



What is WFTU



The World Federation of Trade Unions was founded in Paris on October 3rd 1945, which makes it the oldest international trade union organisation. WFTU holds consultative status with the ILO and played a crucial role in the establishment of Convention 87 (C087 - Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948). There is a permanent representation of the organisation in the United Nations in New York, in FAO in Rome and in UNESCO in Paris.

It is a class-oriented trade union movement fighting against capitalist/imperialist barbarity, and for a society free of exploitation of humans by humans. Currently, WFTU has 105 million members in 133 countries. From 1945 until 1953, WFTU was based in Paris, France. Later on, between 1953 and 1956 the headquarters moved to Vienna, Austria and then, in 1956, to Prague, Czechoslovakia, before relocating again, this time to Athens, Greece in 2005. It has regional and sub-regional offices in all continents and also sectoral international trade unions (TUIs) in all major sectors of economy.

Throughout its history, WFTU has played a central role in the struggles against apartheid, racism, colonialism, as well as against the policies of the US, Israel, NATO and its allies. It has been at the forefront of the struggles for labour and union rights. The history of WFTU is rich, with action and struggles on central, regional and sectoral levels, aimed at uniting the forces of the working class in class struggles; uniting the workers regardless of their ideology, religion, language, gender, ethnicity; uniting the peoples in the struggle against capitalist exploitation and imperialism.

Scan for more information and WFTU publications:
www.wftucentral.org





WFTU's Structure

The World Federation of Trade Unions holds its Congress every five years and elects its residential Council with members representing all five continents. Then the Presidential Council, exercising its duties, elects the members of the Secretariat.

Regional offices

Africa – English Speaking:
Johannesburg, South Africa.

Africa – French Speaking:
Libreville, Gabon.

Asia – Pacific: New Delhi, India.

Europe: Rome, Italy.

Latin America and Caribbean:
Havana, Cuba.

North America: New York, USA.

Middle East: Damascus, Syria.

Sub-regional offices

Central America:
San Jose, Costa Rica.

East Asia: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Arab World: Bahrain

Southern Cone: Argentina

Eurasia (Russia)

Permanent Representation:

United Nations (UN): NY, USA.

International Labour Organization (ILO): Geneva, Switzerland.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO): Rome, Italy.

UNESCO: Paris, France.

Sectoral Organizations (TUIs)

Agroalimentary (UISTAACT): Paris, France.

Bank & Insurance (BIFU): New Delhi, India.

Construction (UITBB): Nicosia, Cyprus.

Education (FISE): Mexico City, Mexico.

Transport: Istanbul, Turkey

Chemistry and Energy: Paris, France.

Hotel and Tourism: Cairo, Egypt.

Metal-Mining: São Paulo, Brazil.

Pensioners: Barcelona, Spanish State.

Public Services: Johannesburg, South Africa.

Garment, Leather and Textile: Cairo, Egypt.

Permanent Committees

Committees are formed following a resolution by the Presidential Council, based on the specific needs and priorities of the organisation. Such committees that operate today through their elected Secretariat are:

Working youth committee

Working Women committee

Migrants-refugees committee

Health and Safety committee

Committee for the Democratic and Trade Union Freedoms



WFTU's Basic Principles

- ◆ Democratic principles – elections for all bodies at all levels.
- ◆ Internationalist orientation – international solidarity, internationalism.
- ◆ Struggle for peace and friendship among peoples.
- ◆ Against imperialism and wars.
- ◆ Defend the right of self-determination for all peoples and the working class, who must be allowed to choose their own present and future.
- ◆ The natural resources of every country belong to its people. WFTU opposes privatisation.
- ◆ Unity of working class – social alliances with workers, peasants, self-employed, the poor, intellectuals, and indigenous populations.
- ◆ Involve the youth, women and migrant workers in the life, action and administration of trade unions.
- ◆ Protection of the environment.
- ◆ Promote the struggle against transnational corporations.
- ◆ International coordination and working-class solidarity.
- ◆ The right of all workers to public and free health care, education and social security, continuous improvement of living standards, wages and pensions, following scientific and technical progress.
- ◆ Fight careerism, elitism, bureaucracy, manipulation, and corruption of consciousnesses by employers and governments.
- ◆ Defend the right to strike, as well as all trade unions rights.
- ◆ Organise trade union seminars and training.

As a class-oriented trade union organisation, WFTU welcomes criticism, self-criticism and comradely emulation amongst its leaders and members. It struggles for trade union democratic freedoms. It is against state violence, authoritarianism and persecution of trade unionists.



18th World Trade Unions Congress

WFTU held its 18th World Trade Union Congress in Rome, Italy on 6-8 May 2022. It was attended by 430 delegates representing 93 countries, with 99 delegates taking the floor and addressing the gathering. The delegates participated with enthusiasm and decisiveness, discussing major issues concerning workers globally. The congress went on to vote for a new presidential council.



Contact us

Headquarters:

WFTU headquarters in Athens, have the overall responsibility and have jurisdiction over all topics concerning the organisation.

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