

The Present & Future of **Work**



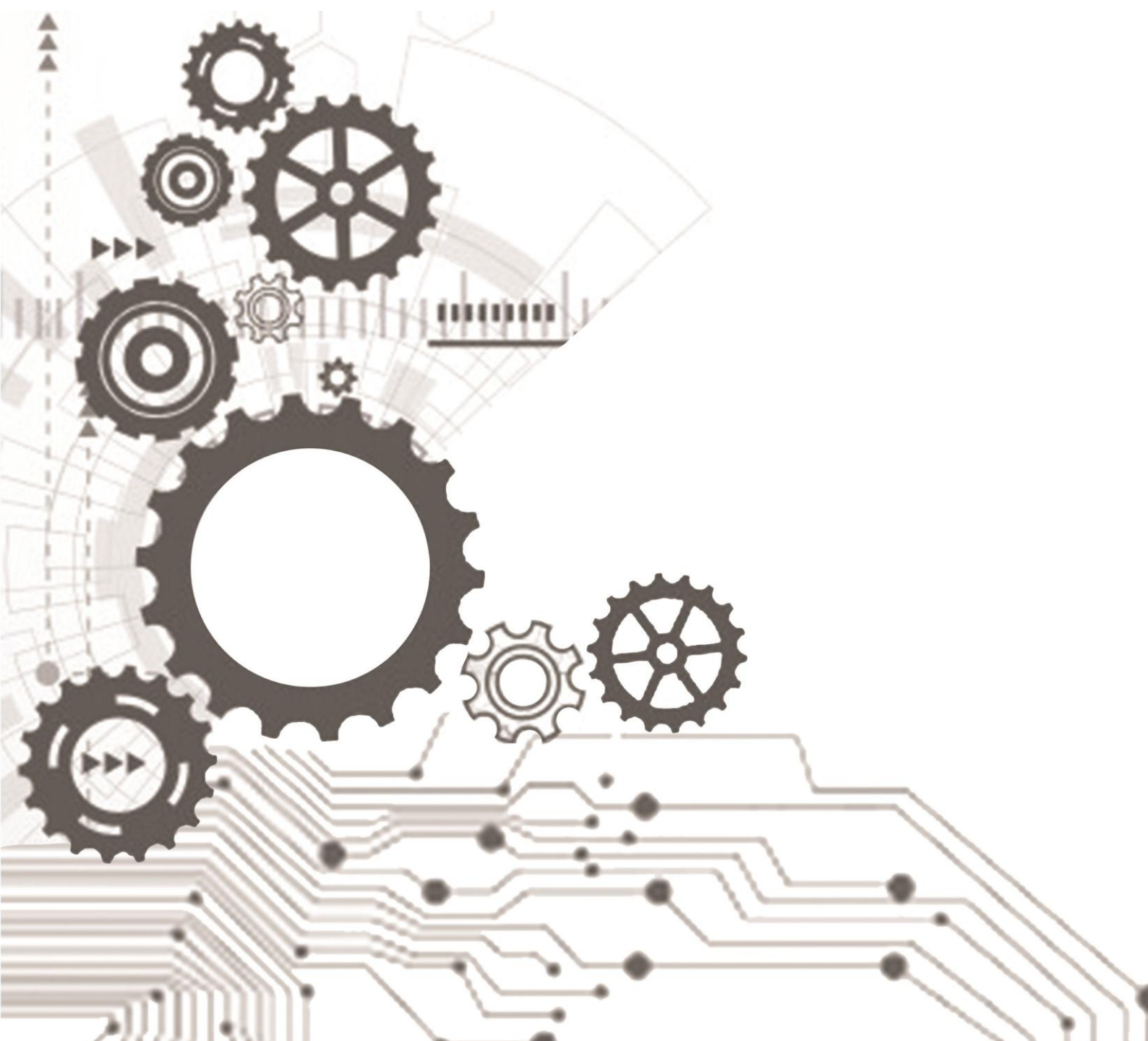
The present and the future of **work**

World Federation of Trade Unions

June 2019

Contents

Prologue	6
The present of work	9
The role of international organizations today	23
There is also a cultural crisis	29
The working class and the means of production nowadays.....	33
The demands and vision of the WFTU for the present of work	43
Perspectives and developments of productive forces	53
Perspectives for a new world.....	61
The ever topical class struggle	65
Conclusions	69



Prologue

Many sides are trying to make us discuss for the future of work.

Our first remark is that in order to discuss about the FUTURE we must have a clear picture about the present. The method of discussing in "blank" is unscientific. A substantive discussion can be done only when comparable indicators of a diachronic course exist, even more when the discussions concern social matters. Without the accurate knowledge of the reality, the change is impossible.

This is the reason that the World Federation of Trade Unions should be "the present and future of work".

Our second remark that we see many generalities, vagueness and meaningless discussions. Propositions without substance. The international class oriented trade union movement is trying to discuss concretely, understandably, with clarity.

The third remark is that every side is trying to demonstrate its own strategy. For example: the main aim of the international bourgeoisie is to convince that the modernizations must result against the workers and in favor of their profits. On the other side the reformist trade union leaderships are trying to hide themselves by talking mainly about "social dialogue", declaring that capitalism will be improved by the "social" dialogue. For every illness their antidote is the "social dialogue", they yellow when they hear about class struggle.

The World Federation of Trade Unions by taking part in this discussion is trying to convince the international working class that it can change the bad present situation with its energetic participation, by the movement of the masses. The WFTU believes that we live in a class separated society: On the one side the modern working class, the progressive intelligentsia and the youth and on the other side the bourgeoisie and their governments. Between these two main groups there is battle.

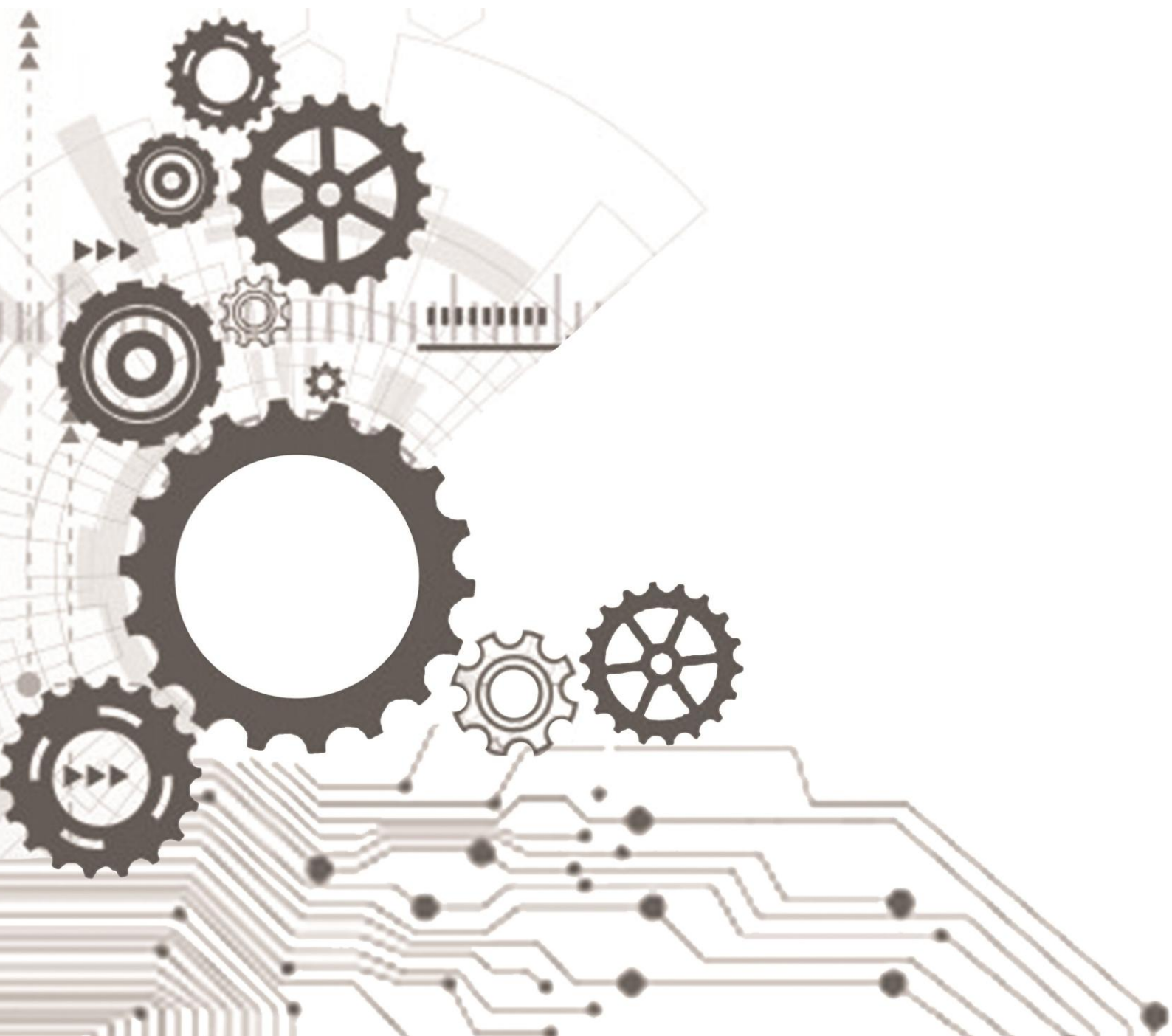
It's our duty to unite all the popular strata, the youth, all the workers no matter their political and ideological beliefs around the modern working class. To unite our whole social class against the other class, and with the weapon of the class struggles, the united struggles we will claim a better present and future.

What we claim is not a nice "afterlife". We are struggling for improvements in this life. We demand the satisfaction of our modern needs now, and at the same time we inform the workers and the peoples that deep social changes are needed until the workers' final victory. We do not believe that capitalism can have a human face, we declare that the improvement for the peoples can be realized by the abolition of the exploitative system.

We hope that you noted what will come next by reading this prologue.

On behalf of the WFTU leadership we would like to thank the scientists, sociologists, political analysts and all those who worked for the study-proposal that follows.

The Secretariat



The present of work

Nowadays, the workers and the popular strata of both developing and developed countries face exploitation, poverty, restriction of their working rights, the rise of occupational accidents, limited access to healthcare, education, to the right for a dignified pension. In an era when technology and science have made huge leaps forward, there are workers and their families without access to fresh water, clothes and housing. **1% of the population possesses more than 80% of the produced wealth, while 4.5 billion people live in poverty and misery.**

In countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America, monopolies exploit their immense natural wealth, giving peanuts to the peoples. The antagonisms among the powerful imperialist states for the control of the energy and the markets maintain tensions, outbreaks of war and open wounds in countries where interventions, wars and bombings have taken place in the previous years, where crowds of uprooted people, of migrants and refugees, were created. The exploitation of the wealth-producing resources on the basis of the maximum possible profit, leads both to misery for the local populations, and to environmental crimes, like the one that took place in 2010 in the gulf of Mexico, when an explosion at a BP platform caused the death of 11 workers and the spillage of 4,2 million barrels of oil into the ocean, destroying the fishery and tourism of the region, killing thousands of birds and sea animals.

Extreme poverty, insecurity, armed conflicts, often urge the workers to migrate to other countries, where they are used as cheap and flexible workforce, most often without access to healthcare, proper housing, with undeclared work and without rights. Several times the migrants are victims of racist attacks, violence and human trafficking.

It is worth mentioning that between 2012 and 2014 there were 63.251 victims of trafficking in 106 countries and territories, but the actual number of victims is much higher than that. Out of the total victims identified in 2014, the majority were women and girls at a percentage of 71%. The main purpose of human trafficking is sexual exploitation while in recent years the percentage of victims compelled to forced labor, that is, modern slavery, is increasing.

Another phenomenon of the current image and present of work is child labor: Worldwide, 218 million children aged between 5 and 17 work, while 152 million children are victims of child labor. Nearly half of these children, 73 million, work in heavy, dangerous jobs. **Almost half of the 152 million child victims of child labor are aged 5-11 years and are even employed in industry and mining. (ILO DATA)**

Moreover, poverty and misery in both developing and developed countries, for an increasing number of workers, leads to about 40 million persons in prostitution, while there are countries such as India, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Thailand where over 40% of these persons are children.

Nowadays, strategically sectors and industries, whose operation is directly linked to the covering of the basic needs of the workers, are privatized. Such areas are ports, airports, land transport, mining and management of natural resources and energy sources such as oil, natural gas, electricity, water. Entire areas are given to big businesses for investments, construction of luxury hotels, where a worker could not even approach, instead of becoming green spaces, beaches, for the well-being and recreation of the people.

There is a long experience showing that, due to privatizations, the services provided are becoming more and more expensive and inaccessible to the people, while their quality is becoming poorer. Workers in privatized sectors face cuts in their labor rights, work intensification, more occupational "accidents".

It is estimated that around 2,3 million women and men around the world are killed annually by occupational "accidents" and diseases. This accounts for over 6,000 deaths a day. Worldwide, around 340 million professional "accidents" and 160 million occupational diseases occur annually. The ILO updates these estimates from time to time and the updates reveal an **increase in occupational accidents and diseases**. Other evidence suggests that work-related diseases cause the most deaths for workers. Dangerous substances alone are estimated to cause 651.279 deaths per year. The construction industry has the highest percentage of recorded "accidents" and, lastly, younger and older workers are particularly vulnerable. This, of course, is related to the increase in the retirement age in a number of countries where workers who do even hazardous and unhealthy jobs are forced to work after their 60s, even up to 70, with what this entails for their health and lives.

In addition to increasing retirement age, the workers of developed countries experience a fierce attack against their labor rights due to the capitalist crisis that destroyed means of production, capital and increased the number of the unemployed. Wages and pensions have been reduced dramatically, health care services are increasingly deteriorating, the direction is to support large businesses and banks, to the detriment of wages, pensions, health and education of the people. Workers in even the most developed countries see their income vanishing without covering the month's costs, due to lower wages, increased direct and indirect taxes, increased energy costs, participation in medicines and other expenses.

During the period of the capitalist crisis, but also now that there is a very weak recovery, intra-imperialist antagonisms, the economic war between powerful capitalist states, can lead to economic sanctions and embargos burdening the daily lives of workers, attempts of coup d'états as in Venezuela, even to open wars. Expenditure on military equipment and on imperialist organizations such as NATO, burdens workers and poor people's strata while engaging them in dangerous plans.

In some countries, workers face serious restrictions of their social rights and democratic freedoms, they do not have the right to establish a union, or to protest demanding better living and working conditions for themselves and their families. The right to strike is restricted by governments and laws, on the one hand, and it is deliberately underestimated by corrupted trade union leaderships on the other hand. These leaderships try to convince workers that strikes have become out-dated, so that they can ensure the unhindered profitability of large enterprises.

But on the other hand, undeclared work, the worst working conditions and terrorism are rampant at the workplaces.

Working youth - Working women - Refugees and Migrants- Persons with special needs

Working youth

Nowadays, young workers globally face serious problems of work and survival. Specifically, based on ILO 2018 data and globally:

- **75 million of young persons are unemployed**
The problem of youth unemployment is particularly acute in the Arab states (30,6%), in the EU of 28 (18,4%), in Latin America and in Caribbean (17%) and elsewhere. We cite as an example that in South Africa the percentage of unemployment among the youth reaches 50%.
- **158 million young workers live below the poverty line**
The Sub-Saharan Africa is the region with the highest percentage of poor young workers in the world, almost 70% (80 million), while the problem is particularly acute in South Asia.
- **25% of the young people aged 15-29 are not in employment, education, or training**

This situation downgrades their knowledge and abilities, it traps them in unemployment, under-employment and disappointment.

What is more, young people are more exposed to informal working relationships, i.e. undeclared work, especially in emerging and developing countries, like South Africa, Brazil and Turkey, where 40% of young workers are "informal" workers, while in Mexico this percentage reaches 60%. In addition to low wages and undeclared work, young people are often forced to work with flexible working relationships, part-time or fixed-term contracts. Typical example are the EU countries like Portugal, Greece, Poland or Finland, with more than 50% of young people not having the possibility to find a permanent full-time job.

Facing this situation, many young people resort to migration, seeking better education and work opportunities outside their home country. According to data of the previous years, some 51 million migrants worldwide were between 15-29 years of age, most of whom came from developed economies. Many of them are young scientists who seek work in the sector of their studies, in richer countries where foreign skilled workforce is needed.

However, young people in poorer countries are the most willing to migrate. Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean have the largest number of youngsters wanting to emigrate, 38%, followed by Eastern Europe with 37%.

The above problems are particularly acute at young working women, who stably face higher unemployment rates, part-time jobs and insufficient education in relation to young men, fact that highlights the particular issues of working women since their young age.

All the aforementioned compose the harsh reality in which young workers are invited to organize their struggles at their workplaces, in their countries as well as internationally, through the ranks of the World Federation of Trade Unions, to demand the life they deserve, in a society

with peace, social justice, safety, access to education and to the right to stable job, with 8 hours for work, 8 hours for rest and 8 hours for the global development of their personality, with access to the arts, culture, sports.

Working women

Nowadays the participation of women in work is 49.6% of the female population, while that of men is 76.1%, respectively.

But even for women who work, the poor working conditions and the intensification of exploitation are at very high levels. More specifically, undeclared employment accounts for 82% of total non-agricultural employment in South Asia, 66% in Sub-Saharan Africa, 65% in Eastern and Southeast Asia and 51% in Latin America. In the Middle East and North Africa, 47% of men and 35% of women workers are undeclared workers.

Moreover, women face a higher risk of unemployment than men globally: in North Africa, where the female unemployment rate is almost double than that of men. In the Arab states, the unemployment rate for women is almost three times the unemployment rate for men.

Globally, women account for less than 40% of total employment, but account for 57% of part-time workers. The majority of part-time work around the world is done by women.

Throughout the world, the overwhelming majority of unpaid domestic work and family care is done by women. The reasons why women are burdened with this kind of "unpaid work" is the lack of state infrastructure and social services for the family members who need it.

The agricultural sector employs most women in low and middle income countries. In South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, over 60% of all female workers remain in agriculture. In many developing economies, women work in labor intensive farming activities, which are often very poorly paid (FAO, 2015a, World Bank, 2014).

In high income countries, women focus on health, education, wholesale and retail sectors.

Globally, the gender pay gap is estimated at 23%. In other words, women earn 77% of the amount that men earn (ILO, 2011a). Gender inequalities at work and at home translate into inequalities in terms of access to social protection. As women are more likely than men to work in informal - and therefore unprotected - employment, they often have no access to social protection acquired through employment, such as pensions, unemployment benefits or maternity protection (ILO , 2014b, 2014c and 2014d).

Globally, almost 60% of the working women (around 750 million women) do not have a legal right to maternity leave and 65.9% of them do not have income coverage during maternity leave.

Regarding to education, it is estimated that about 781 million people over 15 years old remain illiterate, two-thirds of whom are women.

Women are more vulnerable during war conflicts, and constitute 50% of refugees, while they are at risk of violence and abuse during their journey and upon arrival in destination countries. The phenomenon of prostitution, that is inherent in the exploitative capitalist system, which includes 40-42 million people around the world, 75% of them between the ages of 13 and 25, with the overwhelming majority being girls and young women. Girls and young women in Africa suffer from higher rates of HIV virus disease because of their social conditions, such as inadequate awareness of prevention, sexual violence, early marriages, prostitution.

From all of the above, it is concluded that the women's issue, i.e. the additional problems experienced by working women and women of the popular strata, has multiple consequences and social implications and cannot be solved by the measures proposed, such as increased participation of women in decision-making bodies (national parliaments, the EU, administrative boards of large companies), especially when these bodies exercise hostile policies against workers and their rights.

In order for working women to face unemployment, insecurity, lack of access to education and health services, they need to fight through the ranks of the trade union movement, for permanent and stable jobs with rights, equal pay for equal work, full protection of maternity, access to modern health services for themselves and their children.

Refugees and migrants

Today, 68,5 million people around the world have been obliged to leave their homes. Out of this number, 25,4 million are refugees, over 50% of whom are under the age of 18. 57% of the world's refugees come from Syria, Afghanistan and South Sudan. Also, from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Nigeria, the Central African Republic, Somalia, Eritrea and Burundi.

Turkey hosts the largest refugee population worldwide with a reported refugee population of 3.6 million. Refugees from Syria account for 98% of all refugees in Turkey. The rest of Europe hosts about 2.7 million

Pakistan hosts the world's second largest refugee population with 1.4 million, mainly from Afghanistan. Germany is the fourth largest refugee country, it hosts refugees from 163 different countries. Iran is the fifth country with the largest refugee population, with most refugees coming from

Afghanistan (951.100) and Iraq (28.300). Approximately 968.100 refugees from Syria are in Lebanon. (Data UNHCR 2018)

The aforementioned evidence shows that imperialist wars are the first and foremost cause of refugees. Countries like Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Palestine have been tested hard by wars that are being waged for the interests of great powers in competition. Uprooted people, workers and popular strata, are forced to leave their countries to save their lives and the lives of their children. They travel with great risks and hardships, through traffickers, and often do not reach alive the country of their destination. Every year thousands of people are drowning in the Mediterranean, their number surpassed 2,000 in 2018. But even when they reach countries such as Turkey, Greece or Italy, the situation they find is tragic, with miserable living conditions in refugee camps, with serious problems in security, food, health care, legal services, communication, education, work, integration into the society.

This happens since the care of refugees is not a state concern. The EU funding for refugee care goes to NGOs which, without organization, control and infrastructure, are supposed to host and help the refugees. Finally, refugees are trapped in the host countries, since they are forced to apply for asylum and wait for a long time for it to be approved without being able to get legally travel documents to travel to the countries of their final destination.

More than 60% of all international migrants live in Asia (80 million) or in Europe (78 million). North America hosts the third largest number of international migrants (58 million), followed by Africa (25 million), Latin America and the Caribbean (10 million) and Oceania (8 million). Saudi Arabia, Germany and the Russian Federation hosted the second, third and fourth largest migrants populations worldwide (approximately 12 million each), followed by the United Kingdom (almost 9 million). In 2017, India was the largest country of origin of international migrants (17 million), followed by Mexico (13 million). Other countries of origin of large migrant populations are the Russian Federation (11 million), China (10 million), Bangladesh (7

million), Syria (7 million) and Pakistan and Ukraine (6 million each). Women are slightly less than half of all international migrants, but migrant women outnumber migrant men in Europe (UN Data).

The moving of migrants from poor countries of the Third World to developed ones, shows their effort for survival and a better life. Migrants cover the needs of more developed countries in workforce, which is generally poorly paid and without rights, while they try to help their families back in their countries through remittances they send them. In their everyday lives, they face all kinds of discrimination and racism, the threat of expulsion, they are victims of wild working and economic exploitation. They struggle to be integrated into the society and meet their basic needs. This is, according to official data, the reality for the largest percentage of 258 million migrants.

The World Federation of Trade Unions with its anti-imperialist and internationalist position and action denounces the murderous and hypocritical policy of the European Union and its Governments and struggles for the elimination of the aggressiveness against the people of North Africa and the Middle East, for the dissolution of NATO and for the utilization of the natural resources by the people for their own interests and for the popular development that will bring the reconstruction and the prosperity of the people. It also struggles for:

- The abolishment of the Dublin and the Schengen Treaty, the Frontex and all repressive mechanisms.
- The end of the measures of the European Union for repression at the borders.
- End now the imperialist interventions of EU-USA-NATO.
- Direct transfer of the refugees from the islands and the entry points to the countries of their final destination.
- Increase of the personnel and the infrastructure for the rescue, the record-identification, the housing, feeding, medical care and the safe transfer of the people. Decent housing for all refugees, education for their children under state responsibility.
- Creation of dignified centers of reception and hospitality.

Persons with special needs

More than a billion people in the world live in some form of disability (15% of the world's population), of which nearly 200 million face significant difficulties in their daily lives, and this number is expected to increase in the coming years.

Worldwide, people with disabilities have health problems, lower participation in education and higher rates of unemployment and poverty than people without disabilities. They face barriers to access to health, education, transport services. These difficulties are exacerbated in developing countries, where disability rates are higher than in developed countries. A study in 56 developing countries has shown that poverty can lead to the emergence of health conditions associated with disability, low birth weight, malnutrition, lack of clean water or adequate hygiene, unsafe work and living and injuries. Also, poverty increases the lack of access to adequate health and rehabilitation services for people with disabilities (WHO Data).

Because of the higher cost of necessary health services, people with disabilities and their families are poorer than non-disabled people with similar incomes. There is no adequate and free state infrastructure for their care, which is the responsibility of their families for a lifetime. The environment in which they live does not take into account the difficulties they may encounter in moving, communicating, getting informed, etc. Also, while it is difficult for them to find a job, at the same time the pension they receive, if they receive one, is not sufficient to cover their increased needs.

All of the above outline the difficulties and problems of workers at global level, which are further aggravated for specific groups and categories of them. They show that despite the tremendous development of technology

and the immensely produced wealth, workers, ordinary people who make up the vast majority of the active population of the earth, face a difficult, dark preset, inextricably linked to their place in production, to the exploitation of their work and to their exclusion from the goods and services they themselves produce.

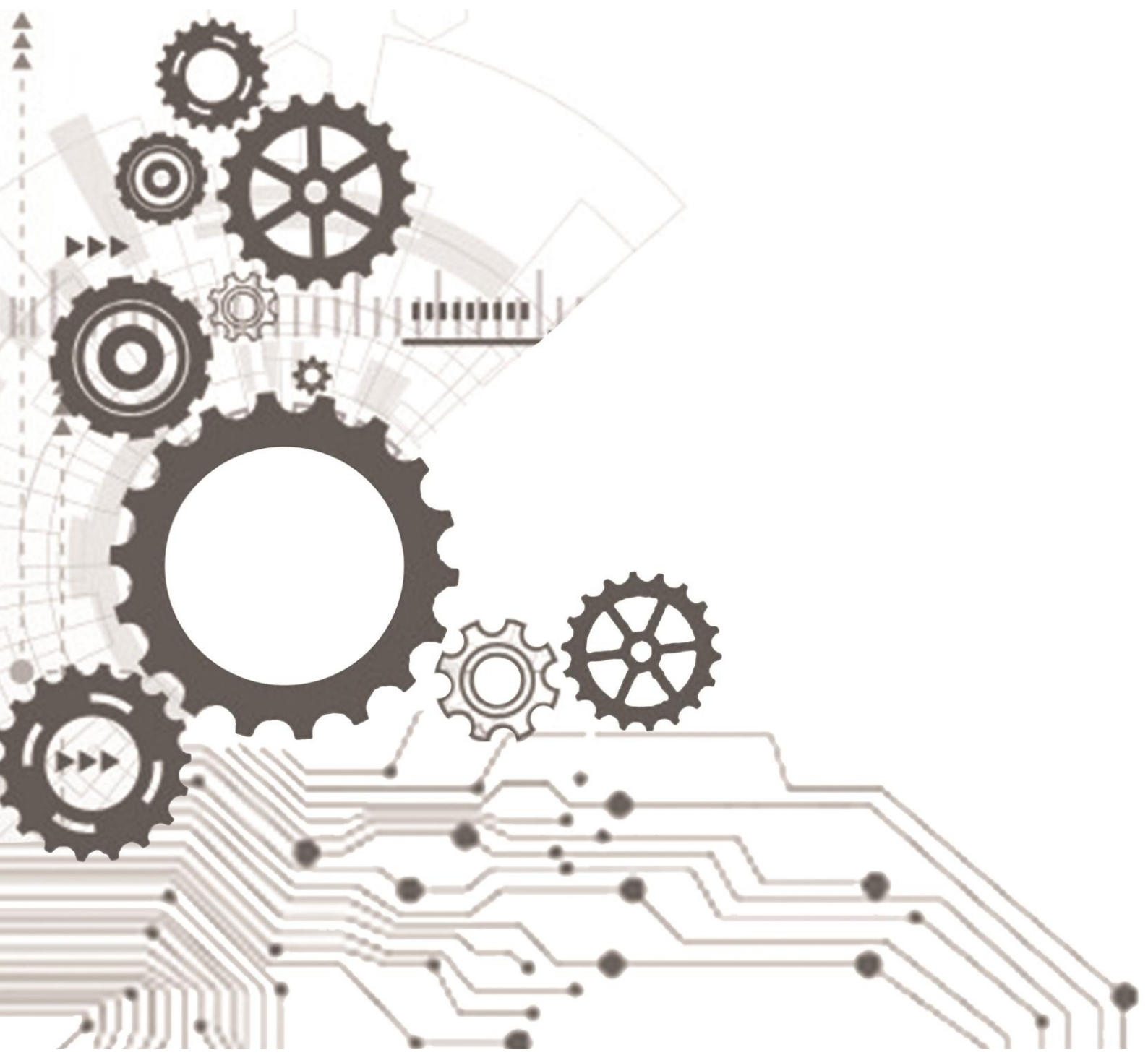
This is the picture today!

For all these problems described above, some people say:

"God is to blame for these injustices!"

Others say, "The workers are to blame!"

The WFTU says: "The capitalist exploitation is to blame, this is the sickness."



The role of international organizations today

The most central international organization is the United Nations, it is the oldest and the "root" of all other organizations that we are concerned with today.

Chronology

The foundations of this organization's organization and its structure were drafted during the Second World War of 1939-1945 by the leaders of the anti-Nazi coalition. The Foreign Ministers conference in Moscow in 1943 with the ministers of USSR, US and UK, the 1944 Dabarton Ox Conference, the Crimean Conference of 1945 and the 1945 San Francisco Conference constituted the main steps for the creation of the United Nations UN).

On June 25, 1945, the United Nations was set up with the San Francisco conference by the leaders of the countries that declared war on fascist Germany and Japan and had acceded to the United Nations Declaration.

Ironically, exactly the same date after five years on 25 June 1950, the UN provided its flag as an alibi in the US imperialist intervention in Korea.

On 10 January 1946, with the wishes of all mankind, for a peaceful future without wars and conflicts, the United Nations General Assembly convened in New York at its first session.

In the UN Statute, with the efforts of the USSR and all progressive powers of that time, the democratic principles of international co-operation, such as the sovereign equality of all UN members, the solution of international disputes through peaceful means, the resignation of international relations from the threat of violence, or from the use of force in any form incompatible with the

purposes of the UN, the non-interference of the UN in cases that are essentially the internal competence of any state and others

UN resolutions and action have expressed and continue to reflect the ever-changing balance of forces between the states of the world and the dominant tendencies of international life. We could, in this respect, divide the current UN course into two periods.

In the first that lasted from its foundation until the late 1980s, the struggle in the international field between the forces of socialism and democracy on the one hand and the forces of the attack and the imperialist reaction on the other shaped the character of the UN and its decisions.

The fact that in the 1960s it was no longer possible for the imperialists to prevent the entry into the UN of the socialist countries and the wave of countries that had won their independence from the colonialists was sealed by the radical shift of the center of gravity towards the forces of peace. Those forces that were guarantors of a role of the UN to positively influence international political problems and prevented the deterioration of its prestige through efforts to preserve the principles of its Charter.

This, of course, did not mean the deterrence of unilateral aggressive tactics by the US and its allies. However, the latter were forced, sometimes to make individual concessions, and sometimes to concessions of wider significance, in relation to the peoples' self-determination rights and their disengagement from the system of dependence. In any case, they were obliged to pay the cost of their interventions, recorded in the consciousness of the peoples of the world.

The UN and the International Organizations today

In the second period, after the dissolution of the USSR and the overthrow of the socialist regimes, the UN gradually began to become a tool for legitimizing the interventions and the policy of the new imperialist order. The most prominent examples of this development were the UN's Gulf War

stance and the NATO raid in Yugoslavia, the trade embargo against Cuba, the tolerance of Israeli aggression.

Today, the re-use of the UN as a fig leaf of the imperialists, to "legitimize" NATO and North American interventions worldwide, confirms that we are returning to a time of "the same and worse" than that which prevailed 70 years ago.

Now, the physiognomy of the United Nations, its tactics, its "interventions", indicate the magnitude of the return that has occurred in recent years to the humanity. The use of the UN as a center of "censorship" of international crusades of capital and multinationals for the acquisition of new markets and the redeployment of the map of their spheres of influence is an imperialist "acquis".

The residents of Persian gulf, of Somalia, Rwanda, Yugoslavia, Palestine and the Middle East, Afghanistan and Syria, Sudan and Centrafrican Republic know that they are suffering also because the UN either does not want or cannot restrict the aggression of Imperialists.

The course of the UN, as an alibi of the imperialist practices, any other than precludes the need for international peacekeeping organizations. The opposite: It confirms, in a dramatic way, that the assumption of a change in the global correlational power in favor of anti-imperialist and anti-monopoly powers becomes imperative.

The way it is expressed in the world of work

The United Nations system comprises 15 specialized organizations, 23 funds, programs, research institutes and other bodies as well as several operational and regional committees and subsidiary bodies. The ILO, founded in 1919, was the first specialized service to join the United Nations in 1946 shortly after its foundation.

"The ILO participates in the United Nations coordination mechanisms and cooperates with the rest of the United Nations family at all levels to support countries in promoting and achieving sustainable development"

The situation in the ILO reflects the given balance of power both in the labor movement itself and in the delegated states. There are more than a few times where there is a unfairness between trade unions, excluding those guided by the class struggle.

The WFTU and its presence in the International Organizations

The WFTU has been present since its birth in 1945 with a permanent delegation to the UN, ILO, FAO and UNESCO. By operating in an environment without representative operation of the International Organizations, the presence and action of WFTU in International Organizations has stabilized and needs to be further improved.

The WFTU is the only international trade union organization that consistently exploits its positions in the International Organizations to promote the fair demands of the workers' and the grassroots movement.

The WFTU has unveiled and is unveiling the pro-employer character that international organizations have come to play by violating even their own principles. It struggles to change the balance of power in the international organizations by mobilizing its members, by organizing meaningful interventions both during the central meetings and throughout the year, by making complaints, proposals and demands for adoption by international organizations.

This action has made the WFTU to have a great prestige in and out of the international organizations, a prestige that leans on the just demands and positions that the WFTU has adopted over the years on the side of the workers of the world.

Summarizing

The character of the international organizations is a reflection of the international correlation of power in society, but also in the movement of the working class itself.

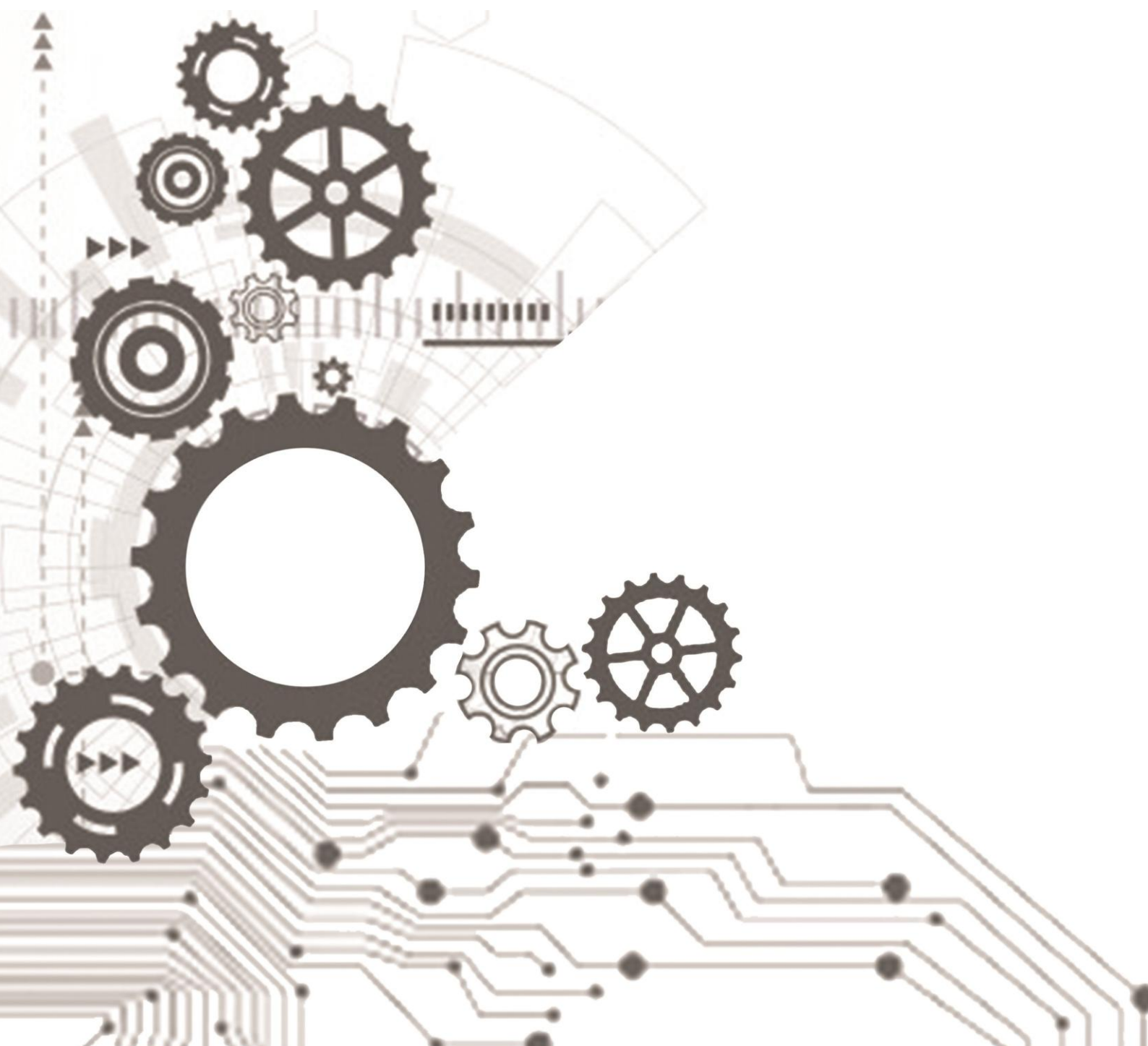
In the international organizations, the two lines that divide our society: the line of incorporation, subordination, imperialist mechanisms and the line of conflict with the monopolies, imperialism and their governments, the line that is expressed internationally by the WFTU and the class trade-unions.

The struggle and the interventions in the international organizations are not enough if they are not combined with the union struggle in each country to change the balance in favor of the workers first and foremost at national level.

International organizations are a tool in the struggle and not the fight itself, which is conducted in the struggle with capital and governments in each country.

It is wrong for the trade unions and trade unionists to believe that today, with today's correlations, international organizations can solve problems for workers and peoples.

The trade unions and trade unionists must, through their presence in international organizations, exploit the potential to promote the positions of the trade union movement, to get in touch with other trade unions, to reveal the policy of capitalists, monopolies and multinationals.



There is also a cultural crisis

Civilization, as a social phenomenon par excellence, consists in a reflection of each political system that engenders and nourishes it. The term civilization is multidimensional and apart from the arts, philosophy and sciences, includes progress and characterizes the way in which a society behaves. It is governed and configured by the aesthetics of the dominant class, which provides with a direction and a meaning the way of organizing the society in each era.

So, the concept of civilization in our time defines a whole system of values, which channels the basic principles of capitalism in the society by using all possible means, in order to instill them into the working class: education, Social Media and the controlled suggested options which all prove to be anodyne and useful to the bourgeoisie, health, entertainment, act as a mirror and a gun, at the same time, in the hands of the capital, which bears witness of the intentions and the aims of the capitalists for the instruction of obediently working force.

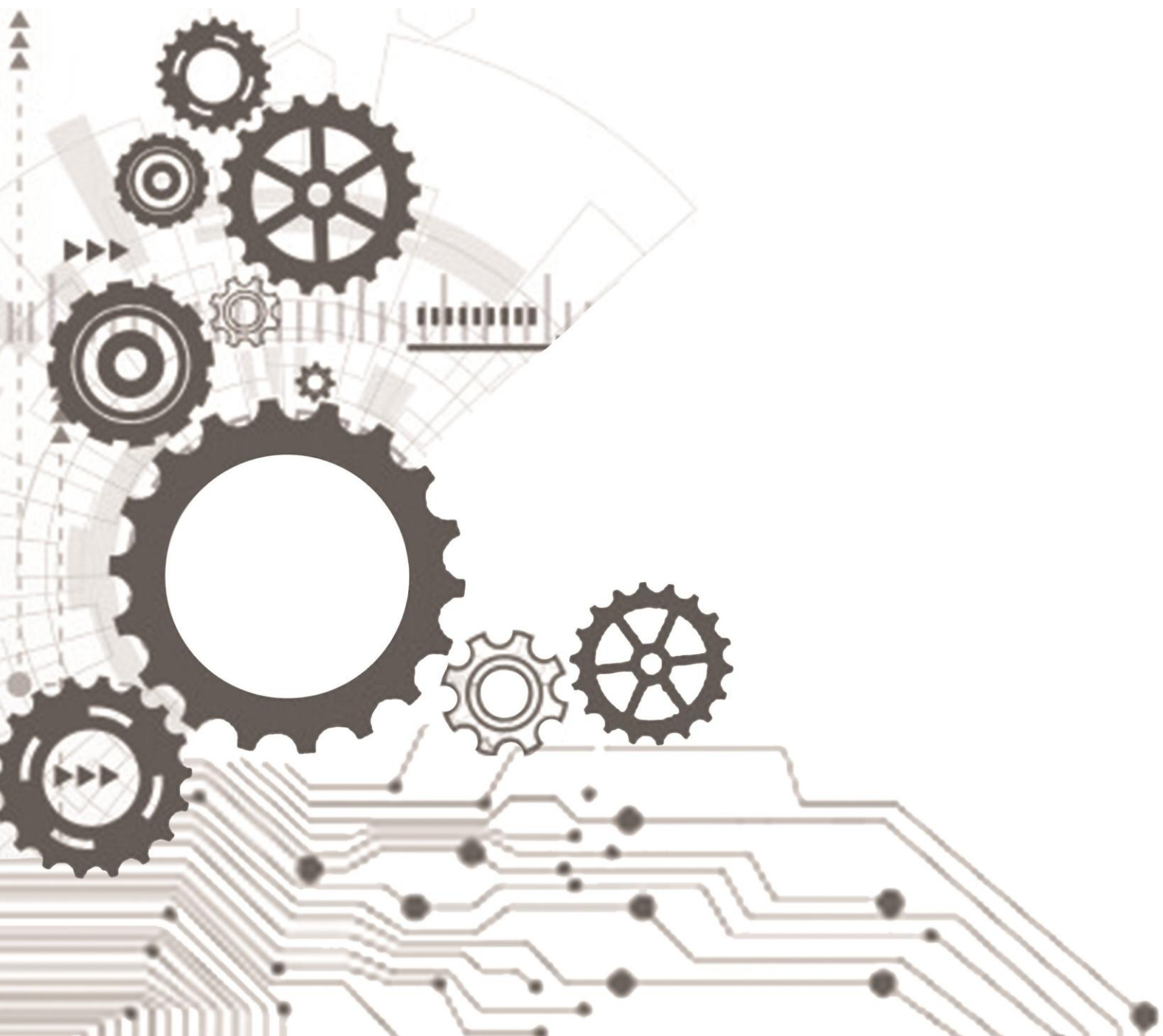
Within this framework has to be seen the way of life which capitalism promotes with the passivity of the contemporary man, converting him from a motionless dynamic entity into a viewer of life, riveted to the television, looking life through images that others created. It cultivates fatalism and submission of the working people in the measures of exploitation which hinder his life, sponges him off intellectually, mentally and economically. It promotes individualism, inertness, the compromise of the uncompromising class interests which names "social dialogue", presenting him as a civilized means of finding a solution, in order to prevent the organized class struggle which will lead to the overthrow of the exploitative system and, therefore, to its destruction.

The aesthetics of capitalism, which has as its foundation the commercial and private-economic logic and is governed by a set of rules which serve the interests of a minority, crosses all sectors and utilizes all

means to increase its profitability. For this reason aims to the conquering of markets, wages wars for the control of the natural resources, but on a second level for the control of the people who live in these countries, because they form a potential field of profitability and implementation of the commercialized, urban lifestyle model which razes diversity.

We could say that, the aesthetics of capitalism is the aesthetics of war and the suppression of labor rights and of the decent livelihood. It promotes corruption in each sector of life and buys consciousnesses. It turns against a life with rights in a quality, free education, arts, medical, scientific and technological achievements, because it has money as its banner and everything turns into a commodity.

The solution lies in the disclosure of this phenomena and the causes which provokes them, to the nurturing of the working people with the values, the principles and in the line of the fighting action and dynamic claims of the working class movement. It matters the enhancement of the positive results and the role of the social struggles and the organized and collective struggle, in contradiction with the passive attitude which entails her limitation, attitude which favors individualism, defeatism and disappointment. The WFTU, towards "Me" promotes the word "We", towards individualism promotes collectiveness. Towards indifference, the participation and action. Towards disappointment, the optimism arising from the collective struggle.



The working class and the means of production nowadays

The productive forces of today are undoubtedly at the best, more developed, more integrated and promising level mankind has ever seen. The technological progress over the last 100-200 years has unprecedentedly boosted society's productive perspective. Nevertheless, productive forces and potential that today's mankind has didn't come up as a creation of the last 2 centuries; they are the last and more advanced level of a constant, continuous and integral evolutionary and upgrading process; a process which began with the first tool which has ever been made and the first technique that the man came up with, going back millennia. Every contemporary machine, robot or computer integrates and composes a series of human patents which, in their turn, have been achievements based on previous scientific achievements. In other words, going backwards to the course of the evolution of the means of production leads to the invention of the wheel and axis or even the sharpening and grinding of the first stone.

The enormous level of today's productive forces that mankind has is a reality universally accepted and stands out as a reference at academic-scientific level, in economic-technological fora as well as in international organization's analysis. Today's human society has upgraded its productive forces and potential so much that it has created the conditions for the meeting of global population's every basic and contemporary need.

By way of example, the International Labour Organization (ILO), in its Report "Work for a Brighter Future", published in the framework of its 100th anniversary celebration, notes that "countless opportunities lie ahead to improve the quality of working lives, expand choice, close the gender gap, reverse the damages wreaked by global inequality, and much more".

In order to acknowledge which are the basic reasons that create these huge productive conditions, we should examine which is the actual level of

productive forces. Productive forces are divided in two basic categories: on the one hand the labour force or man power and on the other the means of production, which include not only raw materials and tools, but also machines, productive units and plants. The distinction of productive forces into labour force and means of production is decisive, given that -as we will see further on- man power is the only source of surplus value and, therefore, the only source of profit in capitalism. This chapter will focus on some general features and developments of productive forces nowadays, which constitute the background and create this undoubtedly huge productive potential.

A) Means of production

The rapid development of means of production and the rocketing of productive potential nowadays is based on two main pillars: the trend for automation in production and the trend for networking and interconnection of the production.

Networking and interconnection of the production is the result of the IT processing and internet application in production as well as of the standardisation and digitalization process in production which have also been evolving for centuries.

The standardisation of all individual materials and components to be used in the productive process has created a new reality in the division of labour and the specialized production, by creating supply chains. In other words, prototyping makes separate and independent mass production of components possible and economically profitable. Thus, different productive units produce in a separate way all necessary parts needed for the production of commodities, right down to the last screw; subsequently, these parts are assembled, minimizing the marginal cost of the product. This process makes it possible for different parts of a product to be produced in separate locations. A contemporary production unit can be specialized in the mass production of just one component which could be later on be exported to the whole world. Likewise, a company can create a product which is the result of the assembling of hundreds or thousands of components which are

separately produced in different corners of the world, taking advantage of the low cost of a specialized supply chain.

The possibility of digitalization of any data needed for the production of a commodity, the networking of different production units and the transportation of any product to the whole world have made possible the coordination and centralization of production as well as the transportation of commodities without any geographical or time limitations. Advanced computer systems intensify computing power and planning capacity as well as processing and productive coordination in general. At the same time, the so-called “internet of thinking” intends to introduce an “autonomous” communication and coordination of different machines without any human intervention. This way, the plan and goal for smart factories, smart points of sale etc. by reducing the required time and the so-called “transaction cost” for the order, production and distribution of the product.

In practical terms, it can be said that the new element introduced by the pillar of internet and IT networking is the operation of the whole productive process as a single machine which can be geographically expanded to the whole world and make full use of more efficient facilities, know-how and raw materials wherever they may be across the planet.

Respectively, the automation of production, not only as concept but also as productive goal and orientation, is not something new. It is a concept directly linked with the economic thinking of previous centuries and is still in progress. The trend for automation intends to rapidly grow the production through the use of robotics and the so-called Artificial Intelligence.

The concept of automation is as old as the use of the first handlooms itself. In the same way as first machines triggered productive potential by enabling their user to produce ten times higher than he/she used to manually produce, so does the so-called AI and robotics; they enable worker to produce hundred times more than he/she used to produce while using the first machines.

It should be noticed that today’s robotics and AI are a more sophisticated and profitable version of a pretty old idea, as “mechanical hands” first

appeared in the productive process more than 60 years ago, while the concept of robot has existed at least since 1930s.

The application of robotics and AI in the productive process doesn't change neither the exploitative nature, nor the relations of production in capitalism. Neither socially-produced relations, nor laws of capitalism change. What actually changes or, better said, is improved, is the productive potential in the framework of laws and relations of production which already exist. That is to say that there is no qualitative change in the economy process, but a quantitative one.

At the same time, it is important to realise that new developments in the means of production or, in other words, the so-called 4th Industrial Revolution, renew the same myths which have been being "recycled" during every quantitative change in the means of production. On the one hand, bourgeois class is trying to foster its pious hopes for the end of the working class or the end of the class struggle; on the other hand, the fears of a part of the working class are renewed, as they look upon the evolution of the means of production as a threat to them, in the same way the Luddites used to break the machines of the "First Industrial Revolution" in order to avoid the elimination of the working class from the production. As we are about to see further on, the development of means of production not only does it not bring about the elimination or the crowding-out of the working class, but also highlights which the historical boundaries of the bourgeois class in the productive process are.

B) Labour power

As an introduction, it is worth mentioning that the means of production we analysed before are the constant capital which is the result of a productive process in the past. That is to say that they are products created by workers in the past and they have been bought and used as means of production today. These products, as a result of living-labour power, contained surplus value which was included in their buying-in price. From then on, they are used in the productive process as constant capital.

Labour power constitutes the variable capital and is the productive force that integrates the other productive forces, i.e. the means of production (tools, machines, industrial plants, raw materials etc.) for the creation of commodities. The expenditures of production consist of expenditures for constant capital (expenditures for means of production) and expenditures for variable capital, i.e. wages paid for living-labour power.

Profit results from the fact that the value of the produced commodity is greater than the expenditures of production (value of constant and variable capital). Deducting expenditures of constant capital from the total commodity value, the only thing left is the value that was created by the living-labour power which set in motion the constant capital. Nonetheless, the wage which is paid for living-labour power is less than the remained value. The surplus value is the result of the value created by the living-labour power minus the value of the wage paid for living-labour power. In conclusion, workers are paid less than the value they create and this “surplus value” is the source of capitalist profit.

This reality, the very fact that profit comes from the exploitation of labour power, is the common and unchangeable law of capitalist profitability since the dawn of capitalist relations in production. This is also the main feature which remains the same for the working class since it first appeared in society until today, while it has to set in motion the advanced means of the so-called 4th Industrial Revolution.

Nonetheless, the working class, as a productive force, changes quantitatively and qualitatively through the endless evolutionary process of productive forces.

The working class of today has increased its rate among the population. This is a result of one of the basic laws of capitalism which, as it evolves and the capital is over-accumulated, makes population to be proletarianized. In other words, over-accumulated capital constantly grows, acquiring more productive means of production, bigger market share and exerts intolerable pressures on that smaller and less profitable part of capital which, sooner or later, will end up either being bought off and absorbed by monopoly groups, or going bankrupt. Thus, gradually, more and more people lose the means

of production and land they used to own and become workers. That is to say, the only mean of survival they have is their possibility to work, selling their labour power to a capitalist, in exchange of a salary or wage. Working class is growing in numbers and constitutes an increasing part of the population. The rate increase of the working class among the overall population, in combination with the numerical growth of the world population leads to the growth of the workers' number at a global level as well.

At the same time, over-accumulation of capital is the basis for the development of mass production of supply chains, which make development of modern and sophisticated means of production and productive processes (such as automation and networking) sustainable. Control-command and maintenance of these sophisticated means of production requires the creation of a skilled workforce. This capital's need for a skilled workforce in combination with the workers and people struggles for the right to education and learning, generates a huge new and qualitative rise of the working class' educational level, which gradually becomes a workforce with even higher scientific and technical qualifications. Today's working class has far more productive potential than the one it used to have decades or centuries ago; at the same time, it uses more advanced and efficient means of production. In parallel, workers movement's claims and contemporary production methods increase the non-manual workforce rate in comparison with the past.

In addition, workers movement becomes more and more experienced, by accumulating experience from class struggle, from the various forms of struggle which it developed under different circumstances and correlation of forces, as well as through experience and knowledge drawn from each mixture of bourgeois management and the examples of workers and socialist states and power.

The combination of qualitative and quantitative changes of the working class along with the unprecedented efficiency level of today's means of production creates a productive potential blast which could lead not only to the covering of all mankind's contemporary needs, but also to the creation of decent working conditions and reduction in working time. It is important to understand that today, improvement of working conditions and working time

reduction can be implemented across the full range of economic activity, independently of the uneven productive potential progress per sector.

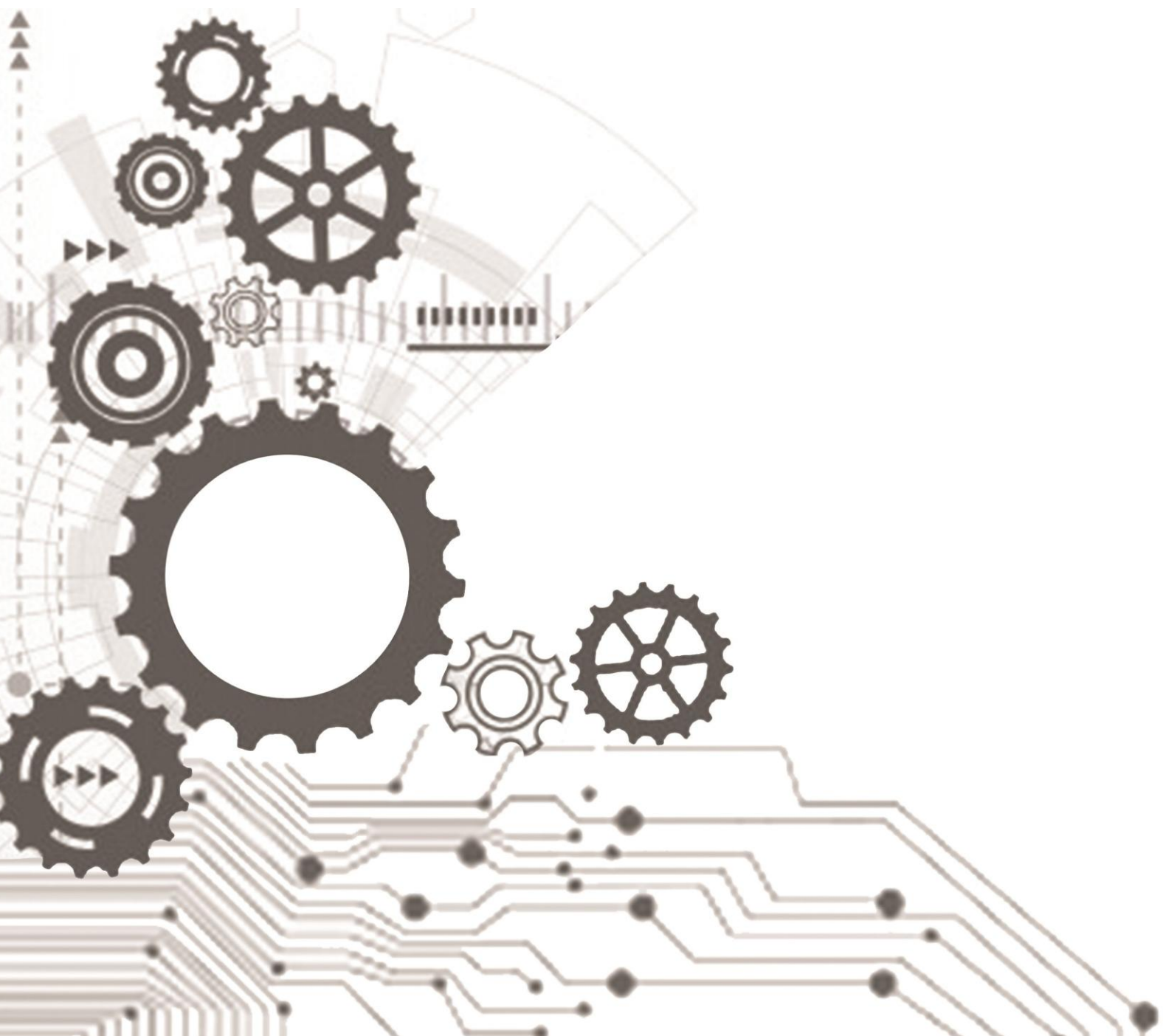
For instance, we could compare garment sector with the educational one. It's obvious that internet, PCs, online and e-learning programs as well as modern "smart" teaching methods improve the efficiency of educational process, compared with what was the case some decades ago. Nevertheless, despite all these means and evolutions, education remains largely dependent on the conventional way of teaching. On the contrary, in garment sector, it is calculated that new robotics and automated factories in future could produce t-shirts with a marginal cost of just few cents per hour, having drastically reduced the socially-necessary labour time. However, even if there is a disproportion in the influence of every mean of production on each sector, this doesn't lead, for example, to the drastic reduction of working time for garment workers; at the same time, a teacher is forced to work almost the same amount of time as he/she did in the past.

Drastic reduction of socially necessary labour time in garments entails a decrease in the need for workforce in this particular sector; this could compensate and reduce teachers' working time, simply by transferring the workforce "in excess" from garment sector to education, by increasing this way the number of teachers and reducing their working time.

In 21st century, the growing development and specialisation of workforce and of its know-how, use of robotics and AI, IT and ITES development, automation and networking in combination with the wide range of means of production developed by mankind, have achieved an unprecedented reduction of socially necessary labour time.

In other words, what is achieved is the possibility for the (average) worker to produce faster; that is to say it is required less work for the production of a specific quantity of commodities than it used to. At a social scale, mankind can produce much more, by meeting all its contemporary needs. Thus, conditions for the workers to essentially improve their standard of living have been created, as material conditions for the covering of their needs goes hand in hand with the reduction of the working time, the improvement of their working conditions, the free and creative time increase as well as with the

access to quality entertainment, sports and culture. Bringing WFTU and world class-oriented movement's positions and proposals -as described above- to life is feasible and realistic, given that workers produce more than the wealth needed to cover these needs, provided that the wealth is distributed based on the covering of these needs.



The demands and vision of the WFTU

for the present of work

The bodies of the World Federation of Trade Unions have collectively and democratically determined the following demands and vision. The WFTU and its affiliates in 130 countries of the world, bring together more than 97 million of militant workers who struggle for the covering and satisfaction of the contemporary needs and interests of the workers as they are coded below. These demands are the lighthouse of the international class-oriented trade union movement struggles for a dignified present of the working class and the popular strata.

FOR LABOR RELATIONS - COLLECTIVE BARGAINING - SOCIAL SECURITY

The labor relations today are formed based on the interest of the monopolies. The working conditions, especially under the conditions of international crisis of capitalism, are getting worse for the working class. Many workers remain unpaid or are paid only part of their salary. The working hours are getting flexible based on the desires of the employers, from part-time work to 10 -12 hour labor days, salaries are very low, the obligation to get paid for overtime done is eliminated, the collective contracts are violated. What's more, the social security is being degraded and privatized. The age of retirement is getting altered.

The WFTU demands:

- Stable, full time employment for all

- 7-hour working day, 5-day working week, 35-hour working week
- National collective contract that will define the lowest salary in every country. Collective bargaining in every sector.
- Dignified salaries
- living wage that will satisfy today's worker's needs, in every sector, country and region.
- Free time for recreation. Social and workers tourism for all.
- Social security that will create the conditions for living old age with dignity.
- Retirement age: 60 years for men and 55 years for women.

FOR TRADE UNION RIGHTS

While trying to eliminate workers' rights and implement anti-people and anti-workers policies, the monopolies and governments have heightened their attack against trade union freedoms and rights. The union activity is hindered or penalized. Unionists are threatened, fired, arrested tried and condemned by the state and the employers, while there are examples of unionists are executed for their activity (like in Colombia and elsewhere).

The WFTU fights for:

- free trade union activity
- creation of trade union bodies in every workplace, sector and region that will strengthen organization, unity and common action of workers.
- organization of all workers in unions regardless of labor contracts
- protection of the right to strike and protest
- protection of elected union leaders of the union movement from being fired
- protection of all workers union and democratic rights

AGAINST PRIVATIZATION

The privatizations of profitable or downgraded public companies increases unemployment, decreases workers' rights and salaries, increases the prices for these services, because now they function based on profit, boost corruption and speculation, make countries and peoples vulnerable to foreign interests. The struggle against privatizations are a basic camp of struggle of the working class against monopolies and the capital. The WFTU is against privatization of strategic sectors of economy, like energy, telecommunication, health care, education, transport etc. and demands the creation of Public Institutions for the adequate operation driven by the needs of the toiling masses and people's prosperity.

FOR THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION

The problem of access to education remains critical for the children of the working class and the toiling masses in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Arab World. At the same time, the degradation and privatization of education has negative impact on the children of the toiling masses. It perpetuates social inequality, drives the children of the working class to becoming cheap, flexible and educated labor, it chooses who will be part of the scientific workforce that will be used in the progress of technology and science in benefit of the monopolies and gives access to an "elite" of education institutions to the few who have the money. Similar problems exist today in capitalist Europe and other centers of capitalism. It is of extreme importance for the working class and its class oriented unions to demand:

- Public, Free compulsory and qualitative Education for all
- Public and free education for the children of the refugees and immigrants.

- Sufficient educating personnel, education workers with secured labor and salary rights
- Modern infrastructure and schools that will promote the development of mind and body.
- Global and Quality education that will form complete human beings with scientific knowledge and critical thought.

FOR THE RIGHT TO HEALTHCARE

Despite the scientific and technological progress, the workers and the toiling masses haven't got access to a modern, adequate, public and quality health system. The privatization of health care and the anti-peoples policy against social security and free medical care have detrimental consequences for the lives of the people. Illnesses, diseases that have no place in the 21st century still beset big parts of the population. Information and prevention of HIV, the healthcare and access to medicines for the patients, as well as the fight against the virus has become extremely problematic, because of the huge private interests in the pharmaceutical industry.

We fight for:

- Public, modern, quality and universal health system for all
- Policies of prevention and healthcare structures that cover the entire population
- Public and free medical care for all
- Accessible and quality medicines. Abolition of patents in the pharmaceutical sector, Public pharmaceutical industries.

FOR THE RIGHT TO SECURE HOUSING, FLOOD PROTECTION, FIRE PROTECTION AND EARTHQUAKE PROOFING

The poorest sections of the population are also the most vulnerable when it comes to natural disasters. During the last 5 years we had thousands of victims because of floods, earthquakes and fires. Victims that could have been saved had the necessary safety measures of flood protection, fire protection, earthquake proofing been taken. On the contrary, millions of poor people keep living in shantytowns and poorly constructed houses that are in no way decent or secure housing. What's more, big part of the workers' salaries are housing expenses and rent, while only a few young couples manage to get their own house.

We fight for:

- Safe, quality and modern housing for all
- Access for all to public services of electricity, water and heating
- Measures for protection against floods, fires, earthquakes
- Policies of building modern workers houses
- State backed, no interest loans for workers housing

FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNEMPLOYED WORKERS

Unemployment is a key issue for the working class on a worldwide level. Unemployment is a social phenomenon of the capitalist mode of production. Unemployment is made use of in order to maintain a "reserve army" of workers as a form of intimidation and obstacle against working class

demands. The uncontrollable unemployment is because of the big contradictions that are heightened by the capitalist crisis, the choices of monopoly groups and transnational corporations whether they will invest or not their capital based on the expected profit, while the basic needs of the people are greater. The anti-people policy that facilitates flexibilization of labor relations, intensification of work, increase of working hours that leads to over working, to a worker doing the job that 2 or 3 workers would normally do. Thus, unemployment drives out of production and makes useless productive forces, driving millions of workers and their families to despair. Unemployment also provokes important difficulties to the trade union movement. Puts obstacles to the organization of the workers because of the fear of being laid off. It creates obstacles to the organization of the workers who are in state of unemployment.

The members of WFTU, the class oriented trade union movement, we must:

- Organize the action of the temporarily or long time unemployed workers and contribute to the common action of workers employed or unemployed
- Fight against the government's policies that facilitate the right of massive layoffs. Fight against layoffs and for the re-hiring of our colleagues.
- Fight for protection measures for the unemployed that will secure unemployment benefits, medical care, freezing of their debts to banks and public institutions, access to social services (electricity, water, heating, etc.) for the time they are unemployed.

FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES

The protection of the life of the working class is a main task of the trade union movement. Orientated by our special resolution of the 16th World Trade Union Congress we continue and strengthen our action:

- for health and safety measures in the workplace that will protect the short and long term health of the workers.

- we fight so that no workers life is sacrificed for profit, and for full reparation of workers or their families in the case of work related incident or illness.
- Adequate and sufficient leaves towards health issues. Under the responsibility of the special committee of Health and Safety:
- We should prepare special materials in various languages that will inform workers on health and safety.
- Organize seminars in cooperation with other WFTU affiliates for informing and educating the workers and union leaders.
- Organize International Conference on the role of the trade unions on issues of “Health and Safety”
- Strengthen international outcry against employers’ unaccountability and strengthen international solidarity for achieving goals in this sector.

FOR BETTER LIFE CONDITIONS AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The capitalist mode of production, the uncontrollable industrial production and imperialist wars provoke serious problems for the environment, water deposits; disturb the balance of flora and fauna. Based on the Special Resolution of our 16th World Trade Union Congress, we continue our action for the defense of environment and public health.

FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE YOUTH, WOMEN AND IMMIGRANTS

The WFTU committees named by the special Conferences in and out of the framework of the Congress must work in order to better organize the youth,

the women, and the immigrants in the trade unions. They are the sectors of the working class that are most affected by the antipeople and anti-labor aggression. The WFTU committees for the Youth, working women, immigrants, under the guidance of the WFTU Secretariat must work effectively for the further strengthening of their WFTU work in these areas. We are aware of the problems; we must highlight them and act against them.

The WFTU fights for:

- Equal rights for all, without discrimination and limitations
- Protection of maternity.
- Elimination of salary inequality for young people
- Abolitions of Dublin II Treaty, FRONTEX, Schengen Treaty

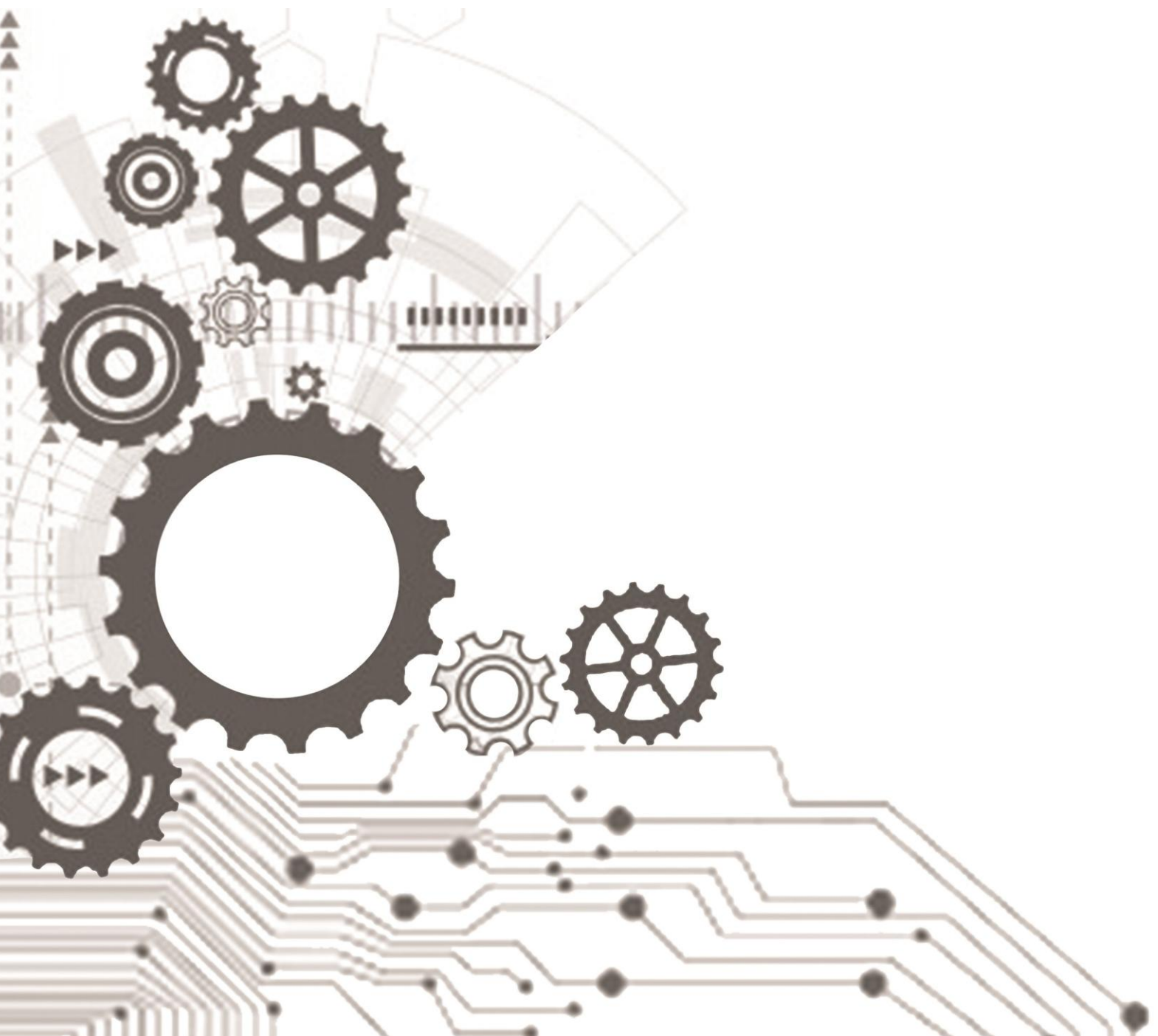
LASTING STRUGGLE AGAINST CORRUPTION OF CONSCIOUSNESS

Special Prize for the Working Womens' Rights: Brazil - Daniel Kondo
Platform of Action 2016-2020 - 19 The members and friends of the WFTU must fight against corruption within the trade unions, corruption of unionists; buy off of consciousness and against all phenomena that undermine the dignity and militant spirit of unions. The international bourgeoisie has an army of institutes, NGOs, yellow unions, visible or hidden mechanisms and special funds that -through corruption- aim to limit the workers struggles. Limitation of workers struggles will increase the profits of the bourgeoisie. Corruption is an ally of the capital and a serious enemy of class oriented unions. So, it is our duty to expose the unacceptable phenomena; educate the younger generations of unionists with the values, the principles, the militant traditions of the labor movement; underline the moral superiority of the movement of the world working class

INTERNATIONALISM - ANTI-IMPERIALIST ACTION

The International Action Day of the WFTU on October 3rd has been embraced by unions and workers alike. It expresses the international coordination and international solidarity and is a powerful action, in the demand for workers' rights. It must be continued and organized in every country and we must aim at bigger participation. The anti-imperialist action of the WFTU must be a pillar of our work for the next five years. We must continue make visible to the eyes of the working class the causes and the consequences of the imperialist barbarism and strengthen the international outcry and workers solidarity, place as many obstacles as possible to the strategy of imperialism, in benefit of the workers. Our solidarity with the people of Palestine, who every day suffer because of the Israeli occupation and with the people of Syria who are submitted to the imperialist aggression must be constant. We will continue and we will strengthen our activity:

- against imperialist barbarity, imperialist wars and conflicts.
- the isolation and dissolution of terrorist groups created and functioning for the benefit of the strategy of imperialism towards the partition of countries and control over raw materials and markets.



Perspectives and developments of productive forces

As we have mentioned earlier, the productive forces and potentials of mankind nowadays are the last and most advanced level of a continuous, uninterrupted and inseparable evolutionary process. This means that the achievements and capabilities of the forces of production are not created by a single man or a small group of scientists or a capitalist group by its own.

By reviewing this reality, we can safely conclude that the production forces and production capacities that arise from them are the results of an unceasingly long process in which both production means and human labor evolve progressively based on exploiting and ever-more improving of the existing knowledge, know-how, science and technology.

Hence both know-how and knowledge of humanity, as well as the most advanced and innovative means of production, are all-human products of an endless social process which is in progressive progress. One of the greatest scientists of humanity, Newton, underlines this reality with his characteristic expression that he managed to see far because he stood in "giant shoulders", illuminating so, this all-human character and the social process through which knowledge and science result.

This fact reveals a clear contradiction between the social character of knowledge, the means and techniques of production on the one hand and the individual ownership of the means of production on the other hand. By extension, the products resulted from the use of the means of production are held by a small minority of society.

The private ownership of means of production results in a minority of society to own and exploit the outcome of universal human intelligence. The private ownership in means of production is the reason why the product produced by the use of these productive means is also owned by the capitalist. This is the main contradiction in the capitalist economy. Namely, despite the fact that whole global wealth is generated by the participation in the productive

process the whole society and the work of billions of workers, this wealth ends up in the hands of a small minority of the world's population. In particular, over-accumulation of wealth has soared to such an extent that 1% of the world's population owns as much wealth as is owned by the remaining 99% of the people. At the same time, 90% of the wealth is owned by 10% of the world's population.

In addition, during 2019, more than 300 million people survive with less than one and a half dollars per day, while billions of people are deprived of even the most basic goods such as adequate food, access to drinking water, clothing, housing, etc. We unequivocally find one more contradiction between huge productive capacities and the failure to cover even the most basic goods from a big part of society.

At this point, the international organizations and the bourgeois thinking each time create whole ideologies and myths to obscure the problem, avoiding the discussion and aiming to disorient the workers. In each period, much saliva, ink and money are wasted to pseudo-document a supposedly scientific narrative that is supposed to illuminate the future of humanity. When every single created theory collapses under the pressure of reality, a new theory comes to play the same role, carrying its own propaganda industry. The current dominant version of these ideologies is the post-capitalist society of the so-called 4th industrial revolution that coexists with previous theories that "saw" the future of mankind and the abolition of exploitation in the green or blue development of renewable energy sources or in the era of the "new economies" of technology and so on and so forth.

Like all theories, although different in individual issues, they have a set of common features. They primarily use existing data on new scientific and technological news and discoveries. They then talk about the practical applications of such discoveries in production. They develop entire analyses which are concentrated only on the productive forces and leave completely out of the discussion the relationship of production. Namely, they do not deal with who gives the order for production, who plan it, what is the criteria and incentive of production, who carry out production, who harvests the produced wealth, how is the wealth distributed, etc. They then build a narrative about a qualitatively superior and different post-capitalist economy with different characteristics and laws from the barbaric capitalism which is

experienced by the working class to this day. Finally, these analysis finally conclude that in a magical way the development of the economy and means of production abolishes the working class and thus abolishes class struggle and society.

The final convenient concluding of all these theories is that whole society has common interests, trade unions and labor struggles delay the progress of society and ultimately, the popular demands are unreasonable, unfounded and against the long-term interests of the popular strata. Therefore, the current theory for the future capitalist economy sets up an entire propaganda industry that separates the current level of evolution of productive means from the previous levels in which it was based and is resulting from. It thus takes the view that the so-called 4th industrial revolution through the consolidation of robotics, artificial intelligence and the networking of production by itself will create abundant production of products, resulting in the overcome all the inequalities. At the same time, the working class will not be needed in the production process since on the one hand, the robots and artificial intelligence will produce on their own, and on the other hand, people will not have material deprivations since production will be able to cover and satisfy the social needs.

Today, however, it is clear that a large part of the productive forces remains untapped, as their potential exploitation, although will cover existing social needs, will not bring profit. The production of goods is not determined by the capacity of production but is determined by the absorption capacity from their market and the resulted profit. In other words, production is not determined by social needs but by whether it will provide profit.

So in 2019, for the first time in human history, world unemployment is over 200 million, while underemployment is more than ever. At the same time, existing plants and factories are closing one after another, and the productive forces are destroyed. It is obvious that the combination of the already existing and "unused" labor force and the existing protective measures could cover already existing social needs.

There is neither a single serious and honest analyst who argues that we do not have the material conditions and productive capacity to meet the needs of the world in food, clothing and the rest fundamental human needs. That

means that the problems of the working class are not problems which are arising due to the allocation of insufficient resources. There are obvious and undoubted capabilities, but the production of these goods will not be able to satisfy the profit incentive and therefore the potentiality of production is not utilized.

Therefore the only thing that the so-called fourth industrial revolution proves is not the huge potentiality of its use by capitalism but rather, the fourth industrial revolution proves the resounding capitalist weakness to use it. The profit incentive and the capitalist relations of production put a brake on production and the exploitation and further development and use of the huge productive forces.

In addition, even the most advanced means of production are offering little extra value in the production process since their use does not multiply production as we would expect but mainly redistributes and over-accumulates production. In simple terms, the owner of the most advanced networked and automated means of production manages to produce a product of the market much more efficiently and inexpensively than its competitors. So gradually an increasing part of the market ends up in him. His own production and own gains are increased, but the total production does not grow proportionately.

What is the impact of over-accumulation on the production forces themselves?

Regarding the means of production, over-centralized production makes it economically viable to develop even more efficient and automated means of production. The development of these instruments and productive means is a costly investment and there is no financial incentive to be developed in an earlier economic phase where the market was more competitive, less accumulated and fragmented. Additionally, it could not be possible to develop these automated and centralized productive means without the today's level of expansion of the global infrastructure and constant capita.

The prevailed global infrastructure and means of production (factories, roads, railways, internet, networking, satellite services and so on) as they have been developed for 3-4 decades is a preconditions for the utilization of the so called 4th industrial revolution. As a result, the so-called 4th Industrial Revolution is the attempt to solve the existing productive problems of our age by using the development and technical integration of existing productive forces.

However, if the means of production and wealth are not put at the service of those who produce them the future level of productive means which will be based on the future level of over-accumulation will add even less real value to the economy as it will mainly redistribute the existing value rather than create additional.

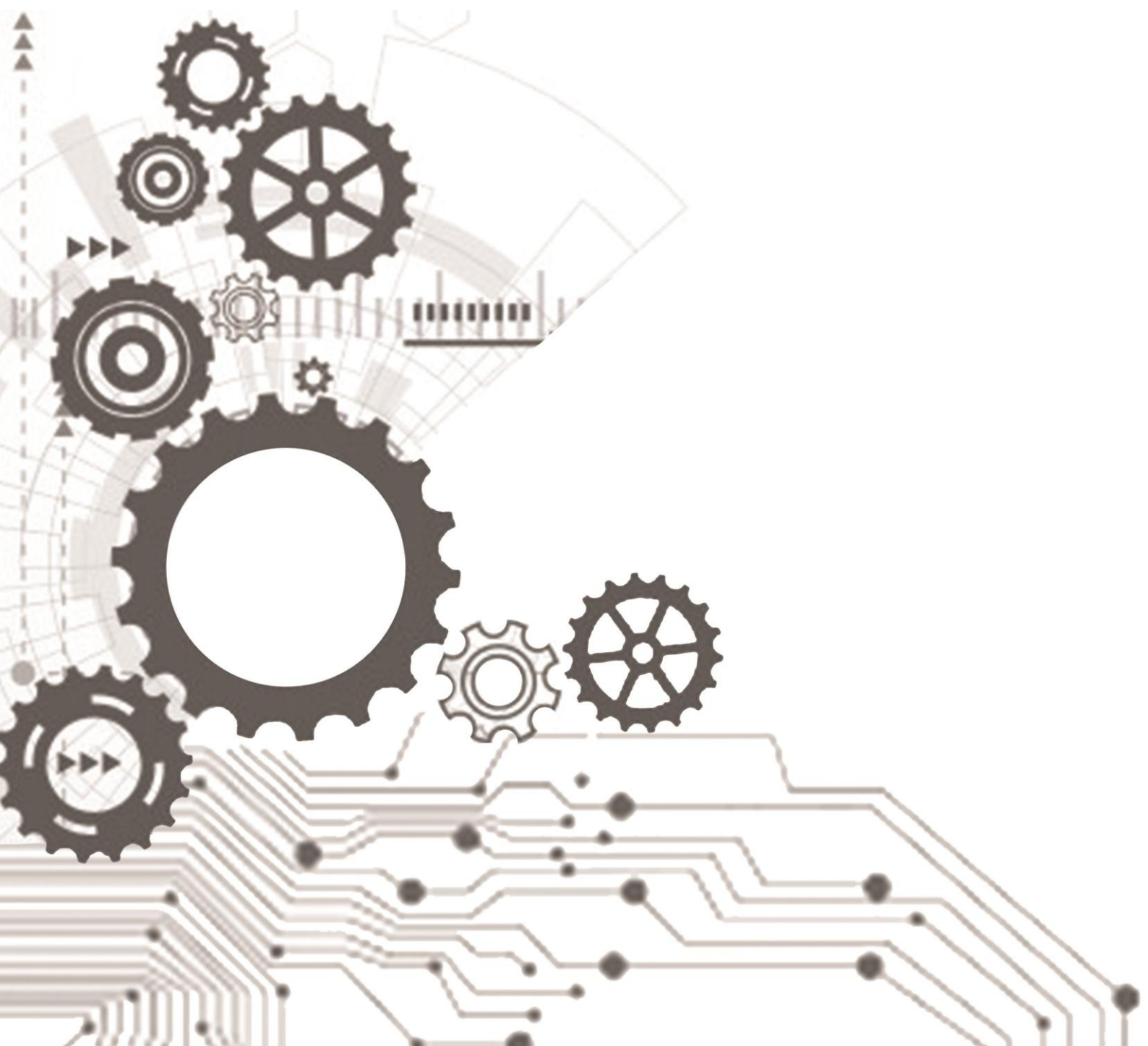
- On the other hand, regarding the labor force, the increasingly automated means of production reduce the socially necessary labour time for the production of a certain quantity of products, and will also partially modify the needed type of work. The more automated level of production does not abolish the labor force but evolve it. Even if the level of automation of a plant or a production unity is big, it still needs the living-labor force that will plan, program, use, supply with the raw materials, repair, set in motion the and do the more subtle, undefined and variable works of production that cannot be programmed, automated and carried out by robots and computers.

The consequence of that will be that each employee produces, with the use of advanced means of production, sooner and sooner the value of his salary, and thus exploitation is increasing as more and more part of its work will end up, in the owner of productive means, as surplus-value. Also, the downward trend in wages, including the wages of the most skilled workers, shows that even the most technical and skilled professions are pressed by the input of cheap labor force and the same laws by which capitalism itself moves and operates.

The International Labor Organization estimates that 42% of the world labor force is employed under conditions of flexibility and by 2020 it is expected that in 15 developed countries there will be a loss of 7 million jobs which will

be replaced by machines. The reality clearly confirms that socially necessary labour time is reduced. Based on this fact the bourgeoisie is taking advance and increase even more its profits as fewer workers need for the production of the products which it is estimated that will be absorbed by the economy.

The reduction of socially necessary labor time ultimately increases exploitation because the worker is able to produce his wage much faster and thus is remained an additional time of labor that produces relative surplus value, regardless of whether his work time remains stable. However, reducing the socially necessary labor time can also ensure jobs for the whole humanity with reduced work time, improved working conditions and dignified living conditions could take place if the means of production and wealth be put at the service of those who produce them.



Perspectives for a new world

The productive potentials described above, apart from the historical limits of the production aiming in profit, also illuminate the historical prospects and potential of a society that will make the most productive use of its productive potentials but are not used by the capitalist way of production motivated by profit.

It turns out that within the framework of capitalism, material conditions are created for the passing into a new society, without exploitation of man by man, with central planning that will have the purpose of covering the widening popular needs, ie improving the living conditions of the people. These materialistic conditions for the transition from a socio-economic formation to a superior one are created inevitably, independently of the will of the people. Thus, the productive forces are developing within specific production relations, their development contradicts these relations, but this contradiction can not be solved without the action of the people, and this action must push to overthrow the power of the monopolies and not to its make-up.

A society that puts technological progress and means of production at the service of the whole society will free up the huge existing productive potential of mankind and will produce a wealth that remains unrealized today because the total purchasing power can not absorb it to make profits.

At the same time, a society that would return the wealth to those who produce it would also solve the problem of unemployment, which is not merely moral, but primarily productive, as we have seen in many places human labor has the potential to produce a surplus product. This means that a society that is not constrained by the motivation of profit but every worker can meet his material needs and in addition produce more wealth that will be shared by the society. This society will direct and coordinate production scientifically and human-centered with motivation to meet social needs while the level of development of the means of production will be driven only

by the progress of technological and scientific progress and not by the level of market sharing absorption and profitability.

This society will have eliminated the motive and root of war and social inequalities and will be a society without exploitation of man by man.

Our modern times show that capitalism has reached such a point of decay that all it offers is war, poverty and imperialist interventions, any progress that objectively exists is intended to increase profit rather than mitigate human pain.

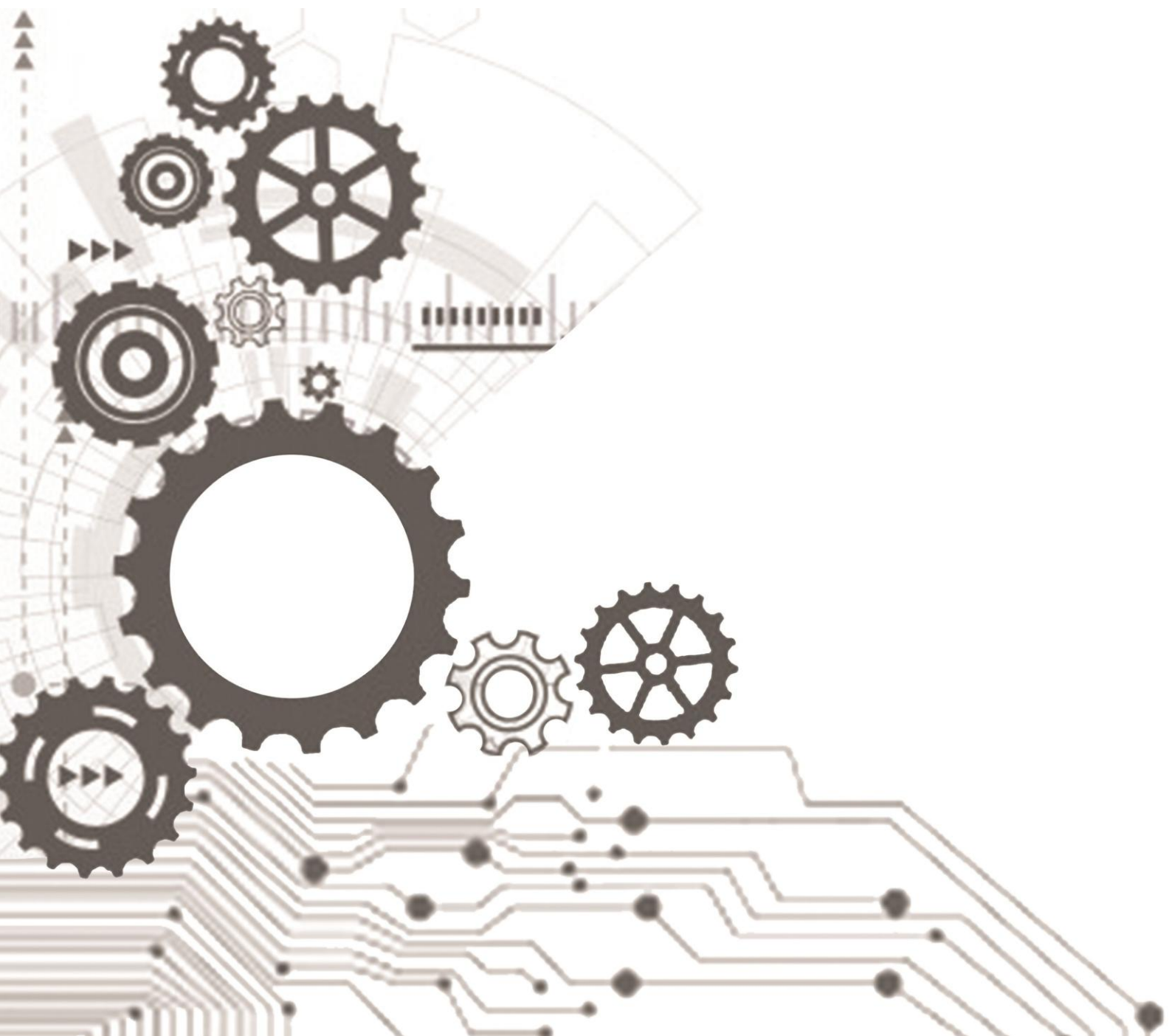
The main contradiction that we see around us is that while productivity and the total production are increasing, the working class situation is becoming more and more difficult.

The struggle for another society, for the peoples to become masters of their land and the wealth they produce, is indissolubly linked to the ideological struggle within the trade unions and the enlightening work to be done in the working class.

For example, there are many workers worried about technological progress, fearing that they will lose their jobs since they will be crowded-out of the production process. This is one of the most important examples that prove that the struggle to improve living conditions without ideological storm is a blank letter.

We must be at the forefront of the struggle that is being conducted both in and out our unions proving that the worker can live without the capitalist, the capitalist without the worker will die. We, the workers, are the motor force of production and it is time to fight to get it in our hands.

Such a work combined with the daily struggle can give power to the movement, to protect it from the disappointments and the plans of the bourgeois and their governments. Our struggle must be in many fronts, both in the fight for the contemporary needs and above all in gaining the consciousness of the working class to get rid of the chains of exploitation.



The ever topical class struggle

Arising from the harsh reality which was formed in the last years on the basis of the austerity measures and the graduated attack on the labor relations and to the rest of the basic sectors of society, there is a pressing need for the awareness of the importance and the continuation of the struggle of the working class. On the opposite lies the notorious "social dialogue" which very often claim governments and employers.

Towards the deduction of the established rights of the working class, lies unity of the repressed popular strata, of the class trade union movement, which claims resolutely his fair demands, against the austerity policies, impoverishment, unemployment, underemployment, overemployment and reduced demands. The answer lies in social struggle for everyday issues, like health, education, civilization. All the rights workers enjoyed and which today they see them getting abolished, whatever improvement of their standard of living they have achieved, it is owned to the unwavering struggle and to the ascertainment of the unbridgeable differences between the bourgeoisie/monopolies and the working class.

Social dialogue, as a tool of International Organizations, aims to the class collaboration between unequal parts, the employer and the employee, the aggressor and the victim, with the purpose of undermining and de-escalating the struggle, caging social forces in the interests of the capital and the change within the context of the claims of the labour struggles. It entails in effect, the compromise with the bourgeoisie, entrepreneurs and the employers and it is a means of pressure and retreatment for the demands of the worker's movement, the assignment of the resolvment of a problem on others, instead of fighting for the overthrow of the system of exploitation of man by man.

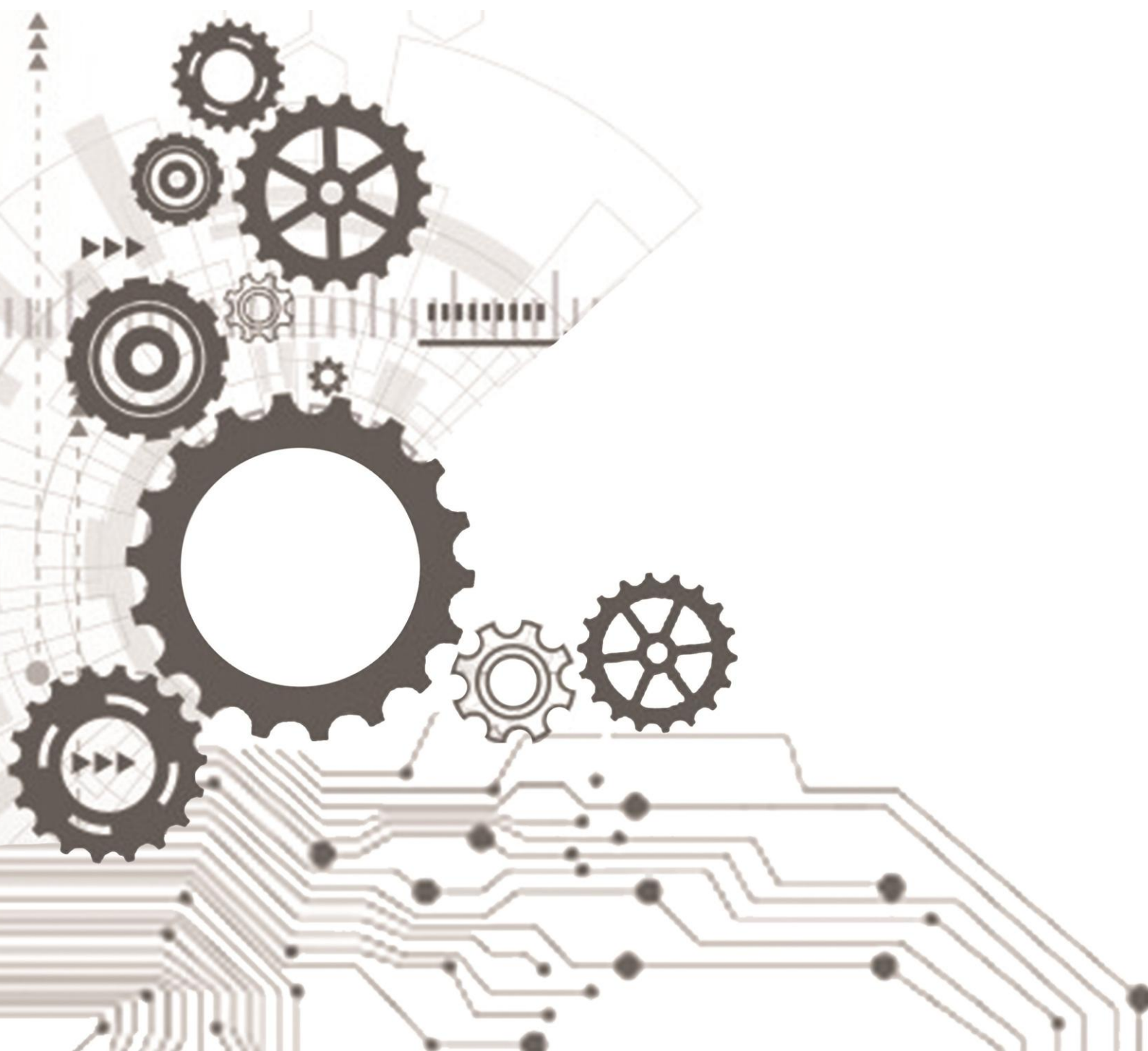
The so-called "social dialogue" does not consist an over-class nature, discoloured socio-economic means, but it is an instrument which serves the purposes of the capital and the monopolies. The specific context of fight and

action of the workers is fighting proven and effective against the increasing exploitation, the privatization, the flexible working relations, it is the only realistic answer to the class differences.

Governments and employers sustain that ideologies are over and that the working class has disappeared, they intent to replace strikes, mobilizations, demonstrations, assemblies and every collective process, with meaningless talking which, in generally, ends on the same result. Workers losing their rights. Deduct achievements.

The WFTU, revealing the character of the social dialogues, underlines that the progress of societies takes place through social struggle. This is what teaches us the history of the humanity.

We fight making the most of the concentrated experience of the Global Labour and Class Movement, and when we sit and talk with the governments and the employers we never forget that the power of the trade unions on the table for discussion is mobilization and fighting action of the employees themselves.



Conclusions

- Capitalism is a system with its own aesthetics. It has as its foundation the commercial and private-economic logic and is governed by a set of rules which serve the interests of a minority, crosses all sectors and utilizes all means to increase its profitability. We could say that, the aesthetics of capitalism is the aesthetics of war and the suppression of labor rights and of the decent livelihood.
- The history of humanity teaches us that the progress of societies takes place through social struggle and not through the compromise of the so-called "social dialogue" which the bourgeoisie and the capitalists promote.
- In countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America, monopolies exploit their immense natural wealth, giving peanuts to the peoples. Moreover, the exploitation of the wealth-producing resources on the basis of the maximum possible profit, leads both to misery for the local populations, and to environmental crimes.
- The means of production today creates an unprecedented productive capability for mankind.
- Developments in the production process with the input of new technologies underline the contradictions of the capitalist system (the main contradiction is the social character of production and the private ownership of produced wealth)
- Knowledge, technological and scientific achievements, productive techniques are the result of a continuous all-human social process that is constantly evolving. It is a collective-social achievement and not an individual achievement.
- Capitalist production alienates society both from knowledge, technological, scientific development and from the products it produces, resulting in a minority of society to own and exploit the result of universal human intellect and work.

- Such as with all the major changes in industrial production, thereby in the so-called "4th Industrial Revolution", many argues that the new achievements of the human mind will leave the labor force in the margin. The WFTU argues that with these new changes and great technological achievements, the role of the workers not only is not limited but instead is more complex and more important as they will build and they will push the "button" of their operation.
- Combining the efficiency of the working class with the unprecedented level and efficiency of today's means of production could lead to the satisfaction of all contemporary needs of mankind, simultaneously with the creation of decent working conditions and reduction of the working time. However, peoples' standard of living is not improving.
- In the 21st century, the development and specialization of the human labor force and its know-how, the use of robotics and artificial intelligence, the development of IT and ITES, automation and networking combined with the rest of the "arsenal" of means of production developed by humanity, achieve an unprecedented reduction in socially necessary labour time.
- The application of robotics and artificial intelligence, networking and generally the so-called "fourth industrial revolution" in the production process and the reduction of socially necessary labor time in capitalism does not alter or abolish the exploitative nature nor the production relations of capitalism, on the contrary, intensifies and exacerbates exploitation.
- The working class is now growing in numbers and is an increasing proportion of the population. Is more skilled and closer to the heart of production as well as to the planning and processing of production. It has a higher educational, scientific, technological and cultural level. It has more experience in class struggle and can be more effective.
- The downward trend in wages even in the most specialized works shows that even the most technical and specialized professions are subject to the same market laws and are under the same pressure by the input of cheap labor.
- The demands of the labor class-oriented trade union movement for decent working conditions, reduced working hours, decent wages and living standards are feasible and directly applicable.

- The optimum use of the productive capacities for the benefit of society as a whole will improve the living standards, increase the free time of employees and cover their modern needs for food, clothing, material goods, recreation, rest, sport, culture in a society free of wars, inequalities and exploitation.
- Improvement of working conditions and the reduction of working time can be implemented today in all aspects of economic activity, regardless of the unequal development of productive means in every industry.
- The so-called 4th Industrial Revolution is used by the bourgeoisie and its propaganda mechanism to develop the narrative that centralization and consolidation of robotics, artificial intelligence and networking of production itself will create a practically abundant production of commodities, resulting in the elimination of all inequalities and covering of all the social needs. The conclusion of this narration is that the whole society has common interests, trade unions and labor struggles delay the progress of society and ultimately, popular demands are unreasonable, unfounded and against the long-term interests of the popular strata.
- Today's failure to cover social needs is not a problem caused from the allocation of insufficient resources or limited production capacity. There are obvious and undoubted capabilities, but the production of these goods will not be able to satisfy the profit incentive and therefore the potentiality of production is not utilized.
- Therefore the only thing that the so-called today's productive capabilities prove is not the huge potentiality of their use by capitalism but rather, they prove the resounding capitalist weakness to use them.
- Even the most advanced means of production are offering little extra value in the production process, since their use, does not multiply production as we would expect but mainly redistributes and over-accumulates the present value production.
- Even if the level of automation of a plant or a production unit is big, it still needs the living-labor force that will plan, program, use, supply with the raw materials, repair, set in motion the and do the more subtle, undefined and variable works of production that cannot be programmed, automated and carried out by robots and computers.

- It is wrong for the trade unions and trade unionists to believe that today, with today's correlations, international organizations can solve the main problems for workers and peoples.
- The trade unions and trade unionists must, through their presence in international organizations, optimum use the potential to promote the positions of the trade union movement, to get in touch with other trade unions, to reveal the policy of capitalists, monopolies and multinationals.
- The so-called "social dialogue" does not consist of an over-class nature, discolored socio-economic means, but it is an instrument which serves the purposes of the capital and the monopolies.
- Relentless, militant and massive class-oriented struggles against the increasing exploitation, the privatization, the flexible working relations, it is the only realistic answer to the working class.



World Federation of Trade Unions
June 2019

