

In his famous revealing ‘open letter’ of resignation from the post of Senior Economist of the IMF (addressed to the then Managing Director of IMF), Davison Budho disclosed many sensational information which had direct bearing on the perverse programme of liberalization and privatization. He wrote that President Reagan had asked the IMF to draw plan to turn the “third world a new bastion of freewheeling capitalism.” Budho wrote “the strategy was finalized and explicitly stated in the Baker Plan of 1985 and in the eligibility criteria to Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility to the 62 ‘poorest’ countries of the world.” The letter mentioned that the IMF was told “the Baker Plan, let it be the base for a new set of instruments for transforming Third World Societies, and use new jargon; for heaven’s sake, use new jargon! Don’t say “Demand Management” any more, say ‘Structural Adjustment Program’ instead.” Budho said, “Thus everything we did from 1983 onward was based on our new mission to have the South ‘privatized’ or die.”

The germ of the philosophy of deregulation and privatization were

originated in the U.S. “Chicago School”. For providing the theoretical input for the neo-liberal ideology the US big business financed a world of new foundations and “think tank”. Some such prominent institutions were the Heritage Founding, the Ethics and Public Policy Center, the Committee on the Present Danger, the American Business. The Heritage Founding blueprint – ‘Mandate for Leadership’ provided a detailed scheme for the “Reagan Revolution”. The foundation’s Privatization: a strategy for taming the budget outlined a privatization strategy. Thus, it is evident that the seed of the ‘poison tree’ of deregulation and privatization was sowed in the U.S. It has rightly been observed that: “the boom of privatization owed its existence to the American experience of Deregulation..... the changing political ideology towards the right and growing influence of the monetarist school.”

Thus the policy of globalization and liberalization was designed by the International Financial Institutions under the theoretical input provided by the ‘think tanks’ noted above. By now it is well known to the entire world that such pro-imperialist policies were imposed on particularly the developing countries under the conditionality’s of loan. The continuous tightening of the devastating grip of the finance capital over the developing countries has been the significant phenomenon of the 1970s.

In this connection it would be very much relevant to comprehend the new characteristics of the finance capital in the present age of neo-imperialism as put forward by Professor Prabhat Patnaik (India) in the introduction written by him on Lenin’s Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism: “Globalization today is not accompanied by significant relative increase in long term capital flows; it represent predominantly a globalization of finance in the form of ‘hot money’ flows. It is not the mobility of capital-in-production that has increased in relative terms, but the mobility of capital-as-finance..... Getting caught in the vortex of international finance has the effect of trapping them (Third World countries) into being permanently concerned about retaining the ‘confident’ of international speculators.... For this they keep

government expenditure restricted, subsidies lowered, the economy deflated and workers' rights curtailed. The net effect of all this is stagnation, higher unemployment, and a regressive shift in income distribution, which together accentuate poverty." The political fall out of the imperialist globalization is that "it abrogates the economic and political sovereignty of these countries. All these measures ensure that the economic decision-making cannot be undertaken in an autonomous fashion by the domestic state."

Neo-Liberal Doctrine and Role of WFTU and ITUC

The 'Reagan Doctrine' and 'Baker Plan' could not give lasting solution to capitalist crisis and the world witnessed the Wall Street Crash in September 2008. Most importantly the current crisis is characteristically unprecedented in that it is the crisis of capitalist system itself.

WFTU affiliated unions conducted bitter struggles against the neo-liberalism under imperialist globalization. The entire world working class beginning with the countries of Latin America, Asia and Africa and ultimately the working class of Europe and US came on the streets in billions against the onslaught of neo-liberalism. Both at the call of WFTU and at their own initiatives the WFTU affiliates conducted many militant struggles including strike action in the countries in all the continents.

Many significant political changes in the countries, particularly those in Latin America including change of ruling polities resulted due to struggles of the toiling people. The WFTU provided the ideological leadership in the struggles and took forefront role on the streets.

WFTU and its affiliates have been repeatedly telling in documents and speeches that neo-liberalism driven by Finance Capital under imperialist globalization cannot address capitalist crisis, deliver the basic needs of the toiling people and therefore not sustainable. On the contrary ITUC played the role of strong advocates of neo-

liberalism. They were strong proponent of TINA factor (There is no alternative to neo-liberalism) Therefore ITUC (then ICFTU) was born to side with the imperialist powers to push forward the anti-people policies of the capitalist class and it still continues in that path.

On the other hand the foundation pledge of WFTU was class struggles and unmistakably WFTU has been carrying forward the struggle of the working class against capitalist class. With the Wall Street Crash of 2008 the WFTU has emerged as the champion in the fight against imperialist globalization. At the same time the crisis has also exposed the class collaborationists for their policy of collaboration with the forces of capitalist globalization nakedly compromising the cause of the working class.

Strictly Adhere to the Doctrine of Class Struggle

On the basis of the foregoing facts, analysis and formulation it is amply clear as to how ITUC is designed to suit the purpose of capitalist interests and imperialist strategies. This class collaborationist International Trade Union Confederation since its birth is working with close coordination with the capitalist classes. ITUC stands in direct contrast to the class-struggle oriented WFTU. ITUC exists with support of Capitalist class and their Governments and derives strength from the financial and political support from capitalist class and their ruling polities.

Delivering his speech at the 18th World Festival of Youth and Students Comrade George Mavrikos, General Secretary, WFTU came out with conviction and assertion, “The workers all over the world have to realize that WFTU and ITUC have two different historic roots, two different strategies, different objectives, different ideologies and theoretical basis. It is impossible to unite these two distinct lines, the one promoting the struggle against Capital and imperialism and the one leading to subordination to the objectives of Capital and of Imperialism. However, if we do assume that at some point some bureaucratic leadership would move forward with such a process of

artificial welding, it is for sure that the next moment, the process for a new international class-oriented organization would begin, because its existence is an objective necessity.”

Both the slide and surge in the organization of WFTU due to the thick and thin developments in the revolutionary forces of the world and set back in socialist camp and vacillation of given leadership of WFTU at given period and realignment to the path of class struggle by the succeeding leadership squarely substantiates the message of the speech of Comrade Mavrikos.

Significant Struggles Since 15th World Congress

Since the 15th World Trade Union Congress which took place in Havana, Cuba the WFTU has been in a course of organizational rejuvenation, broadening of its collective and democratic functioning and intensification of its activity for all issues concerning workers struggles internationally.

This upward course can be observed in the day-to-day function of the WFTU. However the following specific achievements are worth noting:

The proper functioning of the collective bodies as stipulated in the Constitution of the WFTU and also by the democratic and collective principles of the Organization. The Secretariat and the Presidential Council hold meetings according to the agreed timetables, the debate is held in open, fraternal and democratic atmosphere for all serious issues that concern the international working class. Important effort has also been made for the improvement of the functioning of the Regional Offices and the Trade Union Internationals (TUIs) of the WFTU. Improving the functioning of the WFTU institutions, has given us and stills gives us the opportunity to focus attention on the substance and content of our action and objectives.

The institution of the International Action Day every year organized by WFTU since 2009 has been a major step forward in fostering

international solidarity. The protests, demonstrations, strikes, seminars and other activities held in various countries around the world at the same day with the same slogans and perspective has provided the international class-oriented trade union movement with a significant experience and an opportunity for the expression of a joint cohesive and strong voice against the ruling classes and the imperialist mechanisms in favor of the demands of the working people.

The organizing of strong protests highlighting the workers and people's problems and demanding the fulfillment of their demands have been organized on various occasions and for various issues. Worth mentioning is the protest outside of the WTO in Geneva was held in 2007 demanding the abolition of its offices in the Third World Countries, the International Campaign in solidarity with the Palestinian People calling for a three-days boycott all Israeli Vessels and the International Day of Action for the release of the Palestinian political prisoners held in Israeli jails, the demonstration outside FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy demanding affordable nutrition for all, the demonstrations in favour of the rights of the migrant workers organized in Italy, in Greece, in Cyprus in 2015.

Ideological strengthening of WFTU has been a continuous process through trade union education, seminar on national or regional level, trade union training schools in the Central Offices. In the process young workers have been receiving priority attention and of course the working women. .

International Conferences have been organized on all vital issues concerning the trade union movement and in solidarity with the people in struggles. Such initiatives provided great ground for exchange of experience, for cultivation of common ground and strategy, for the expression of international solidarity and for the organizational strengthening of all participants who carry back the experience gathered from such exercises. Examples of such important Conferences are the ones that WFTU jointly organized along with its affiliates around the

issues of the International Capitalist Crisis, the Social Phenomenon of Immigration, for the Youth and Women's Rights, in Solidarity with the People of Colombia, Palestine, Venezuela, Cuba, Lebanon, Syria, Sudan etc.

The WFTU Central Offices have managed the past decade to improve their communication by preparing series of press releases, announcements, magazines, a new website, special editions and publications that help make WFTU's positions more visible and aware.

The presence of the WFTU in the International Organizations has been increased and its voice has been strengthened. Massive activities of the WFTU are held in the sidelines of the International Conference of the ILO every year. The participation and the input of the WFTU positions in the ILC have also been intensified. There is still long way to go and many obstacles are to be crossed because of the undemocratic posture of the ITUC and its undue monopoly in the leading bodies of the ILO. The international correlation of forces is against the class oriented forces and against the peoples that fight against Imperialist aggressiveness. The United Nations Organization actually legalizes USA, EU and their allies' aggressive foreign policy. In the International Labor Office there is a monopoly and arrogant domination of the ITUC, which after 1991, along with the capitalist governments and the employers have converted the organization into a "tool" that removes labor rights.

WFTU missions have been multiplied to all countries of the world and WFTU delegates participate in more and more activities of the affiliates and friends by raising the WFTU solidarity and its positions.

The establishment of these TUIs gave new possibilities concerning the presence of WFTU in their relevant sectors and multinational companies and provided the workers in the sector with the ability to promote the international and regional coordination of their struggles. All these efforts have reached the class-oriented trade unions around

the world which are all these years rejoining the WFTU and filling its ranks providing it with more dynamism and strength. One such shining example is the case of the CITU of India which after a long, democratic and honest debate in all collective bodies has affiliated to the WFTU in 2011.

Intensify Struggle Against Class Exploitation

Capitalism is a mode of production of goods and services based on private capitalist ownership of the means of production and exploitation of wage labour. Capitalism was preceded by the feudal mode of production. Through the process of primitive accumulation of capital, petty producers like the peasants were dispossessed of their means of production and converted into wage-labourers. The means of production were transformed into capital. The capitalist mode of production operates through the creation of surplus value by the workers and its appropriation by the owners of capital, i.e., the capitalists. Capitalism must be overthrown to abolish class exploitation through relentless class struggles.

The WFTU believes that the exploitation of the working class can be ended only by socializing all means of production, distribution and exchange and establishing a Socialist State. Holding fast the ideals of socialism, the WFTU stands for the complete emancipation of the society from all exploitation.

WFTU firmly adheres to the position that no social transformation can be brought about without class struggles and shall constantly repel attempts to take working class along the path of class collaboration.

WFTU wants to change the capitalist system because it is unjust and exploitative and hence repressive too. The capitalism thrives by expropriating the value and wealth created by labour in the capitalist production system. What the capitalists claim as theirs, i.e., the profit is actually the value created by labour only expropriated by the

capitalists. The value, which the workers produce far exceed the value of their means of subsistence paid as wages to them, that is, the value of their labour power, which the capitalist takes away by paying wages.

It is important to note that classes are identified not in terms of difference in income, difference on habits or difference in relations, but the place they occupy in social production and relations in which they stand to the means of production. It is in this context we must understand the huge concessions granted by the central government of the nation states and the provincial governments in discharge of their own class biasness. Thus the imposition of atrocious austerity measures including wage freeze, restrictions on collective bargaining, ban on right to trade union and right to strike enactment of legislations in favour of the capitalist class including granting exemptions to various sectors of industries from the purview of labour laws, anti-labour role of the judiciary etc must be understood.

With the inevitable breaking down of unsustainable reactionary finance capital driven imperialist globalization, the more than three decades' old world wide bitter struggles of the working class against the onslaughts of neo-liberal policies stands totally vindicated. The present crisis is the worst in the history of capitalism. The capitalist system cannot re-emerge from the crisis to the pre-crisis position. The struggles during the pre-crisis period were, by and large, defensive. The working class had been fighting the effects of neo-liberal policies. Now the present situation has brought before the working class an opportunity to launch a sustained class struggle against the root cause of the crisis i.e. capitalism. In other words so far the fight was defensive and now it is time to convert it into an offensive one.

The determined struggles against market driven economic policies under neo-liberalism had have been led by trade unions affiliated and also those friendly with WFTU. Now, mainly due to its ideological leadership, WFTU has emerged as the champion in the fight against imperialist globalization. At the same time, the crisis has also exposed

the class collaborationists within the trade union movement for their policy of collaboration with the forces of capitalist globalization nakedly compromising the cause of the working class. The need for class conscious ideological leadership to the trade union movement has attained unprecedented importance in the present situation. Undoubtedly only the WFTU can provide this leadership.



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