



e-magazine

United towards the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress

# 2020 WFTU Presidential Council

15-16 December 2020  
(Virtual Meeting)

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## 2020 WFTU Presidential Council

15-16 December - Virtual Meeting

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\*The delegates' speeches are published in a short version due to limited space



2020 WFTU PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL MEETING – zoom meeting  
December 15 -16,2020, 16.00PM-20.00 GREEK TIME

PROGRAM of Works

DAY 1 - December 15, 2020

1 minute of silence for the comrades

Izz Aldein Naser (Syria)

Gurudas Dasgupta (India)

Ramon Cardona (Cuba)

Komal Chand (Guyana)

Abdulkarem Motajo (Nigeria)

Please use the attached paper and hold it in front of you on camera when we ask you to keep the 1 min. of silence.

16.00 Opening session by the WFTU President Mzwandile Michael Makwayiba and greeting speech (10 min.)

16.10 – 16.40 Main intervention by the WFTU General Secretary George Mavrikos (30 min.)

16.40 – 19.45 Speeches

20.00 End of works of Day 1

DAY 2 – December 16, 2020

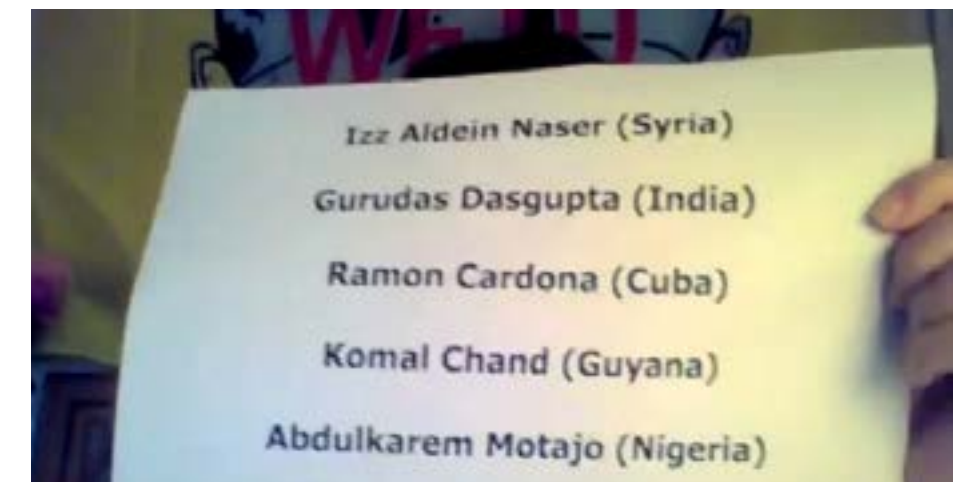
16.00 Continuation of Presidential Council session - Speeches

19.30 Conclusion – Resolutions, approval of affiliation requests and adoption of Action plan

20.00 End of works of Day 2


Information

1. Time of speaking : 6 minutes each (you will see the timer clock in the screen)
2. Simultaneous interpretation english-french-spanish-russian through Zoom
3. Coordinator of the procedures Anda Anastasaki





# Quotes of the WFTU cadres who recently passed away



“ The governments and the bourgeoisie always try to take advantage of the crises of capitalism and to change the laws that favour workers to the unfavourable ones. ”

David Sipunzi, South Africa




“ Throughout its history until now, the WFTU has been the protagonist in the struggles against apartheid, against racism, in the struggle against colonialism, against the policy of the US governments, of the NATO, Israel and their allies; against capitalist barbarism. ”

Ramon Cardona, Cuba

“ It is only working class movement that can eliminate discrimination and all forms of segregation, WFTU proudly identifies with this; it is only the labour movement that can fight social injustice, oppression and exploitation, the WFTU is a proud progenitor of this battle! ”




Abdulkareem Motajo, Nigeria




“ There has to be a sharp attempt for change. We do not know when the change will come. But it's the relentless battle of the working masses that is the only hope. It is the working masses that can bring the change and the trade unions represent the working masses. ”

Gurudas Dasgupta, India



“ Today, the workers have recognized an abiding lesson of working-class history, that is in authoritarian, class divided societies, the elites holding the reins of power, never or hardly ever ensure justice for the working class. Thus, the struggle for real, pro-working people change must continue. ”

Komal Chand, Guyana



“ The relationship between GFTU Syria and WFTU is a historic one that has reached its highest level in the convention of the 13th Congress of WFTU in Damascus Syria in 1994. ”

Izz Aldein Naser, Syria





## Mzwandile Michael Makwayiba

Greeting Speech  
of the WFTU President, Mzwandile Michael Makwayiba

Good afternoon and good morning to all of you,

This is the meeting of the presidential council that was postponed due to the current situation that we find ourselves all over the world facing the enemy called coronavirus. However we are meeting under a different platform, through difficult time for the working class of the world. While the frontline workers, the working class are facing the coronavirus, the bosses took the opportunity to dismiss and to take illegal actions to exploit us, the workers.

This meeting is going to discuss about the way forward, according to the different problems of different countries and we are going to coordinate the solidarity actions to take place as a result of different speeches and different interventions that are going to be heard in this meeting.

I must time that this is one of a difficult times in the history of the working class, but there is no enemy that we can't stand on, there is no enemy that we cannot fight. In this particular struggle we need to be disciplined and we need to make sure that our members are safe.

Workers in different workplaces in the world must make sure that our members are protected. There are countries that there are laws of health and safety, we need to make sure that we deal with those and the we guard against bosses our members that work unprotected.

Once we deal with those in the challenge of the coronavirus we must then prepare for the situation of the vaccine, the vaccine will come but it will be for those who have money, our struggle then will be to fight at a global level to make sure that when the vaccine becomes available it must be available for the poor and the working class as a first point, because if we don't do that comrades we will not be able to come out of the

pandemic and we will not be able to come out of this particular problem to keep up the struggle for our members around the world for safety, and when a cure comes in the form of a vaccine we must make sure that it comes for everyone. We must then continue the struggle, and continue to organize for the WFTU and make sure that we are able to prevail in the world that we have visible programs so that everybody else can see the value of WFTU members.

Comrades,

We don't have any other organization that is for us, the working class of the world, except this federation, therefore this federation can only succeed when we take this federation serious amongst other things that must be considered when the invisible has gone, when the invisible enemy is managed, is the question of the ability of WFTU to conduct trainings, is the question of ability of WFTU to have finances.

I'm sure that when the president of FCC of WFTU is going to speak, he will speak of this particular problem, we must comrades regulate the WFTU subscriptions, it must be a point that becomes regulated, and becomes compelling for us to pay. Because if we don't do this, how long this federation is going to succeed, therefore the political consciousness of ourselves as members of WFTU all over the world in different in different countries must show us the necessity of this organization to succeed.

Otherwise, as President o World Federation of Trade Unions i'm welcoming you, all of you and I'm saying let's discuss, let's debate let's make sure that nothing deters us except that we advance to struggle for socialism.

Our aim is to destroy and overthrow capitalism, to end man by man oppression.

With these words comrades, i want to hand over to General Secretary. You are all welcome.



# George Mavrikos

## Introductory Speech of the WFTU General Secretary George Mavrikos

Dear colleagues, welcome to the Presidential Council Meeting for 2020, which due to the Coronavirus Pandemic is held for the first time in this way. My personal opinion is that meetings where we all participate with our physical presence in the same room have a higher quality, offer more freedom of expression, more democratic rights and collectivity. But unfortunately, due to the travel bans and the bans on gatherings of people, we are obliged to hold the meeting in this way.

I would like to thank all our cadres, members of the Presidential Council, the Financial Control Committee, the General Secretaries of the TUIs and the heads of the Regional Offices for your cooperation in order to properly prepare this meeting.

Colleagues, our annual meeting takes place while the pandemic is still raging all this time. According to official data, 70.461.926 cases and 1.599.704 deaths have been recorded until today. Those who lose their lives are mainly the poor, they are workers and poor farmers, immigrants, who are forced to work, to move with the public transport and who do not receive the proper health and medical care. At the same time, employers and many governments are exploiting the pandemic to lay off workers, cut wages, worsen labor relations, privatize public health sectors, give state funds to monopoly groups, raise prices for basic food-stuffs, and as a result poverty and hunger increase on the planet.

According to ILO data of May 2020, 2,7 billion workers were affected by the partial or general lockdowns. 1,25 billion workers are employed in sectors that go through great recession and the Pandemic has disastrous consequences on 1,6 billion workers of the informal sector. Also, according to ILO and UN data of September 2020, an estimated 495 million full time jobs are lost all over the world in the second four-months of 2020 and the workers' income in developing countries was reduced by 15%.

Since March 2020, when the Coronavirus disease spread, we have taken many actions, initiatives, and participated in the workers' struggles to defend the life and health of workers and the Peoples. We have pressured all International Organizations about employers' attacks against workers, about poverty and hunger. We have formed the platform with the demands for decent, public, free healthcare for all without exception. We have submitted proposals for vaccine research and defended the contribution and heroism of workers in the health sector who risk their lives to fight in public hospitals.

Colleagues, we will continue our struggle as a class-oriented trade union movement. The progress that has been made with vaccines should not reassure the trade unions. Along with the fight for a safe, free vaccine for all, we must intensify our fight to improve, enhance and strengthen the Public Health Sector.

Finally, we suggest you study two very remarkable articles that are in the materials of our meeting and on the WFTU website.

- The article of the General Secretary of the TUI of Public Services & Allied workers, Zola Saphetha, from South Africa and
- The speech of the Cuban professor Evelin Martínez, entitled "COVID-19 in Cuba".

Brothers and sisters, Based on all this, the campaign to give the Nobel Peace Prize to Cuba is necessary and timely. Socialist Cuba gave lessons of humanity and internationalism opposite to capitalist barbarity. Congratulations to the President of the country, Miguel Díaz Canel, to the Cuban medical scientific community, to the state and party leadership for sending doctors and nurses to more than 32 countries.

Dear comrades, in the Report that you have all received in time, the picture is given for the action of the WFTU for 2019 and 2020. There is a rich action that strengthens the role of the WFTU. This rich action in the last ten months, due to the Pandemic, has mainly seminars, trade union training and Virtual Conferences.

The action of all the previous years is the basis to start our preparation for the 18th World Trade Union Congress which, as we have decided, will take place in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam with the excellent hospitality of the heroic VGCL. The preparation of the 18th Congress must be collective, it must include an objective evaluation of the years that have passed, of our course in the years that have passed and set the priorities for the future that opens up in front of us.

Studying the data, the figures and the facts, we estimate that a rich work has been done in the previous years. Let me note some facts:

-In December 2005 we received a WFTU that had 48 million members in its ranks. Today we have 105 million existing, living members.





- In 2005 we received 3 sectoral TUIs, today we have 11 TUIs.
- In 2005 we received 3 Regional Offices, today we have 12 Regional and Sub-Regional Offices.
- In 2005 we had a presence in 79 countries. Today we have a presence in 132 countries.
- In 2005 there were no special Committees. Today we have 4 Committees.

These numbers speak for themselves and show the reality. All this important progress was not made in some magical way but by a gigantic, common, collective and comradely effort of all. How was this progress supported, where was it based on?

- On action, on the development and strengthening of action in every corner of the globe and for all the problems of workers and trade unions. Action-Action-Action. With this commitment, we closed the works of the 15th Congress in Havana, Cuba.
- On the elaboration of our strategy and tactics, by strengthening our militant characteristics in the modern world, taking full advantage of the principles of class struggles.
- On the strengthening of Internationalism, anti-imperialist action and solidarity to all fair struggles and to all trade unions.
- On the continuous improvement of the mode of operation of the whole structure from the base to the top. On criticism, self-criticism and positive competition.
- On the close, comradely cooperation with the Regional Offices, the TUIs and our national organizations, with the foundation of new TUIs and new Regional Offices.
- On trade union training and continuing trade union education with emphasis on youth and women.
- On financial autonomy, having as only source of resources the fees from the members and from the low income of poor unions and workers.
- On strengthening our presence in International Organizations, with clear, honest and class-oriented words and position, away from games and anti-democratic mechanisms. Always aware of current correlations and the current role of most international organizations.
- On the knowledge and utilization of history as a stepping stone for the present and the future, mainly in the consciences of the younger ones.

Dear comrades, All these characteristics that we gave all together in the modern course of WFTU gave birth to confidence, courage and pride among the WFTU members and friends. Many trade union organizations, recognizing the class orientation of the WFTU, its anti-imperi-

alist characteristics and its firm position for a world with social justice and without capitalist exploitation, abandoned the ITUC and joined forces with the honest voice of the WFTU. This trend can intensify in the 21st century and become a rushing river.

Our line is superior in a moral, political, ideological, trade union way to the line of the yellow trade union leaderships. They turn their trade unions into mechanisms, into components of the capitalist system. We build day by day a WFTU that will strengthen the class unity of all workers against the system of exploitation.

Dear comrades, I considered it necessary to make these mentions in order to give food for thought on the way to the 18th World Trade Union Congress. From today, let us all start thinking together and preparing to organize a successful, democratic, open and uniting congress.

The six-month Action Plan proposed by the Secretariat is a good opportunity to start the action dynamically and with a plan. You have all got the Action Plan. All its actions are important. To save time I will emphasize:

1. The internationalist solidarity actions with Venezuela, Palestine, Cuba and against the Caesar Act.
2. The seminars, activities and trade union education concerning youth, women, telework, Public Health and trade union freedoms.
3. The TUIs' Congresses that have to take place in difficult conditions due to the pandemic and the initiatives for the sectors of actors, musicians, artists, journalists, etc.
4. The organization in each country of Virtual Conferences of the Secretariat with our members for the 75 years of WFTU. The events will continue in 2021 with the aim of holding the central event in Cyprus in 2021.
5. The militant celebration of May Day 2021 in the best possible way.
6. The financial support of WFTU by all organizations even with small amounts of money.

Dear comrades, concluding my introductory speech, we suggest that the minutes of our meeting along with the written speeches you have already sent us, along with the decisions and resolutions, be collected in an electronic journal and sent to all of us who are here today and to all our members in every corner of the globe. To announce in this way the beginning of the pre-congress conversation within the unions and especially inside the workplaces, in front of the workers themselves.

Thank you for your attention.



# Nguyen Dinh Khang

Vice-President of the WFTU

President of Vietnam General Confederation of Labour, Vietnam

Chers Camarades, Au nom des travailleurs et de plus de 10 millions de membres du syndicat vietnamien, la CGTV voudrait envoyer à Cde. Président, Cde. Secrétaire Général de la FSM et à tous les camarades participant à la conférence du Conseil Présidentiel bonne santé, bonheur et succès dans votre noble responsabilité.

Personnellement, je voudrais exprimer mes sincères remerciements au siège de la FSM pour m'avoir permis d'assister et de recevoir des opinions à cette réunion parce que Cde Président Nguyen Dinh Khang est occupé, ne peut pas y assister. Nous espérons recevoir la sympathie des camarades. Chers camarades, Nous sommes entièrement d'accord avec le rapport en 2019, l'orientation et les tâches pour l'année 2020 du Conseil général des représentants présenté par le Secrétaire général.

En 75 ans d'histoire, la FSM est devenue le plus grand centre syndical international représentant la main-d'œuvre progressiste et les syndicats dans le monde avec 92 millions de membres appartenant à 210 syndicats centraux. 126 pays et territoires, est le plus grand syndicat du monde debout sur la position de la classe ouvrière, uni contre l'impérialisme, le capitalisme et lutte pour les droits des travailleurs. L'existence, le développement et la croissance du Conseil général des lois face à tous les changements historiques est un témoignage éloquent de la solidarité des travailleurs du monde entier dans la lutte pour construire un monde pacifique. stabilité, égalité, coopération pour un développement mutuel.

Depuis sa création jusqu'à présent, la FSM a soutenu et encouragé en temps opportun et efficacement le peuple vietnamien en général, a organisé le syndicat vietnamien en particulier dans les guerres de résistance pour protéger le pays, et a remporté l'indépendance du peuple. groupe ethnique, unification du pays et construction du socialisme. Nous tenons à vous remercier pour votre aide très précieuse.

La situation mondiale évolue de manière compliquée avec l'instabilité, le terrorisme, les conflits religieux, les groupes ethniques, les con-

flits territoriaux, les ressources naturelles, les îles; course aux armements, intervention militaire; les problèmes de changement climatique, les épidémies, la sécurité de l'eau, en particulier le covid-19 ... affectent directement la vie et l'emploi des travailleurs du monde entier. Par conséquent, l'unanimité et la solidarité de la classe ouvrière progressiste, du syndicat dans le monde entier, devient plus que jamais nécessaire. Chaque organisation syndicale a besoin de rénover radicalement son organisation et ses activités pour être véritablement l'organisation des employés, pour les employés et pour les employés.

Au cours des deux dernières années, nous avons mis en œuvre de nombreuses activités avec pour devise: profiter des avantages pour amener les membres comme point de rassemblement; la mise en place d'institutions syndicales au service des syndiqués et des travailleurs; signer le programme de bien-être syndical avec les entreprises afin que les membres du syndicat puissent bénéficier de remises lors de l'utilisation des produits et services de l'entreprise; réformer le mécanisme de gestion financière et des actifs des syndicats, appliquer les technologies de l'information à la direction et aux activités syndicales, accroître l'interactivité et créer une proximité entre les syndicats et les membres et employés des syndicats. via le site Web, le facebook du syndicat ... est très apprécié des membres du syndicat et des employés. En outre, nous encourageons également la coopération internationale pour partager et apprendre des expériences. Dans cet esprit, la CGTV a partagé l'expérience de l'application des technologies de l'information dans les activités de la direction et des syndicats pour les syndicalistes africains en septembre 2019, comme suggéré par la FSM.

À cette occasion, je tiens à souligner que la CGTV sera toujours un membre actif et responsable de la FSM. Au cours des 70 dernières années, l'organisation syndicale du Vietnam a toujours été aux côtés des membres du Bureau de la formation générale, luttant pour les objectifs de lutte pour les droits et les intérêts des travailleurs. La CGTV est prête à accueillir le 18e Congrès en 2021 confié par la FSM et fera de son mieux pour le développement de la FSM, au profit des membres et des travailleurs du monde entier.

Je crois que cette conférence est une conférence d'actions, transformant des idées et des résolutions en actions concrètes et pratiques, contribuant à renforcer encore le rôle et le prestige de la FSM dans la résolution de problèmes pressants des employés. Une fois encore, nous souhaitons à tous, camarades et délégués, en bonne santé et heureux. Je souhaite que la conférence soit couronnée de succès.

Sincèrement merci.





## Amarjeet Kaur

Member of the WFTU Presidential Council  
Gen. Sec. of All India Trade Union Congress, India

We appreciate the decision for organising this annual WFTU Presidential Council in these difficult times and are eagerly looking forward to 18th World Congress of WFTU scheduled to be held in Vietnam.

Once again we take this opportunity to congratulate WFTU family for completing 75 years of service to the working class the world over.

We also take this opportunity to thank all the comrades for having sent greeting messages to AITUC on completion of hundred years of its history of struggles and sacrifices.

We thank for the International support and solidarity for the struggle of Indian working class and now with the ongoing struggle of the farming community. Indian working class received several messages from trade union centres of various countries in solidarity with nationwide joint strike called by the ten Central Trade Union Organisations and the various sector federations and associations recently held on 26 November.2020

We are in very difficult times during covid-19 health emergency. We record our appreciation for the WFTU team in giving leadership to the class based trade unions the world over with their vigilance, alertness and active communication and guidance during this period. The write up by the General Secretary WFTU Comrade George Mavrikos with the title "King is Naked" was very inspiring and it thoroughly exposed the failures and hollowness of capitalist world having failed the people in the health emergency situation for human society. We as AITUC India preferred to print this article and we widely circulated it apart from publishing in our fortnightly journal and in the book brought out on the occasion of celebrations of glorious 75 years of mighty WFTU.

As explained by the Secretary General and the President in their deliberations that the working class is facing serious challenge from the capitalist regimes and the imperialist forces during Covid Pandemic time, here in India also we are faced with the regime which is taking anti democratic and divisive policies forward against the interest of our working people and the national interest itself using Pandemic period as opportunity. The attempts are being made to negate the achievements of the struggles of the Indian working class for more than 150 years in India.

Indian working class had won over their rights through their struggle during colonial times as well as in independent India to realise the rights enshrined in Indian Constitution. The working class had to put up persistent struggles for favourable laws and system for justice delivery in the World of Labour but the present Government in our country is attempting to dismantle the achievements of the working class and are moving forward on privatisation and commercialisation of all public services and national assets as well as to subjugate the interest of Indian people to the interest of international finance capital, the multinational corporations, to the interests of imperialists and the capitalist regimes of developed economies. All policies are more or less in this direction only. Every section of our society is under attack. Education, health, water resources and other natural resources as well as the productive national assets are being offered to the Indian and foreign corporates cheaply.

We have been waging resistance to these policies through the national platform of trade union organisations for several years. This unity is reflected in joint struggle actions, the latest one being the biggest ever nationwide general strike on 26th November 2020. There are sectoral struggles also taking place.

We support all the action plans suggested for the coming period by the Secretary General and would play our role in its implementation in our country collectively along with all affiliates of WFTU from India. We firmly stand for the international solidarity. We also support the vision of training the cadres to face uncertainties. We assure you that we would continue our efforts for extending financial solidarity and subscription. We support the demand for Nobel Peace Prize for Cuba for the selfless services of their Doctors in various countries in the Pandemic time. We would continue working hard to strengthen this class oriented World Federation of Trade unions as a hope to the distressed vulnerable, oppressed working masses.



## Kim Song Ho

Vice-President of General Federation  
of Trade Unions of Korea, DPRK

Esteemed Comrade Mzwandile Michael Makweyiba, WFTU President, Esteemed Comrade George Mavrikos, WFTU General Secretary, Dear Respected Members of WFTU Presidential Council, Dear Comrades and Friends.

First of all, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the leaders of WFTU and all the participants who have prepared with devotion this virtual meeting amid unexpected challenges and difficulties that faced us this year. I would also like to send through you the militant greetings from the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea (GFTUK) and its members to the WFTU affiliates, progressive trade unions and the world's working people.

Dear Comrades. WFTU constantly holds on to the vital task of building the independent, peaceful and stable society. The Korean working class and trade union members are pushing forward vigorously by themselves the anti-epidemic emergency and damage recovery work without any slightest pessimism and vacillation even under the severe and prolonged sanction forced by the hostile forces and through exceptionally harsh natural disasters.

All the Korean people absolutely support the far-sighted, active and dynamic measures of the Workers' Party of Korea and DPRK government who value mostly the life and interest of them, and they rose as one in the struggle to safeguard their motherland and themselves. Therefore, DPR Korea remains clean till today where no one has fallen victim to evil virus and everybody lives in a large and harmonious socialist family although life is not affluent yet, leading healthy and settled life. We regard the country's troubles and the comrade's pain as our own thus waging the struggle to recover from natural disasters throughout the country with joint efforts and wisdom to completely get rid of the aftereffects of the natural calamities, building the comfortable and civilized houses and villages within short period of one or two months with splendor.

All the successes being achieved both at the anti-epidemic front to prevent the Covid-19 and at the rehabilitation project sites to get rid of aftereffects of natural calamities, are a fruition of the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Jong Un, the chairman of the State Affairs Commission of DPRK.

At this moment, all of our trade unions are struggling with concerted efforts to greet the 8th Congress of Workers' Party of Korea which is to be held in January next year with the brilliant labor exploits by ensuring that all the members fulfill their tasks at all costs in the 80-day campaign which is conducted till the end of this year. Nobody or nothing can stand in the way of Korean working class and trade union members who are energetically advancing towards the brilliant future of socialism to achieve new victories.

Dear Comrades and Friends. WFTU has been vigorously struggling to safeguard world peace and security, to defend rights, interests and noble life of working people by overcoming difficulties and trials through turns and twists, and it greeted the 75th anniversary of its foundation on October 3rd. Today, WFTU has been strengthened and developed into the powerful, class-oriented and militant international trade union organization with over 100 million membership and this is the great success that we are all proud of. All the members of WFTU shall fulfill their responsibilities and duties in successfully achieving the tasks set by its 17th Congress by rallying themselves under its banner more firmly.

At present, Covid-19 is becoming more serious and the whole world is being plunged deeper into chaos and fear and its main victims are none other than our broad oppressed working masses. Today's world health crisis urgently calls upon all the members of the WFTU to defend the life of masses including the working class from the evil virus. All the members shall further strengthen mutual cooperation and solidarity in the struggle to stop the worldwide epidemic disease and stand in the vanguard to conduct joint struggle to defend the rights and interests of the working people with active and dynamic struggles. Anti-imperialism, international unity and solidarity are the invariable banner of our struggle, our might and the guarantee for the victory.

The General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, in the future too, will further develop good-neighborly and friendly relations with the trade unions of several countries who struggle for independence, peace and socialism, and make positive efforts to strengthen and develop the WFTU.

Thank you.





## Dr. K. Hemalata

Member of the WFTU Presidential Council  
President of Centre of Indian Trade Unions, India

Dear President and members of the Presidential Council

On behalf of Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) I extend warm fraternal greetings to all of you. I support the report placed by Com Mavrikos, General Secretary, WFTU.

First of all I want to express the gratitude of CITU and the entire working class of our country, India, for the solidarity extended by the WFTU and its general secretary Com Mavrikos to the recent general strike on 26th November. I also thank all the trade unions affiliated to WFTU in various countries who have supported the strike and sent solidarity messages. The working class of India also thanks the trade unions, in several countries, for organising local solidarity actions on 26th November in support of the Indian working class. International class solidarity, one of the pillars of WFTU was clearly visible on that day. I am happy to inform you that CITU and all the WFTU affiliated trade unions in India have played very active role in making the strike a great success.

The strike on 26th November was more successful than the earlier general strikes, drawing in more workers, from more sectors and more places. In addition it received unprecedented support from the common people, particularly the peasants and agricultural workers and the youth.

I would like to share some very important experiences of struggles in our country, which, I believe, would be of interest to the class oriented international working class movement across the world.

The two major sections of people who create wealth, workers and peasants in our country are not only fighting on their own demands but they have also been synchronising their struggles and supporting each other since August this year. While the joint farmers' movement supported the 26th November general strike actively participating in the demonstrations, the joint trade union movement supported the countrywide protests on 26-27 November called by the peasants' organisations.

The workers are demanding scrapping of the anti worker labour code Acts, which are meant to push the workers back into the servile conditions of nineteenth century. The farmers are demanding scrapping of the anti farmer Farm Acts which are meant to promote corporate agriculture, ruining the small peasant based agriculture predominant in India and destroy the little food security that the poor have today. 86% of peasants in our country own less than 2 hectares of land.

Hundreds of thousands of farmers have been camping along the highway on the outskirts of Delhi near the borders since the last more than two weeks. CITU, all WFTU affiliated unions, all the trade unions in the joint platform and all sections of progressive people are supporting their struggle.

What is significant is that since August this year, the workers and farmers in our country, the two major wealth producing sections, have been extending full support and solidarity to each others' struggles. They have been synchronising their united struggles. The call of the peasants' organisations to bring the country to a standstill on 8th December received spontaneous and immense response from the working class and the people. Thus, we are in the midst of historic struggles of the two major productive forces, the workers and the peasants. The adamant attitude of the BJP government is further fuelling anger and resentment among the people.

The task before the class conscious trade union movement in our country today is to channelise this spontaneous discontent into the right direction, defeating the machinations of the ruling classes to disrupt unity of the people and divert their attention bringing in issues of caste, religion, region, language etc to the fore.

The joint trade union movement, in which CITU and all the WFTU affiliated unions have been playing an important role, has decided to intensify united struggles and take them to new heights of defiance and resistance. CITU has also taken up programmes for the ideological development of its cadres to effectively face the present attacks and challenges of the capitalist system in crisis and turn people's discontent and anger into opportunity to change the correlation of forces in favour of the working class. It is no doubt a difficult situation but we are sure we will overcome.

Before concluding, I wish to inform that the call for funds for the WFTU and the address of Comrade Mavrikos to the Indian working class received good response in our country. CITU and its fraternal unions have been able to collect 17046 euros.

Thank you



## Unang Sunarno

Member of the WFTU Presidential Council  
Gen. Sec. of Konfederasi KASBI, Indonesia

Dear comrades of the WFTU leaders and all members of Presidential Council around the world, on this annual meeting, on behalf of member of Konfederasi KASBI Indonesia, I would like to express our concerns and deep condolences for COVID-19 pandemic situation that plague all around the world which has taken the lives of millions people and at the same time impacted directly to the workers all around the world and majority of the people. Many of our brothers and sisters had been laid off and forced to take unpaid leave or experiencing wage cut during this pandemic situation. Massive dismissal happened to millions of the workers and majority of them were not received severance pay. This situation clearly created a lot of suffer and misery for the workers daily lives. There is massive effect of Covid-19 for members of Konfederasi KASBI. Around 5000 workers of our member laid-off, half of them without severance. Around 80.000 of our members were forced to unpaid leave or experiencing wage-cut during this pandemic from March 2020. There are many reports from the media that a lot of countries were unprepared and failed to handle this deadly pandemic. Many of these failure countries actually because the Government is usually more concerned about to solve economic crisis by create red-carpet for investment and how to secure the capitalist system, including in Indonesia. On the other hand, Government of Indonesia takes advantage of this pandemic situation to promoting policies that not in favor for workers and majority of people. One of this policy is Omnibus Law on Law on Job Creation.

The Joko Widodo administration insisted to pass this omnibus law despite a massive rejection from workers, peasant, student, environmental activist and other groups. KASBI alongside with other sectors have been fighting very hard by created wide alliance called GEBRAK and are in front this movement. During the period of resistance, the Government applied a repression for the masses. At least 6000 people were arrested in Indonesia, which 4 of our member arrested on March 3 and punished to 2 months in jail.

On October 5 2020, Parliament of Indonesia agreed and passed the Omnibus law called Law on Job Creation which is put workers in big threat. Some of this law consisting of:

1. Allow company to dismiss workers easily
2. Eradicate punishment for the company who violate workers' normative rights
3. Sharpening cheap-labor policy
4. Reduce the rights of workers for severance
5. Advancing labor market flexibility by allowing more contract based working system and outsourcing.
6. This Omnibus Law also consist many regulation that threatening the lives of peasants, students, indigineous peoples and natural resources.

In addition for peasant and agrarian sector, the Omnibus Law Cipta Kerja contains the ease the permits to granting land acquisition for capital investment. This will clearly resulting land conflicts caused by the expansion of capital to the living area of people and at the same time will increase Agrarian inequality. Currently in Indonesia the one percent of the rich controlling more than 68 percent of the land on in Indonesia and the number will increase significantly after the La on Job Creation has been passed.

The honorable WFTU leaders and all members of Presidential Council Nowadays we face same situation in our countries. The capitalist and government who support it always put us, the majority of people, to sacrifice our lives to save them from this economic crisis. Moreover, they use police and military force to silencing the voice who oppose them.

In this very important occasion, allow us to propose to WFTU leaders and all comrades to strengthen our work and solidarity as a WFTU family. We also apologize that our organization has not contributed for membership fee at maximum and we are committed to fulfill our obligation in the future.

Konfederasi KASBI is fully support the decision for Vietnam to host The 18th WFTU Congress on 2021. It is a honour for our region, South East Asia, and we believe this event will inspire and encourage more unions in South East Asia and Pacific to join the force of WFTU.

Long Live WFTU!  
Long Live The Workers Movement!  
Salam Muda Berani Militan!





## Jamal Al-Kadri

Vice-President of the WFTU  
President of the General Federation of Trade Unions in the  
Syrian Arab Republic, Syria

Dear Comrade George Mavrikos,  
General Secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

Dear Comrade Michael Makawaiba,  
President of the World Federation of Trade Unions

Dear Comrades, members of the WFTU Presidential Council

At the outset, I would like to greet you all on behalf of the Executive Office of the General Federation of Trade Unions in the Syrian Arab Republic. I would like to express my happiness to meet all of you, even if it is virtually, but due to the Corona pandemic, we have all had to convene our Presidential Council virtually for the first time in history. I hope that humanity will find the vaccine that contributes to the elimination of the virus soon, so that we can meet in a live and direct way.

I would like to thank the comrades members of the General Secretariat led by Brother George Mavrikos for the exceptional efforts they have made this year and for the virtual meetings, conferences, webinars and seminars that they have organized in all continents. They have aimed in their entirety to strengthen international cooperation and solidarity to address the disastrous effects of the Coronavirus, especially on the working class that has been unprecedentedly affected by the public and partial lockdowns pursued by most countries of the world. They led to the layoffs and reduction of the wages of hundreds of millions of workers around the world and the occurrence of an unprecedented economic downturn since the Great Depression.

As for us in Syria, the General Federation of Trade Unions in Syria has worked to coordinate efforts with the Syrian government to disburse the salaries of workers in the private sector whose interests have been directly affected by the general lockdown that has spread to the country for two consecutive months since last March. Two months' salaries were paid to most of those affected due of the shutdown. As for employees in the public sector, everyone's salaries were paid without any deductions.

In turn, the General Federation of Trade Unions in Syria organized awareness-raising workshops throughout all Syria about the negative effects of the virus and methods of prevention. In addition, the union's cadres participated in sterilizing workplaces in order to ensure the safety of the workers.

Despite the exceptional situations around the world due to the Corona pandemic, the United States government imposed the Caesar Act, which aggravated the size of economic sanctions on my country, Syria, and on neighboring countries, which led to the spread of poverty and weakening the purchasing capacity of citizens. While the Syrian army was fighting terrorism in what remained of the occupied lands in Syria, the usurping Zionist entity and the occupying American air force continued to launch attacks on Syrian lands in a blatant defiance of international legitimacy, in order to support its mercenaries from the masses of terrorists, especially ISIS and the Al-Nusra Front.

Dear comrades

Despite the passage of more than seventy years since the usurping Zionist entity occupied Arab lands in Palestine, Syria and Lebanon, the Zionist entity still prides itself on its obstinacy and refuses to comply with international law by withdrawing from the Arab lands it occupied. What confirms the collusion of the US government with the Zionist entity is the US President Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of the Israeli occupation and its recognition that the occupied Syrian Golan belongs to the Israeli occupation.

Dear comrades

On the seventy-fifth anniversary of the foundation of our global federation, the "World Federation of Trade Unions", we must all strengthen cooperation and solidarity among us within our large family, the World Federation of Trade Unions. Also, we need to expand our presence around the world and enhance training and qualification, albeit virtually, which contributes to enhancing job opportunities, especially among the youth segment during the massive change in existing work patterns, telework among many others.

In the end, I thank you all for listening, hoping to meet you all very soon.

Long live international solidarity

Long live the World Federation of Trade Unions



## Ulises Guilarte de Nacimiento

Vicepresidente de la FSM  
Sec. Gen. de la Central de Trabajadores de Cuba, Cuba

Compañero Michael Makwayiba, Presidente de la FSM. Compañero George Mavrikos, Secretario General de la FSM. Compañeros y compañeras miembros del consejo presidencial

Reciban desde la Central de Trabajadores de Cuba, un saludo fraterno y militante. El Consejo Presidencial se realiza en medio de una pandemia global cuyos, efectos en los escenarios laborales y sindicales del mundo son catastróficos para los trabajadores, se agudiza la precariedad de los empleos, millones han quedado totalmente desamparados sin ninguna garantía o prestación social, generando un futuro incierto ante la contracción de la economía mundial.

En el actual contexto, gobiernos, empresas y transnacionales han priorizado sus intereses económicos por encima de la preservación de los derechos de los trabajadores, al propio tiempo las políticas anti laborales y anti sindicales se mantienen dirigidas a desconocer el derecho a la negociación colectiva, a la sindicalización, el derecho a un empleo digno, así como a pensiones y salarios justos.

Ahora se ha hecho más visible y aterradora la real y antihumana esencia del capital, con la exaltación del mercado y su auge descontrolado bajo las reglas despiadadas del neoliberalismo.

Se ha potenciado la visión de los servicios de la salud y de la industria farmacéutica, como un negocio lucrativo, donde no hay enfermos, sino clientes, lo cual ha demostrado con cifras escalofriantes la incapacidad de dar una respuesta efectiva a la emergencia sanitaria en que estamos inmersos.

Nuestro pueblo resiste hace más de 60 años el más cruel y genocida de los bloqueos, un cerco económico, comercial y financiero de la mayor potencia mundial, el que se ha recrudecido de forma extrema y sin precedentes, con una persecución implacable y enfermiza que no

ha renunciado al propósito de rendirnos por hambre.

Enfrentamos planes bien diseñados para obstaculizar nuestras relaciones comerciales y suministros de combustible sustentada en múltiples plataformas que articulan un escenario mediático de manipulación y desinformación en las redes sociales financiadas por los EEUU. Les ratificamos que el bloqueo carece de justificación política, jurídica y además de continuar siendo el principal obstáculo a nuestro desarrollo.

La FSM, en esta etapa, ha desplegado una ardua labor en articular la movilización para denunciar todas estas políticas, ha orientado y alertado a nuestras organizaciones y ha combatido las injusticias que se han llevado a cabo en muchos países donde las víctimas son mayoritariamente los trabajadores y sus familias.

Ante la solicitud de varios gobiernos, Cuba, vuelve a enarbolar las banderas de la solidaridad y la cooperación, 46 brigadas del Contingente Internacional Henry Reeve, de médicos especializados en el enfrentamiento a enfermedades y graves epidemias, laboran en 42 países de América Latina, el Caribe, África, Medio Oriente y Europa con el único y noble propósito de salvar vidas humanas.

La CTC, en nombre de los sindicatos y trabajadores cubanos, agradece a la FSM, a sus organizaciones afiliadas por el respaldo brindado a este contingente para el otorgamiento del Premio Nobel de la Paz, un reconocimiento al altruismo y sacrificio, pero sobre todo al honor de estar en cualquier rincón de la tierra donde se necesite salvar vidas.

Compañeros y compañeras:

Sin dudas, el papel que ha jugado la FSM desde hace 75 años, y en particular en los últimos tiempos, ha sido vital para el sostenimiento de nuestras luchas y derechos, por ello las acciones que desarrollaremos en el periodo 2021 – 2022 y los acuerdos que emanen del próximo congreso sindical mundial serán cruciales para el futuro de la organización, de la lucha clasista y de las victorias de nuestros trabajadores.

La FSM continúa siendo la esperanza para la clase trabajadora, demostremos que, con la unidad de todas las fuerzas de izquierda, con la FSM en la primera línea de combate, venceremos todos los desafíos de estos tiempos y en el futuro.

Muchas gracias



# Pampis Kyritsis

Vice-President of the WFTU  
Gen. Sec. of Pancyprian Federation of Labour, Cyprus

Brothers and Sisters,

First of all, allow me to express on behalf of PEO, our appreciation to the leadership of the WFTU and the staff of the Central Offices, since in very difficult conditions they are working hard so that our Federation continues to function uninterrupted.

It goes without saying that during this period working people's health and safety is a top priority for us all. At the same time, it is clear that the effects of the pandemic are being shifted one-sidedly on the backs of working people, the poor and the vulnerable in general. Even humanity's hope for immunization through vaccines is being commercialized and global economic and social inequality is manifesting itself in the field of health as well.

In these conditions, in addition to ensuring the health and lives of working people, the priority is to resist the new attack on wages and benefits, to protect collective agreements and to fight against deregulation and redundancies. In Cyprus, we are focusing our struggle on the demand for regulations that will make the implementation of collective agreements legally binding and ensure their superiority over personal contracts and so-called "flexible" forms of employment.

At the same time, we are stepping up our demands for a more welfare state and more and more upgraded public utilities. As Cypriot workers, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, we are particularly concerned about the course of our political problem, which as you know has been tormenting our country for decades. Unfortunately, a prolonged stagnation continues, without negotiations, with the result that the prospect of a final partition is becoming more and more entrenched. At the same time, Turkey is now openly intervening in the occupied territories, imposing its political and cultural policies on the Turkish Cypriot community.

Famagusta, after 46 whole years, instead of being handed over to the United Nations for the return to its lawful inhabitants, as provided by the UN resolutions, is provocatively trying to open it so that it can be colonised as well. The only positive path to stop the negative developments is through the immediate resumption of negotiations from the point they had remained 3 years ago at Crans Montana, with the aim of resolving the Cyprus problem and reuniting our country and people on the basis of a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation, without foreign armies, guarantors and "guardians". Together with the Turkish Cypriot trade union organisations that are affiliated to the WFTU, we are continuing joint actions aiming at the solution of the Cyprus problem and the reunification of our common homeland, something that will certainly contribute creatively to the de-escalation of tension and the strengthening of peace and security in our wider region.

Brothers and Sisters, As far as the action of the WFTU is concerned, in the peculiar conditions we are all going through, we consider it to be substantive and noteworthy. At the same time, we approve the action plan, aware of the objective difficulties and we declare that we will continue to support to the best of our ability the activity and operation of our Federation.

As Coordinators of the European Regional Office, we believe that we have managed to maintain the operation and contact, as well as a satisfactory program of activities. We certainly need to try harder. There is room for improvements in our work.

I believe that the values we have always defended in the conditions of the pandemic are gaining ground. The role of social solidarity, the need for strong public infrastructures of a social character, especially in health and social insurance are being confirmed through the struggle to confront the effects of the pandemic and for the protection of human life.

In honor of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the WFTU, in honor of the struggles and sacrifices of millions of working class activists who always struggled within the ranks of our Federation, let us rally our forces even more and intensify our struggles for a peaceful, more secure, fairer and better world for us and our children.

# Zola Saphetha

Gen. Sec. of TUI Public Services & Allied Workers  
Gen. Sec. of NEHAWU, South Africa

The year 2020 has been a difficult year all over the world due to the global outbreak of coronavirus pandemic. As a result of this pandemic many countries were forced to shut down the most economies in the world.

At the centre of this global deadly virus are workers in general and frontline workers in particular who have been forced to save lives all over the world at the expense of their own without Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and without health and safety measures put in place to protect themselves.

This coronavirus has exposed neo-liberal policies of many governments as irrelevant policies directives and directions as they rely on austerity and neglect the need to build proper healthcare and education systems of value to societal developmental including human resources meant to improve the living conditions of the working class in general and working people in particular.

In this regard, we appreciate the good work done by the WFTU Central Office in the period under-review under the leadership of WFTU General Secretary, Cde. George Mavrikos and WFTU President, Cde. Mzwandile Makwayiba.

At this point, we wish to contribute as part of consolidating this great work for 2021 as follows:

1. Sharpen the working class analysis on imperialism as it deepens class contradictions that give rise to new forms of class inequality and social conflict in society particularly at this time of exposure the inability of capitalism to sustain itself.

2. Revive the presence of WFTU in Africa using regional offices and TUI's as platforms closer to affiliates and workers at the factory floor or workplaces and also by developing Organisational Strategy for African Continent.

3. As TUIs, we should focus aggressively on a fight for trade union's rights and defending collective bargaining in order to improve the current peanut wages and salaries and general working conditions across all sectors.

4. TUIs should also focus on building class consciousness of young workers as future leaders and trade unionists whose class-oriented federation must invest on.

5. TUIs should tirelessly and radically fight for women rights and gender struggles guided by the working perspective.

We should use our experience of the 75 years old as WFTU to determine the future of the working people and the working class all over the world. In this regard, we support the host of the 18th World Trade Union Congress in Vietnam and looking forward to its success.

We also wish this Presidential Council a success, comprehensive and concrete outcomes.

Thank You!

Amandla!



# Divanilton Pereira

Secretario General Adjunto de la FSM  
Central de los Trabajadores y Trabajadoras de Brasil

Olá Companheiras e Companheiros classistas da Federação Sindical Mundial!

É uma satisfação revê-los, mesmo que a distância.

Espero que vocês, amigos e familiares estejam bem. Saúdo em particular os Camaradas Ramón Cardona, Motajo e Komal Chand. Eles estão presentes!

Congratulo-me de uma forma muito especial a Federação Sindical Mundial através do seu Secretário geral, George Mavrikos, que mesmo diante de tamanhas dificuldades e desafios, continua liderando com determinação as bandeiras e a concepção classista de nossa federação. A realização vitoriosa desse encontro mundial virtual é mais uma prova dessa resiliência, a altura da celebração dos 75 anos da FSM.

A crise capitalista de 2008 produziu mais uma vez medidas que atingem até hoje a classe trabalhadora em escala global. Sob uma hegemonia ultrafinanceirizada, o capital acelerou processos tecnológicos, gerenciais, econômicos e legislativos que, em seu conjunto, produziu uma ofensiva sistêmica contra a valorização do trabalho. A supressão de direitos sociais e previdenciários, a individualização e a precarização nas relações de trabalho elevaram ainda mais os já milhões desempregados e subempregados pelo mundo. Para implementar estes ataques atuam fortemente para inviabilizar as organizações sindicais.

Se o quadro político mais geral era desfavorável à classe trabalhadora, com a pandemia do COVID-19 a situação deteriora-se ainda mais. O coronavírus já ceifou mais de um milhão de vidas e outros tantos milhões de infectados, muitos destes trabalhadores e trabalhadoras. Além desse drama de mortes, a desaceleração econômica, acompanhada de medidas lideradas pelo capital e seus aliados, jogou na amargura milhares de homens e mulheres que sobrevivem do trabalho.

Com um discurso de serem ações provisórias, na verdade buscam tornar essa escalada contra o trabalho como permanentes.

Por outro lado, a pandemia desnudou o neoliberalismo, pois deixou as claras as enormes desigualdades sociais que esse modelo gera. Até vozes conservadoras agora defendem uma renda mínima universal como forma de tentar atenuar o fracasso de seu modelo. Além disso, no auge da pandemia o sistema produtivo também parou. Foi mais uma circunstância prática e histórica para comprovar que sem o trabalho vivo o sistema pára. Portanto, a centralidade do trabalho continua sendo estratégica. Daí deriva a contemporaneidade da concepção classista e emancipacionista da Federação Sindical Mundial.

Companheiras e Companheiros, vivemos tempos de uma anormalidade global inserida numa crise sanitária, econômica, política e social. São nessas horas que as convicções de classe devem aflorar-se. São nesses momentos que as verdadeiras concepções classistas assumem o seu lado. A Federação Sindical Mundial, no auge de seus 75 anos, reafirma o seu caminho histórico e o rumo socialista às trabalhadoras e aos trabalhadores.

Ao mesmo tempo, devemos implementar campanhas emergenciais mundiais exigindo sistemas públicos de saúde com capacidades logísticas e científicas e sobretudo, garantidor de uma ampla e geral vacinação dos povos, em particular na classe trabalhadora. A renda e o emprego devem ter prioridades através de um programa financiado, sobretudo pela taxação das grandes fortunas.

Tenho certeza que passaremos! À luta e à vitória!

Eis a minha contribuição.

Vida longa à Federação Sindical Mundial!

Viva a classe trabalhadora!

Muito obrigado.



## Valentín Pacho

Vicepresidente de la FSM  
CGTP Perú

Apreciados compañeros y compañeras miembros del consejo presidencial de FSM.

Reciban mis saludos solidarios. Es una alegría volver a encontrarnos aunque sea virtualmente, lo importante es que nos reunamos para adecuar nuestro trabajo en las nuevas condiciones que el mundo está experimentando.

La pandemia ha golpeado duro a los trabajadores y a los sectores vulnerables, pero la lucha de nuestras organizaciones afiliadas no han paralizado ni un solo minuto eso es muy importante y alentador: las razones muy simples, la clase dominante, los empresarios con la complicidad de los gobiernos títeres están utilizando la pandemia como excusa para imponer mayores abusos y sobre explotación de los trabajadores.

La población peruana fue muy golpeada por el Covid 19 hasta este momento más 73 mil fallecidos por causa de la pandemia, miles murieron en las calles y otros en las puertas de hospitales publicas totalmente colapsadas, el Perú está entre los primeros lugares a nivel mundial después de Estados Unidos y Brasil por el número de fallecidos, pero el gobierno ha tratado de distorsionar la verdad con ayuda de la prensa corrupta al informar oficialmente menos de la mitad.

Mientras que las clínicas privadas han obtenido fabulosas ganancias, así como las farmacias monopólicas: debido a que las políticas neoliberales propiciaron la privatización de la salud y la educación y demás servicios fundamentales.

Durante los 7 meses de cuarentena el gobierno peruano a pedido de los empresarios, decretó el despido de un gran porcentaje de trabajadores sin pago de salarios'. En el Perú actualmente 7 millones de trabajadores han perdido su empleo a causa de la política laboral del gobierno bajo la excusa de pandemia, se han dictado nuevas leyes anti laborales.

Frente a tal situación difícil, los trabajadores y sus sindicatos y demás organizaciones sociales encabezados por la Confederación General de Trabajadores del Perú la CGTP, ha respondido con movilizaciones, de protesta en las calles y en las plazas y con huelgas nacionales en defensa de los derechos, ha sido participe en el derrocamiento de dos presidentes. Pero la lucha continua.

Compañeros y compañeras en el futuro la lucha de los trabajadores será muy difícil, en condiciones muy adversas. La clase dominante será mas agresiva. Entonces la FSM tiene que reforzar la lucha ideológica, para que el movimiento internacional fortalezca la convicción antiimperialista, anticapitalista. La dolorosa experiencia de las consecuencias de la pandemia nos enseña que el sistema capitalista tiene que ser sustituido por otro sistema el futuro es el socialismo, por tanto no caben paliativos ni reformas.

En ese contexto estoy de acuerdo con el proyecto de plan de acción que propone el Secretariado. Y Propongo como agregado que la FSM promueva campaña internacional que debe ser ampliamente difundida en todos los medios posible, los siguientes.

- Que los gobiernos dispongan que el 40% del presupuesto de fuerzas armadas sean derivadas para la inversión pública en la generación empleo productivo
- Que el servicio de la salud sea de responsabilidad exclusiva estatal
- La inmediata estatización de las clínicas privadas y su infraestructura pasen a formar el sistema de salud pública
- La estatización de los laboratorios y farmacias privadas y la comercialización de los medicamentos a cargo del Estado.
- Que el gobierno decrete impuesto a la riqueza o patrimonio de los ricos empezando por los banqueros y núcleos de millonarios dueños de los medios de producción ya que la fortuna que han acumulado es producto de haber explotado a los trabajadores.
- Que se deje sin efecto los despidos de trabajadores durante la pandemia y se restituya el pago de los salarios dejados de percibir

Estas demandas son las más urgentes de los trabajadores, que la FSM en su conjunto debe formar parte de la plataforma de lucha.

Mi solidaridad con los trabajadores y pueblos de Cuba, Venezuela, Bolivia, Perú, Nicaragua, Colombia, Palestina, Siria, Irán y demás países que luchan contra la prepotencia del imperialismo.

Muchas gracias





# Antoinette Tangono

Membre du Conseil Présidentiel de la FSM  
Présidente de la Confédération Camerounaise du Travail (CCT)

Camarade Président de la FSM,

Camarade Secrétaire Général de la FSM,

Camarades membres du Conseil Présidentiel,

La Confédération Camerounaise du Travail CCT est heureuse de vous adresser ses chaleureuses salutations.

En ma qualité de membre présidentiel, je suis heureuse de partager avec vous la situation du Cameroun en ce temps de Covid-19 ;

Le covid-19 qui n'a pas permis nos retrouvailles fraternelles et syndicales.

Le covid-19 au Cameroun, comme dans le reste du monde à désorganisée et désorienté le monde du travail.

Le covid-19 au Cameroun vient s'ajouter à la situation déjà difficile que traverse le Cameroun.

Plusieurs foyers de tensions de part et d'autres du Cameroun :

- Au Nord et à l'Extrême-Nord, les attaques de la secte Islamiste BOKO-Haram,
- À l'Est, les rebelles venus de la République Centrafricaine tuent, pillent et brûlent des villages entiers des populations sans défense,
- Au Nord-Ouest et au Sud-Ouest, les sécessionnistes sèment la terreur en décapitant, brûlant et enlevant les femmes et les enfants, en interdisant aux enfants d'aller à l'école. Un cas dramatique en Novembre 2020, 08 élèves ont été assassinés dans leur salle de classe.

Ces situations ont pour conséquences :

- Plus de 3 millions de personnes déplacées et sans abris, les femmes et les enfants sont les premières victimes, les dernières statistiques montrant que plus de 4 millions de familles au Cameroun meurent de faim, 2,3 millions d'enfants souffrent de malnutrition, ne peuvent pas se soigner, ne peuvent pas avoir accès à l'eau potable,
- La crise économique et sanitaire a ouvert la porte aux licenciements abusifs, aux réductions des salaires.

Le système de sécurité sociale ne couvre que 10% des travailleurs du secteur formel et 90% des travailleurs du secteur informel n'ont aucune sécurité sociale. Face à cette situation, le gouvernement semble dépasser et n'arrive plus à donner les réponses à la tragédie des travailleurs.

La CCT, comme Organisation Syndicale et ses affiliés ont adressé un mémorandum au Ministre du Travail pour dénoncer cette inertie, les préavis de grèves se multiplient. Malgré les différents comités de dialogue social, la situation ne fait que se dégrader.

Je saisis donc cette occasion du Conseil Présidentiel, pour :

- Appeler au renforcement de la solidarité syndicale internationale car tout seul nous ne pouvons rien.
- Demander la mise sur pied effective et le fonctionnement du collège d'Avocats de la FSM pour soutenir les membres de la FSM dans les pays afin d'obliger les Etats à respecter les droits des travailleurs.
- Soutenir les revendications des membres affiliés de la FSM par lettres et pétitions signées par l'ensemble du Conseil Présidentiel dans les pays où les leaders syndicaux sont menacés et trainés en justice, comme c'est mon cas au Cameroun. J'appelle au secours la FSM sur les menaces physiques, les pressions psychologiques, et des condamnations de justice arbitraires dont je suis victime de par mon statut de syndicaliste.

Je souhaite de tout cœur que se renforce l'esprit internationaliste de la FSM.

Je vous adresse mes salutations militantes.

## Alireza Mahjoob

Vice-President of the WFTU  
Gen. Sec. of Workers House of Iran

Dear brother Mavrikos General Secretary of WFTU,

Dear sisters and brothers,

I would like to thank you on behalf of Iranian Workers and Workers House of Iran, i wish the best for all of you and WFTU and all the workers in the world for 2021.

Dear colleagues,

The workers during the pandemic have faced difficulties and bans regarding the freedom of association, collective bargaining from the capitalists who are taking advantage of the pandemic. The workers of the world must be engaged in the struggle for freedom of association and collective bargaining.

Regarding covid19 pandemic, many workers are vulnerable to layoffs, without even the minimum wage and any insurance, they ignore about the occupational health and safety measures.

In Iran the situation is similar to other countries, but there are also the problems caused by sanctions. For example we also face the same problem when we try to send money to WFTU, the banks in Iran cannot send the money.

When the vaccine comes must be safe and free for all the people. Unfortunately lastly the board of the Workers House lost members due to covid19.

Long live WFTU!  
Long Live Workers House of Iran!  
Long live the workers!

## Ali Albinali

Member of the Presidential Council of the WFTU  
Bahrain

Thank you for inviting me to this meeting. I would like to thank Mr Mike and Mr George. As this meeting is important and takes place in difficult times, we, in Bahrain as all countries in the world are in a difficult position because of the coronavirus pandemic, we are facing the problems and support the labor class.

The government has supported the economy by paying all the employees in the private sector six months salaries from March until September and we can survive all this period due to this support, which supports also all the bank loans and the residence. Of course, we have difficulties ahead, in the beginning of the year and we don't know what will happen, the economy of Bahrain as all the economies in the world we'll face problems on their capabilities to support. The leadership in WFTU should understand that because of the problems we have since our last congress, our last elections, we have been divided between two-three groups, the labor movement under the WFTU in Bahrain is not anymore united and the WFTU leadership have touched this in 2019 ILO meeting.

We are still suffering from that, but the WFTU in Bahrain is very strong, ALBA is a very strong supporter of WFTU, our new chairman of ALBA Union have been supporting WFTU with better funds to support WFTU actions in the world, we are ready to support the international labor movement. The Palestinian Case is a major thing and we are very proud for the WFTU support in Palestinian Case, we are proud of George Mavrikos and his stance in Palestinian case, this is a very crucial time when the arab trade union movement is under pressure to stop supporting the Palestinian case. We are looking for the 18th Congress in Vietnam to meet with the WFTU leadership. We are planning to open the Bahrain WFTU Regional Office in March 2021 and with the aid of ALBA union we will have the facilities to organize training activities in order to be active in Bahrain. We support WFTU and we are ready to organize anything that WFTU asks us.



# Mahmoud S. H. Abualwafa

Vice-President of the WFTU

Gen. Sec. of National Union of Palestinian Workers, Palestine

Comrade George Mavrikos General Secretary. Comrades in the Presidential Council.

Allow me to begin with my greetings and appreciation in the name of the Palestinian working class and in the name of the National Union of Palestinian Workers, where the meeting of the Presidential Council of the World Trade Union Confederation is held under severe and exceptional circumstances that all people of the world face due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, along with the continuation of the imperialist and Zionist policies which is anti-justice and peace around the world.

The stands of the World Federation of Trade Unions are firm, strong and principled stands, we express our great appreciation for the leadership of the World Federation of Trade Unions and the militant leader George Mavrikos.

Our land Palestine is under a American-Zionist attack made for imposing a unilateral American solution avoiding the international legitimacy decisions related to the Palestinian issue, as the US administration act three years ago to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem, after the decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, in violation of all international norms and laws and bypassing all red lines, in addition to the brutal and aggressive policies and stances taken by the Trump administration against the Palestinian people and against the peoples of the Arab region and the world.

Our Comrades: We have always emphasized that we are an integral part of the World Federation of Trade Unions, and since the inception of the march of our federation - the National Union of Palestinian Workers - which was initiated by a group of activists who have proven their role and pioneering experiences in the march of Palestinian, Arab and international union work, and they expressed their free will and their revolutionary and principled stances in confronting normalization,

refusing to establish any relations with the Zionist Histadrut unions. From here and in our meeting today we demand to deal with us as a self-contained federation that express the struggles, sacrifices and concerns of the working class in Palestine and biased towards the historical positions of the World Federation of Trade Unions

We sincerely hope that the controversy over Palestinian representation in the federation will be resolved and similar, fair and equal in the relationship to any other union, as our membership in this union is a solid membership, and experiences have proven that we are up to this responsibility, given our positions, visions, and clear programs, and the formation of real trade unions in all of Palestine licensed by the Palestinian Ministry of Labor and the holding of the National Union of Palestine Workers Conference (NUPW) according to the Palestinian labor law that allows with pluralism and under the supervision and presence of the Palestinian Ministry of Labor and the PLO factions.

Our Comrades: We must be determined to protect and preserve the march and meet the challenges with a strong labor will and expose all the suspicious projects carried out by the so-called free trade unions supported by America and Israel that express the sectors of business owners and traitors of workers' rights under various slogans that have become known far and wide.

We must initiate international labor events and demonstrations to strengthen global labor solidarity, supports the workers and people of Palestine in the face of the Zionist aggression and occupation, annexation projects and suspicious deals that try to undermine the just and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent democratic Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital and the right of return for refugees who were driven from their homes during the catastrophe of 1948 and the brutal massacres that followed, committed by Israeli barbarism, hostile to everything that is human, civilized and Palestinian.

With steady steps, we proceed together with a busy and renewed struggle march with relentless determination, and we do not fear the conspiracies that continue to target us and target our role as real trade unions with firm principles and we will not accept normalization in all its forms and the positions of the weak and poor groups and the crushed classes.

Our wishes for this council to have concrete practical outcomes.

# Alfredo Graell Añino

Vicepresidente de la FSM  
Secretario General de la CNTP Panamá Central Nacional de  
Trabajadores de Panamá

Bueno días;

Compañero: Mzwandile Michel Makwayiba Presidente de la Federación Sindical Mundial. Compañero: George Mavrikos Secretario General de la Federación Sindical Mundial Compañeros y Compañeras del Consejo Presidencial de la Federación Sindical Mundial Mis saludos y solidaridad fraternal .

La coyuntura política nacional por la que atraviesa el país pone en juego muchos valores sociopolíticos que chocan con la realidad circundante cuya salida exitosa dependerá de la perspicacia con que organizaciones sociales y populares deben jugar con su rol histórico de poder conducir y orientar a este pueblo que sufre los estragos de políticas imperialistas, oligárquicas, neoliberales nefastas que implementa el capitalismo salvaje e inhumano.

La pandemia del coronavirus ha jamaqueado las instituciones que sustentan el Estado actual neoliberal, principalmente aquellas que deben garantizar el bienestar social como la seguridad social del sistema sanitario, ha proliferado la corrupción de los fondos públicos, se han suspendidos 170 mil 562 contratos de trabajo, unas 10 mil 512 empresas han aplicado la suspensión de los contratos. A la fecha actual unas 8,001 empresas han reiniciado operaciones progresivamente con unas 100 mil 013 reactivaciones, 62% son hombres y el 38% mujeres.

La tasa de desempleo podría llegar a un 25% para final del año 2020 que sería unos 385 mil nuevos desempleados, que sumarán a los 146 mil ya existentes, para llevar a una cifra acumulada de 531 mil para fin de año de una población económica activa de 2 millones 123 mil 850 personas, ósea 1 de cada 4 panameños que busca trabajo no lo encontrará.

Los jóvenes menores de 30 años representan el 35% de la reducción del empleo, y antes que culmine el año 135 mil jóvenes panameños

perderán sus fuentes de empleo. En el caso sanitario provocado por el Covid-19 que a la fecha en Panamá se registran 182,977 casos positivos de los cuales 3,264 son defunciones; esto requiere de una organización y movilización de las comunidades que junto al personal de salud para poder salir adelante de la crisis que afecta al país.

El panorama es catastrófico desde el punto laboral y sanitario, que no es más que un arrastre de una situación determinada por la falta de una política de visión de Estado donde existe un total divorcio de un sistema educativo coherente a un desarrollo productivo del país, donde los trabajadores no estamos involucrados para la toma de las principales decisiones del desarrollo económico y social del país.

El reto que tenemos por delante, es si podemos plantearnos no como organización individual, sino como colectivo en unidad de autoconvocarnos en torno a una plataforma en común alternativo y coherente frente a los grandes problemas nacionales que hoy vive Panamá, misma que se caracteriza por la desigualdades, pobreza y extrema pobreza, la miseria generalizada, la desnutrición, la falta de agua potable, de viviendas al alcance de los sectores populares, el robo de los fondos públicos , la corrupción y la impunidad, entre otras lacras sociales.

Comprender el significado histórico en que vivimos como la actual coyuntura política social nos exige tener la capacidad de organizarnos para movilizar las fuerzas sociales que avalan el progreso alrededor del Movimiento Progresista Democrático para enfrentar lo que hay que enfrentar.

Todo esto lo haremos generando confianza, respeto entre nosotros, tomando en cuenta las individualidades como la diversidad, y lo haremos poco a poco, construyendo desde abajo el poder del pueblo.

Para la Central Nacional de Trabajadores de Panamá, considera necesario e impostergable trabajar en la construcción del poder del pueblo, están dadas las condiciones objetivas y es el momento de levantar el sujeto como instrumento conductor de las transformaciones sociales.

El sindicalismo clasista, patriótico y revolucionario está llamado a dar el paso al frente para recoger la bandera democrática, progresista de liberación nacional y de la revolución, y seguir adelante.

Resistir, luchar y vencer.  
¡Venceremos!,





# Julia Amparo Lotán Garzona

Miembro del Consejo Presidencial de la FSM  
Lider de la Unión Sindical de Trabajadores de Guatemala  
UNSITRAGUA, Guatemala

Estimados Camaradas, reciban un fraterno, solidario y revolucionario saludo de la Federación Sindical UNSITRAGUA, patentizándoles a todas y todos nuestras condolencias por las pérdidas que lamentablemente sufrimos no solo de familiares, sino de valiosos dirigentes cuya partida nos ha dolido, pero que a la vez nos compromete aún más por mantener esos ideales de lucha que ellos y ellas nos dejaron como un legado.

Quiero recordar especialmente a nuestro gran líder de la Federación Sindical Mundial, nuestro querido Ramón Cardona a quien tengo tanto que agradecer, pues él fue uno de los principales dirigentes que nos apoyó cuando nosotros como Federación nos constituimos, recordando sus innumerables viajes que realizó a Guatemala en sus esfuerzos para unir al movimiento sindical y popular guatemalteco.

Por otro lado, quisiera compartir con ustedes lo que está sucediendo en mi país acerca de las luchas que se han venido generando desde el 21 de noviembre del presente año en Guatemala. Como sociedad hemos llegado al hartazgo en relación con la forma que la vieja política de derecha ha venido gobernando el país, quienes además han tenido el control de los tres organismos del Estado: Ejecutivo, Legislativo y Judicial.

La pandemia además de muertos, enfermos, dejó al país en grandes niveles de pobreza y desempleo, pero también dejó mucha indignación, porque el Gobierno nos sometió a niveles de endeudamiento jamás vistos; recursos que pararon en los bolsillos de sus funcionarios, de la iniciativa privada y en los de sus financistas, ante lo cual la población se cansó y el detonante fue la aprobación del presupuesto general de la Nación 2021 que era totalmente incoherente con las necesidades y carencias que se viven en el país.

Derivado de lo cual utilizando las redes sociales, como población nos convocamos para movilizarnos y exigir su derogación, así como para exigir no más abusos. Movilizaciones que dieron inicio el 21 de noviembre, tanto en la ciudad capital como en el interior de la república. Luego de esa primera gran movilización se logra que el Legislativo diera marcha atrás a esa aprobación.

Hoy la población pese a que se logró derogar el presupuesto 2021, sigue movilizándose en la plaza central y en todas las cabeceras departamentales, exige el esclarecimiento de los ataques sufridos el primer día de las movilizaciones (21 de noviembre) en donde la policía reprimió a los manifestantes causando heridas a más de 20 personas de los cuales dos jóvenes perdieron un ojo y fueron llevados a la cárcel más de 40 personas.

Y aunque el Ejecutivo invocó la Carta Democrática Interamericana ante lo que para él eran “los gravísimos sucesos ocurridos en el país” y que de hecho se apersonó una misión de la OEA, por parte de la población y los sectores organizados sigue firme el llamado a continuar con las movilizaciones, cuya consigna es que el problema no es el presupuesto, sino el sistema. Se exige la convocatoria a una Asamblea Plurinacional Constituyente, la renuncia del presidente y vicepresidente del Ejecutivo, la depuración del Organismo Legislativo y Judicial.

Todo esto que acontece en nuestro país, nos lleva a mantener el compromiso de participar, de apoyar las convocatorias para las movilizaciones en las calles. Pero también de fortalecer hacia adentro la Federación Sindical UNSITRAGUA, que derivado de la pandemia no pudo realizar el cambio de la dirección central. Estamos conscientes que debemos fortalecernos, de traer a nuestras filas y por ende a las filas de la Federación Sindical Mundial otras organizaciones, trabajo que estamos haciendo, pero que debemos profundizar. Sin embargo, tenemos una limitante y es que derivado a mi situación legal yo tengo restricción de movilizarme fuera del departamento de Guatemala.

Por lo que en enero del 2021 estaremos solicitando al Juez Décimo de Primera Instancia Penal Narcoactividad y Delitos contra el Ambiente del departamento de Guatemala, que revise la medida de prisión domiciliaria y que la extienda a todo el territorio de Guatemala. Para lo cual necesitaré que las diferentes organizaciones afiliadas a la FSM y el mismo Secretariado realicen notas dirigidas al Juez, donde se le solicite otorgar esa ampliación del arresto domiciliario. Indicándosele que por el cargo que desempeño en la FSM como en la Federación Sindical UNSITRAGUA, necesito movilizarme en todo el territorio guatemalteco, para el trabajo organizativo.

Un abrazo para todas y todos.



## Michalis Papanikolaou

General Secretary of TUI UITBB  
Construction, Wood and Building Materials Industries  
Gen. Sec. of Construction Workers Union of PEO, Cyprus

Dear Comrades,

Allow me to begin by conveying to all, on behalf of UITBB, our warmest, militant greetings and our best wishes for your health. I would like, first of all, to express UITBB's sincerest condolences to the CTC Cuba and of course his family, for the passing of comrade Ramon Cardona. He was one of the most militant comrades of WFTU and he will be sorely missed.

We are meeting online today, comrades, for WFTU's Presidential Council 2020 in extremely difficult times for everyone and especially for the workers and the progressive, militant trade union movement. On a global scale, we can say that the building industry, due to its nature as the backbone of the economy, has not stopped operating, which means that our people are exposed to the dangers of the pandemic even more than the rest. Nevertheless, the workers in our sectors have not backed down. On the contrary, they have intensified their class-based struggles against this ruthless exploitation, strengthening their class-based consciousness. Amidst such difficult conditions, UITBB has intensified its presence in every corner of the world. We held our 17th Congress in Athens, Greece in January 2020 and since then, we have tried to implement the decisions taken there in the best possible way, of course given the practical problems the COVID-19 pandemic has created. We have organised Secretariat and Executive Committee meetings in 2020, and we are in the process of planning for 2021.

We have updated our website, created our Facebook page, continued with our newsletter and so on. We are in the process of helping organisations financially, and organisationally, while our 3 new member-organisations have added more than 3 million new members just for 2020. This is something that fills us with optimism for the future of UITBB and of course WFTU.

At the same time, we have not neglected our duties within WFTU's ranks. We have instructed all of our affiliated organisations around the world to celebrate WFTU's 75 years by organising events and gatherings, always taking into account the limitations in place. We were also able to assist WFTU financially this year with a symbolic amount, which I hope will help our great family in their class-based, progressive, everyday struggles around the world. Such an action goes beyond the financial aspect as it underlines our sense of international solidarity and political allegiance to WFTU.

We have carefully gone through the WFTU Report of Action sent to us and we have to underline that it is with great satisfaction that we see the great work WFTU has done in the period in review. The militant presence of WFTU in every corner of the world, in every international forum, in worksites around the world and in the various educational seminars and other meetings, show in the best possible way how international solidarity should be exercised and that it will always be on the side of the working class. We also wholeheartedly agree with the proposed Action Plan, which reflects the militant spirit of our progressive trade union, and underlines the extremely important role WFTU has to play, especially in the upcoming period, for the reasons explained above. On behalf of UITBB, we would like to assure you that we will participate with all our heart and resources in all the proposed activities by WFTU, joining the collective effort of our class-based struggles.

Dear comrades,

Allow me to finish by sending a message of optimism for the future. We are fighting a very hard struggle. However, we have never been given anything without a fight. So, we need to employ our most powerful weapons, our sense of international solidarity, our collective actions, our coordinated activities and to be ready for everything that comes our way. We need to make workers understand that it is only through the abolishment of the exploitation of humans by humans, only through the creation of a new, just society that we can move forward. I am certain that we will be victorious once again.

Thank you very much





## Yevgeny Kulikov

Member of the Presidential Council of the WFTU  
Gen. Sec. of the Union of Trade Unions of Russia

Dear comrades and friends,

For all of us, this period was a difficult test. Both trade unions and the authorities sought a compromise in the dilemma: the right to work or the right to health, and sometimes the right to life. The year 2019 more than 300 labor lawsuits were conducted with the participation of representatives of the Union of Trade Unions of Russia (UTU), most of which ended in favor of employees. This year, the legal labor Inspectorate of the UTU participated or continues to participate in the settlement of labor disputes at enterprises in several regions of Russia.

During this time, our trade union members have held more than 20 public events – rallies and pickets in support of demands for the protection of workers' labor rights. All these public events featured posters marking the 75th anniversary of the WFTU, and statements about international workers' solidarity were made.

The UTU has held 5 seminars for trade union activists on the protection of workers' rights.

We pay considerable attention to information and propaganda work. In addition to the official website of the UTU, the Facebook page is constantly updated, and a partner resource has been created - The information center of the Eurasian Bureau of the WFTU and the labor movement of the CIS countries. This work is bearing fruit, the UTU's member unions have been expanded with 24 new trade union organizations formed by workers, including such large enterprises as the Ural automobile plant in Miass, the diesel locomotive plant in Bryansk, the Transneft repair division in the Moscow region, electric transport in Saratov, and transport organizations of the Russian President's office.

Despite the fact that the total coronavirus lockdown in the largest cities of Russia has been canceled, but restrictions continue to ap-

ply everywhere, which negatively affect the labor market. The government has taken compensatory measures for both businesses and dismissed employees, but they are obviously not sufficient.

The standard of living of workers continues to decline, and the national health system is coping poorly with the problem. Health care workers work in conditions that do not meet the labor law standards. The UTU trade unions make efforts to protect their rights in such conditions. I believe that real class unions simply have to go beyond the struggle for labor rights and define their position in the field of social justice issues.

I believe that the consequences of the coronavirus should encourage society and the state to review the previously existing social contract in terms of determining fair shares for a public product. The role of trade unions in this issue should be significant. And this, without strengthening trade union solidarity, will be difficult to implement.

In our country, 2020 was marked by the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Great Victory of the Soviet people over the fascist invaders. December 30 of 2022 marks the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration on the formation of the USSR and the Union Treaty, which opened a new page in the history of human development, marked the beginning of the construction of a new model of a social state, a state in the interests of all its citizens, not a separate class. The formation of the USSR contributed to the growth and strengthening of people's liberation and anti-colonial movements, as well as the expansion of social and labor rights of workers around the world. We believe that combining efforts and coordinating workers' movements under the flag of the WFTU can make a significant contribution to disrupting the process of replacing real history with falsified fabrications of the "collective West" countries.

Dear colleagues, The Union of Trade Unions of Russia proposes to declare 2022 as the Jubilee Year to mark the 100th anniversary of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. And also to form the WFTU Organizing Committee to prepare events for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the USSR in 2022. As well as in preparation for the celebrations, to organize and hold actions to protect the material and spiritual heritage of the Great Victory and military glory.

Yevgeny KULIKOV

## Ozzi Warwick

Member of the WFTU Financial Control Committee  
Chief Educational Officer of Oilfields Workers Trade Union, T&T

Comrade George Mavrikos General Secretary, Members of the WFTU Secretariat, Fellow members of the Presidential Council,

The OWTU is truly saddened by the passing of Comrade Ramon Cordona Nuevo, former head of WFTU Latin America and the Caribbean. We extend our condolences to his family and the Comrades in Cuba.

Comrade Ramon played a crucial role in the Caribbean with his involvement as the WFTU Regional representative on the Regional Executive Committee of the Assembly of Caribbean People. He was always committed to the process of Caribbean Integration, not based on the integration of Capital but the integration of the people. The Caribbean People and progressive movement salute this great Caribbean Comrade.

The OWTU and the WFTU have a long history which goes back to the actual origins of WFTU. It has therefore been a 75 year relationship which has been dynamic and influenced by events and moments connected to the global working class movement. The OWTU is very proud to once again be part of this great and noble cause of international class oriented trade unionism 75 years later. We have had our own internal challenges, but we have been able to overcome them and returned home where we belong at the WFTU, especially to celebrate the 75th Anniversary with the WFTU.

WFTU at 75: The OWTU congratulates the WFTU on attaining such a milestone. WFTU was there through the various national liberation struggles and decolonisation battles. WFTU was there during the revolutionary 60's and 70s. WFTU survived the collapse of the Soviet Union and the retreat by many progressive forces and kept the spirit of militant class oriented trade unionism alive.

Comrades this is the first ever virtual presidential council as the world is facing one of the greatest health challenges and crises in our

generation. That crisis is made worse with the structural crisis of capitalism and not to mention the universal social crisis that it has created.

It calls for a radical overhaul of Capitalism. We must, however, be careful that the overhaul may simply mean giving Capitalism another life support for another generation. One of the key issues that has emerged in a sharp form is the role of the State as being very crucial to addressing a public health crisis and reducing inequality. It is clear that we cannot leave it up to market forces and capitalism to provide protection for the vulnerable.

The pandemic has also revealed the dichotomy of Human life versus Capital Accumulation. Comrades we have seen the rise of fascism and right wing ideology across the globe. We must therefore rise to stamp it out wherever it rears its ugly head. Everyone talks about the new normal, but we have not overcome the old normal of exploitation & inequality, environmental degradation, poor health and safety conditions, individualism and fascism.

From the report of last year, it is very obvious that the WFTU has been able to do amazing work leading up to the 75th Anniversary. The amount of work and activities undertaken by far surpass the actual financial conditions of WFTU. We can only begin to imagine what is even more possible with a significantly improved financial condition of the WFTU. We must commit to the WFTU not only in words, not only in abstract but in concrete. It means in real terms active participation in all activities and consistent financial contributions.

The OWTU believes that the WFTU Plan of Action 2020-2021 is critical and provides us with an opportunity to emerge stronger as the international working class movement, coming out of both the health and economic crisis. The priority stated:- "Our important priority remains the fight for a public - free health for all, for a safe and free vaccine for all against Covid-19; to build large, modern and public hospitals with all necessary human and technological equipment." is a critical and necessary fight.

Trade unions must be a centre of resistance and school for socialism. As we face the uncertain times of increasing crises we must stand strong on these two pillars. There can be no doubt that the working class will have to rely on its own strength and historical role in continuing the long march towards the emancipation of the working class and therefore the emancipation of humanity.

Long live the WFTU!

Long Live the working class as we unite to break our chains!!

Thank you





## Janaka Adikari

Member of the Presidential Council of the WFTU

President of TUI HOTOUR

Coordinator of the WFTU Legal Advisory

General Secretary of Inter Company Employees Union, Sri Lanka

Dear Comrades,

I assume that all of our comrades in the Presidential Council are in good health. This meeting is taking place in a very crucial period in the world.

The people are suffering from many difficulties. The ordinary people are the most vulnerable group in any catastrophe. The workers are losing their jobs and the children are losing their education. But the bourgeoisie governments do not have any stable solution for the social problems.

They waste the time with talking and joking. In some occasions, the failed capitalist rulers direct the people to go behind the supernatural powers to find the solutions for the problems that created by the capitalists.

The top 10% of the world population earn 10 times more than the poorest 10%. No social justice and no equal rights are guaranteed. Two third (2/3) of the world population earn less than USD 10, per day. One ten (1/10) of the world population live under the poverty line.

This is the general picture that we have been experiencing from decades. The world hegemony is in the hand of the imperialists and the capitalists; and the facts and figures show the capitalists' system is fail. So the owners of the system have proved that they cannot ensure a safety world for vast majority. 20% of the population in 105 countries is under poverty line.

The United States has the fourth-highest poverty rate of 17.8%. Despite being the largest economy in the world, when we consider some of European Countries, nearly 16% of the population in Sweden,

German and Belgium are under the poverty line. 16% of the population in Japan and 20% of the population in Italy is under the poverty line.

The vast majority is suffering with difficulties and very few are in their economic climax.

We are certain the reason and cause of this unequal, unjustifiable and unbalance society, it is the neo liberal economic policy of the capitalists. The so-called development and growth of economy cannot be seen in the lives of the people. So we should not let the bourgeois and capitalist governments to escape behind the Covid 19 pandemic.

Even the corona virus beaten the people, the imperialists haven't stop their wars to exploit the resources, interference to the independent states and unjustifiable blockades.

We condemn the USA blockades against Cuba, Venezuela, Iran etc.

We condemn the Israel occupation in Palestine lands and demand to immediate withdrawal from the Palestine lands and we welcome the Palestine liberation struggle.

And further we extend our solidarity to the campaign to nominate the Cuban Henry Reeve Medical Brigade for Nobel peace Prize 2021.

We extend our solidarity to all the workers struggles for the better future of the working class.

Long live WFTU

Long Live International Solidarity of the working Class

## Quim Boix

Secretario General de la UIS Pensionistas & Jubilados  
Responsable de la FSM en el Estado Español (Excepto País Vasco)

Camaradas.

Es un placer reencontraros y saber que seguís luchando en base a las orientaciones de la FSM. Mi recuerdo para las personas dirigentes de la FSM que han fallecido en diversos países, y de las que hemos aprendido como mejorar nuestra lucha.

Yo quiero señalar mi acuerdo con las informaciones facilitadas por el Secretariado de la FSM, pidiendo que se añadan dos temas importantes que faltan:

1) Las Jornadas Mundiales, Cuarta y Quinta, de Lucha de nuestra UIS de PyJ, que realizamos todos los 1 de octubre. Cada año hemos superado el éxito del año anterior, ampliando el número de países y organizaciones clasistas de Pensionistas que han intervenido. En la web de nuestra UIS podéis comprobar el éxito progresivo de estas Jornadas Mundiales de Lucha.

2) El libro de 300 páginas, en letra pequeña, que ha prologado el camarada George Mavrikos, que tiene por título: “La FSM y el Movimiento Obrero y Sindical en el Estado Español entre 1945 y 2017”. Lo ha escrito el dirigente de nuestra UIS, e historiador, camarada José María Lucas Ranz. De momento estamos haciendo presentaciones públicas (presenciales y por internet) por todo el estado, y vendiendo su edición en papel. Pronto lo difundiremos por internet.

Respecto a las propuestas que nos hace el Secretariado como Plan de Acción, yo deseo añadir 6 cosas:

A) Que la dirección de la FSM prepare, cada año, antes del 15 de abril, un documento que podamos proponer a todas las organizaciones políticas anticapitalistas y antiimperialistas (es decir coincidentes con la FSM), para que lo firmen y así apoyen los contenidos de lucha de la clase obrera

el 1 de mayo. Así se irá clarificando cuales son las organizaciones que dan apoyo a la clase obrera para acabar con la explotación, y con las guerras.

B) Que este Consejo Presidencial encargue al Secretariado de la FSM el fijar una fecha del mes de noviembre en la que convoquemos una Jornada de Lucha Mundial del sindicalismo de clase. En esta fecha haremos coincidir las acciones de todas las organizaciones miembros de la FSM, que podrán ir desde la huelga general a todo tipo de actividades. Este año en noviembre ha habido la gran Huelga General en la India, otra en Perú, y otras que no hace falta citar. Hacerlas coincidir es una tarea de la FSM y una demostración de nuestra progresiva fuerza.

C) Las acciones públicas y reivindicativas de nuestra UIS en junio de cada año, para unificar las luchas en cada una de las 6 Regiones en que nos coordinamos territorialmente: Africa, América, Asia, Europa, ex Países Socialistas y Países Árabes.

D) Las 6 Conferencias Regionales de nuestra UIS en cada una de estas 6 zonas territoriales que se desarrollarán dentro del año 2021.

E) Nuestra UIS se suma a la propuesta hecha por Valentín Pacho, de que la FSM haga una Campaña Internacional para que todos los Servicios de Salud y farmacéuticos sean solo estatales, públicos y gratuitos.

F) Añadir a la propuesta del 8 de marzo que se haga una Campaña Mundial para acabar con la injusta diferencia de género en los salarios y en las pensiones.

Hay un sindicato afiliado a la FSM que en sus documentos afirma estar en contra de los Planes Privados de Pensiones, pero luego, en su práctica sindical, con el pretexto de controlar la gestión de sindicatos de la CSI o creyendo estar obligados por diferentes Convenios Colectivos, participa de la gestión de este tipo de Planes Privados como un mal menor. Hemos de encontrar la forma de acabar con esta contradicción.

Camaradas. Estamos avanzando en la unidad del sindicalismo de clase y en el año 2.021 se fundará el sindicato ASC, Alternativa Sindical de Clase, uniendo a una parte importante de los 13 actuales sindicatos del estado español afiliados a la FSM. Sin embargo, no fuimos capaces de realizar un gran y único acto central de celebración del 75 aniversario de la FSM, dado que la mayoría de sindicatos de nacionalidad consideran negativo luchar al lado del resto de sindicatos de clase a pesar de que tenemos que enfrentarnos al mismo gobierno socialdemócrata estatal.

¡VIVA LA FSM! ¡VIVA LA CLASE OBRERA!  
¡VIVA EL INTERNACIONALISMO PROLETARIO!  
¡VIVA EL SOCIALISMO!  
Gracias camaradas por vuestra atención.



## Pieris Pieri

Head of the WFTU European Regional Office (EUROF)  
Head of Intern. Rel. of Pancyprian Federation of Labour, Cyprus

Dear comrades.

On behalf of the European Regional Office we convey our class solidarity and our wishes for the health of all of us.

The Presidential Council is taking place in an extremely difficult period of time for workers and the trade union movement, since the whole planet is facing the unprecedented conditions of the pandemic.

In Europe every day hundreds of people lose their lives as public health systems collapse because of the neoliberal anti-labor policies imposed by the European Union and governments.

The pandemic has highlighted the failure of these policies but above all has confirmed the anti-social nature of the capitalist system, the intense inequalities and the commercialization of health. The big multinational companies in the pharmaceutical sector have engaged in a race to sell the vaccine and increase their profits

At the same time as social inequalities, poverty and the risk of hunger are increasing, the EU and NATO are spending billions of euros on the war industry.

Today the capital is exploiting the situation to once again attack labour rights. Many workers are losing their jobs and put into unemployment without any income for a decent life, others are forced to work without the necessary measures to protect their health.

The pandemic period has favored the wider use of flexible forms of employment and teleworking. With the implementation of teleworking, workers are effectively driven into isolation and this has a negative impact on unity and solidarity, as well as on their participation in trade

union action and class struggles. Isolated and alienated workers become victims of capitalist exploitation.

Under the pretext of the pandemic, measures are imposed that restrict the trade union rights of workers gained through hard struggles. Solidarity and unity of workers around class unions is a basic prerequisite for resisting the attacks on labour rights and the implementation of flexible forms of employment. To assert the right to stable and permanent employment and collective agreements, for minimum wages that will ensure a decent life for workers.

As far as the action of the European Office is concerned, we have tried to maintain our contact and develop a satisfactory program of activities in cooperation with the member organizations and the TUI's. We had online meetings of the Secretariat, a joint meeting with the WFTU youth working committee and we organized an online discussion with the TUI Public Services on the issue of public health. We expressed our solidarity with workers' struggles and we used the opportunities offered by technology and social media to promote our positions.

In the current conditions we have to try harder. In the particularly difficult conditions we are experiencing today, we evaluate positively the report of action and as a European Office, we declare that we will continue to support with all our forces the actions and initiatives of WFTU.

These conditions create for us more responsibility and duty to be worthy of the 75-year history of the WFTU, to strengthen solidarity, to intensify our class struggles against unpopular neoliberal policies and attacks, and to coordinate our joint action as a class trade union movement in Europe for a better world without exploitation and wars.

Thank you



## KAPENGA KANDOLO Vincent

Membre du Conseil Présidentiel de la FSM

Membre du BAF/FSM

Membre de la Coordination Nationale FSM/RDC

SGA/CTP

Camarade Président de la FSM. Camarade SG de la FSM. Très chers Camarades du Conseil Présidentiel de la FSM

Nonobstant la menace de la Pandémie de COVID 19, cette rencontre, comme d'autres qui se sont tenues de manière virtuelle, constitue la preuve de notre engagement à ne pas reculer et à mener le combat contre toutes les conséquences négatives qui se sont abattues sur les travailleurs et les peuples du Monde Entier par le fait des capitalistes en quête des profits. Nous souhaitons un vaccin sûr et gratuit pour tous et que la santé des travailleurs sera au-dessus du profit. Les 75 ans de la FSM ont vécu certes et malgré la Pandémie, la FSM devient de plus en plus forte et de plus en plus grande.

En Afrique les impérialistes y compris la Chine veulent maintenir le contrôle qui relie les économies africaines au Centre soumettant de fait la périphérie à l'exploitation et à la domination. Les multinationales et les impérialistes mènent le jeu par la manipulation de la petite bourgeoisie, pour instaurer et perpétuer un désordre institutionnel caractérisé par des systèmes politiques de fausse conscience, corrompus et acquis à la cause impérialiste sous contrôle des institutions telles que la Banque Mondiale et le FMI. L'Afrique est caractérisée par un système économique extravertie, une alimentation des rebellions autour des sites miniers juteux, un système éducatif en déraillement, une gestion confuse des services publics souvent menacés de privatisation si pas privatisés, un chômage excessif surtout des jeunes, un espace du monde où le sang coule sans que les organisations internationales voire les ONG internationales n'en parlent. L'Afrique est aussi un espace où l'eau, l'électricité posent problème, un espace dans lequel le salaire minimum est loin d'être une garantie face au coût de la vie, un espace où le travail devient de plus en plus précaire.

La RDC venait de connaître après les dernières élections politiques de fin 2018, sa première alternance du pouvoir entre le Président Joseph KABILA, sortant, et le Président Félix Tshisekedi, entrant, les

deux hommes ont dû signer une coalition et ce mariage contre nature est la cause d'un délabrement du système socio-économique soumettant ainsi la population et les travailleurs à une pauvreté extrême par la chute sans précédent du pouvoir d'achat avec un monnaie locale en dégringolade.

Nous avons salué l'initiative des bureaux centraux de la FSM pour avoir organisé un séminaire WEB sur "le développement des secteurs agro-pastoral, minier, sanitaire, de l'éducation, des transports et de la pêche, vecteurs du développement économique, de la création des milliers d'emploi, de l'élimination du chômage, de la pauvreté et l'amélioration du bien-être social des populations vulnérables du monde". Nous souhaitons que cette initiative du Secrétariat Général de la FSM ne s'arrête pas là.

Nous présentons nos excuses pour le report de l'activité Panafricaine de KINSHASA. Cependant, nous n'avons pas perdu espoir qu'après la maîtrise de la Pandémie que nous envisageons, ensemble avec les membres de la Coordination Nationale FSM/RDC, organiser une activité à caractère international. Nous nous sommes engagés à faire connaître la FSM en RDC et à recruter le plus des membres possibles. Nous souhaitons au cours de ces assises virtuelles une déclaration de soutien aux travailleurs et au peuple qui souffrent de la RDC, le pays de LUMUMBA, afin que cessent la crise politique des partenaires au pouvoir et l'insécurité à l'est du pays qui sont la cause d'une situation dramatique accentuée par la crise sanitaire liée à la COVID-19.

Nous souscrivons à toutes les décisions qui seront prises lors de la réunion virtuelle 2020 du Conseil Présidentiel de la FSM et quant au XVIII Congrès Syndical Mondial, nous préférons soumettre à l'auguste assemblée, de bien vouloir se pencher sur la proposition d'une exception pour le renouvellement du mandat du camarade George Mavrikos. Nous sommes ensemble avec le peuple de CUBA et nous plaidons pour l'octroi du prix Nobel de la paix aux brigades médicales cubaines « Henry Reeve » pour leur action louable pendant la pandémie et à la levée des sanctions par les impérialistes américains. Nous soutenons le peuple de la Palestine et la lutte pour la reconnaissance de la Palestine comme Etat indépendant et souverain avec Jérusalem Est comme capitale. Nous sommes solidaires aux peuples et travailleurs de Grèce, du Liban, du Brésil, de Syrie, du Soudan, du Sahara occidental, du Venezuela et tous les autres peuples du monde victimes du capitalisme barbare !

Que vive la FSM.

Que vive le Conseil Présidentiel.





## C.H. Venkatachalam

Head of the WFTU Financial Control Committee  
General Secretary of TUI Banks, Insurance & Financial Unions  
Coordinator of the WFTU Finance Committee  
General Secretary of AIBEA

Comrade President, Com General Secretary and dear leaders of the Presidential Council, greetings to all of you.

We feel sad that we have lost thousands of workers all over the world due to the corona pandemic. It would not be wrong to say that all of them are victims of the neglect of the capitalist policies of various Government in relation to health of the people and succumbing to the profit making greed of the multinational corporations who believe that life saving medicines and vaccines are also commercial commodities to make more and more profits. Here, we must salute Cuba, their Government and people who stood out outstandingly in going to the help of people in many countries by sending their doctors and medicines. Cuba remains the symbol of humanism.

Corona pandemic - It has exposed the inadequacies of health system in various countries. It has exposed the vulnerability of the social system in protecting the poor masses. It has exposed the class bias of the economic system. It has revealed that in neo-liberal economy, anything and everything is business as usual i.e. PROFIT FIRST – MAN NEXT.

The lesson and experience during this pandemic period only reinforces the need to intensify our struggle against the barbaric exploitative policies. We are proud that we have completed 75 long years of glorious existence, full of class oriented struggles, achievements and experiences. It is for this precise reason that WFTU is destined to play a crucial role in the emerging period. We observe that even during this difficult period, WFTU has undertaken many programmes and visits. For some more time, till things become normal, these efforts should continue. Once situation improves, we can plan other programmes.

TUI BIFU – MEETING ON 20TH OCTOBER, 2020

Having regard to the importance of the TUI – banking and finance

sector, it was felt necessary to reactivate and revive the functioning of TUI BIFU. For this purpose a meeting of representatives of various union from this sector was organized by WFTU on 20th Oct. 2020. Trade Unions from Banks & Finance Sector from 13 countries participated in this virtual meeting. 20 leaders were present in the meeting.

All the participants highlighted the problems faced by them in their countries in the finance sector and emphasised the need to move together. Many of them explained the attempts being made by the Governments in their countries to privatise the banking sector. At the end of the meeting, the following Resolutions were approved.

1. Conveying our condolences over the demise of the people and workers all over the world due the covid-19 infection.
2. Hailing WFTU on the glorious occasion of its 75th Anniversary and for all its struggles and achievements all these years and to remain as the true class-oriented militant global trade union organisation.
3. Resolving to fight back the increasing attacks in the banking and finance sector being engineered and attempted in various countries.
4. Congratulating the people and Government of Cuba for their outstanding humanitarian contributions in the present pandemic situation to help various countries.
5. To hold the next Congress of the TUIBIFU during the first quarter of 2021.
6. To form a functional Adhoc Committee to carry on the activities of TUIBIFU till the holding of the Conference.

FUNDS: As usual, funds has become an important challenge for our activities. Corona pandemic has added and aggravated the problem. We are facing severe financial crunch. The difficulties are less said the better. We know our Unions everywhere are facing problems. But we all have to find our own ways to augment the finance of WFTU.

After the decision by the Secretariat, it has been decided that in each country, there must be drive to mobilise some contributions. Already WFTU has launched this drive in India. The results are somewhat encouraging. There is some response from Nepal also. But such special drives have to be taken in every country. Further, the annual fees for this year also needs to be paid by our unions. It is impossible to carry on our activities without funds. Hence we hope that this meeting will take some concrete decision to improve the funds position of WFTU. If we ignore this, we are bound to suffer. We are sure our unions will not permit this to happen.

Let us move forward, overcome the problems, meet the challenges.



## Premal Kumar Khanal

Member of the Presidential Council of the WFTU  
Coordinator of the WFTU Nepal Office  
Confederation of Nepalese Professionals, Nepal

Dear Comrades, Comrade President, Comrade General secretary,  
All presidential council members of WFTU

In this period, some key leaders who have contributed to the cause of WFTU have lost their lives. I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to those leaders and to their bereaved families. Since last year, COVID-19 pandemic has affected millions of working classes all over the world. Health care facilities including the social security have been disrupted and worst-case scenario prevails in the least developed countries with high number of death rates, unemployment, and growing poverty. However, in spite of difficulties, WFTU has done praiseworthy work by conducting meetings, seminars, trainings through the digital platforms. On 3rd of November, comrade General secretary addressed among the Nepali WFTU cadres and about 9000 viewers were present during the address which has led to massive publicity of WFTU activities in Nepal.

There is presence of WFTU coordination committee to conduct the activities of WFTU consisting of 19 members. An office is well managed which was inaugurated by Comrade president Makwayiba during his last visit to Nepal. Covid-19 has restricted the activities to the virtual medium. Through Coordination committee, vital works and activities related to WFTU has been conducted. Last year, WFTU coordination committee organized WFTU Asia-Pacific regional meeting and seminar which was a grand success. In total, 5 of such kind of international programs have been successfully organized. Likewise, every year May day and WFTU day is celebrated with passion under the initiations of the coordination committee.

Last year, WFTU Coordination committee has published a souvenir consisting of articles and archives related to trade union movement. The commercial advertisement included in the souvenir further helps to strengthen the financial side. In coming days such activity will be continued. Similarly, a demand paper is presented to the Nepal government

in order to address the issues of working class including the migrant Nepali workers, the frontline health workers involved in COVID-19 treatment. Likewise, on the 75th Anniversary of WFTU, TUIPs Coordination committee organized a seminar and feeding program to the poor and homeless people affected due to the pandemic. On the auspicious occasion of 75 years of WFTU, we are planning to organize a seminar and a poem competition on national basis on the issues of COVID-19 and its impact on Nepali working class people. We are also planning to conduct “WFTU Fund raising campaign” in Nepal by mobilizing huge numbers of frontline trade union activists starting with a 10 \$ collection from each which will be sent to the headquarter with the details of the collection in coming month. The WFTU secretariat has brought out a draft on the action plan of WFTU for the next six months. With kind permission, I would like to present my proposal which I hope will be matter of discussion on the issues of WFTU.

- A demand letter to be presented in the same day under the banner of WFTU highlighting the problems faced by the working class due to Covid-19 crisis to the respective governments by the respective trade unions and get the world's attention.
- WFTU to take active role in coordination and consulting with UN specialized agencies (ILO, WHO, FAO, UNESCO and others) for effective treatment, relief, rehabilitation programs and initiations through these agencies prioritizing the least developed and poorer countries due to COVID -19 crisis.
- Organize meetings, seminar, Training program through virtual medium with the initiation of WFTU and TUIs on continental and national basis.
- Provision of “letter of appreciation” to the cadres involved in WFTU fund raising campaign. A strict policy on the collection of annual affiliation fee must be taken now onwards.
- Publication of news and views based on ideological and theoretical bases in the form of e-paper as a way to continue WFTU activities.
- For the successful organization of upcoming 18th Congress, on the basis of capacity and number of each affiliate trade union, the levy may be charged from 500-1000\$ accordingly to facilitate financial collection.
- Establishment of new TUIs, related to cultural artists and performers; TUIs related to progressive journalist must be established. ITUC has affiliated international federation of journalists (IFJ) and has started media propaganda which much concern us.
- Creative competitions in the form of essays, poems and songs must be organized in continental basis.

I hope this meeting will bring out the important discussions and way forward for the present and future of WFTU on ideological, theoretical and organizational fronts.

Long live Working-class Unity,  
Long live WFTU.





## Pierpaolo Leonardi

Member of the Presidential Council of the WFTU  
Gen Sec. of Unione Sindicale di Base, Italy

Dear comrades of the WFTU Presidential Council

General Secretary George Mavrikos

President Mzwandile Michael Makwayiba

We are still fully involved worldwide in the tragic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, which is causing thousands of deaths in many countries around the world. In particular, the massacre is taking place in those areas of the world where the exploitation of resources, colonialism and imperialism have devastated the environment and denied the self-determination of peoples.

But above all, the virus has hit the countries with advanced capitalism, the rich and economically evolved north, thus demonstrating that capitalism is not able, and has no interest, to defend the health of populations and to guarantee a future for humanity. On the contrary, the socialist countries have been in the vanguard in governing the pandemic, protecting the health of the populations and the economy and have prevented the massacre from taking place on their territories.

Cuba, China, Vietnam, Kerala in particular, have shown that production planning and the government of society are indispensable to ensure the economic stability of the country and the health of the population. The intervention of the Cuban doctors of the Henry Reeve Brigade in Italy was the most sensational demonstration of how the continuous dismantling of public health in favor of private health has led to such a disaster that it has had to ask for the help and intervention of doctors from a socialist country to which Italy denies commercial relations by adhering to the infamous bloqueo.

USB is in the campaign for the Nobel Peace Prize to the Henry Reeve Brigade.

During the long months that we spent in Italy, USB has been constantly at the head of the struggle against the attempt to offload the material cost of the pandemic crisis on the workers, the unemployed, the precarious, the seasonal workers. Already on March 25th we carried out the first and only general strike in Italy that was very much participated and that in the sectors essential to the fight against the emergency was carried out in a symbolic way for only one minute.

In spite of this, the Government has sanctioned the strike and fined us thousands of Euros for violating the anti-strike regulations that in this period are suffering further restrictions also thanks to the complicity of ITUC member unions.

We continued to fight, even though the Government issued provisions prohibiting rallies and demonstrations trying to take advantage of the pandemic to reduce democratic rights to strike and demonstrate. In particular, strikes and blockades promoted by USB are continuously taking place in schools in collaboration with student organizations, research institutes, health care, transport and logistics, among tourism workers, and among seasonal and precarious workers who have not been guaranteed any concrete economic contribution.

At this time it is important to continue the battle against the coronavirus and those who try to use it to discipline society, make profits and reduce wages and rights to workers worldwide. It is equally important to take the lead in the battle to ensure that vaccines are free for everyone and the right to reproducibility.

Today the WFTU has the opportunity to demonstrate to the world the validity of its choices, pointing even more forcefully and authoritatively to the path of system change towards socialism to ensure a future for the people.



## George Perros

Vice-President of the WFTU  
Head of Secretariat of PAME, Greece

Dear comrades,

On behalf of PAME, we send you militant, comradely greetings. Wishes for strength and health to all.

We express our solidarity to the people of Palestine, Cuba, Syria, to all the peoples who fight against imperialism.

Dear comrades, as we speak humanity is in a new capitalist crisis. A crisis that the pandemic accelerated. A crisis that brings with it both a new savage attack on the wages and labor rights of the working class, and a terrible attack on the democratic and trade union rights of the workers. In Greece, between the two waves of the pandemic, the Greek Government did not take any substantial measures to strengthen the Public Health System.

Instead, it imposed a ban on demonstrations. It legislated unpaid work. It legislated the abolition of the 8-hour workday by imposing a 10-hour workday. It legislates the prohibition of the strike, and the abolition of the General Assemblies of the workers. It attacked workers' rallies and demonstrations again and again. They arrested dozens of trade unionists. While with its persecution it leads unions and trade unionists to financial annihilation, through the imposition of huge fines. All this was done to secure the power and profits of business groups.

Against this situation, PAME took a series of initiatives and actions at national and international level. Despite the weaknesses, delays or mistakes we may have made in these unprecedented circumstances from the first moment of the outbreak of the pandemic, we gave the slogan WE STAY STRONG! Under the masks we have a voice!

Taking all the necessary protection measures, we fought for the continuous operation of the unions, their presence and intervention in

the workplaces. The protection of workers from both the pandemic and the employer-government's attack.

We organized actions that broke the silence and the Greek Government attacked them with violence but also slander and anti-communism. They failed. The voice of the workers was heard. And in this direction we will continue for the next period.

However, making our self-criticism, dear colleagues, we will say that in these circumstances we did not succeed to contribute more decisively to the rallying of new forces with the WFTU in Europe. The dirty role of the ETUC, the cultivation of disappointment and defeatism in these particular conditions were factors that dominated the union movement in Europe. Throughout this period, the role of these forces has been to co-form and co-sign with Employers-EU and Governments the new anti-workers' measures that serve the competitiveness and profitability of multinationals. Such was the role of the GSEE in our country.

But also the last period, the two lines in the international trade union movement in our country and internationally have become even clearer. A number of European trade unions, against the bans, were steadfast in the workplaces, next to the workers, organizing rallies and mobilizations. So we have the duty as PAME, to get in touch with these unions, to support them, to express them the solidarity of the class unions and to discuss with them, about the class movement and its perspective that can give a new, militant spirit in workers' struggles.

To strengthen the fight against our common enemy. The capitalist exploitation that impoverishes the working class. Imperialism, which escalates the interventions, wars, embargoes, sanctions, imposed in a number of countries by the US, EU, NATO, Israel. To demand immediate measures to protect workers and the peoples facing the pandemic and the anti-workers' attack. To requisition now the private health sector, which is speculating while human lives are being lost. For exclusively Public-Free Healthcare for all.

In this direction we agree with the action plan proposed by the Secretariat and we will give all our forces for its implementation.



# Swadesh Dev Roye

WFTU Deputy General Secretary  
Centre of Indian Trade Unions, India

Dear Comrade President,

At the outset I congratulate the General Secretary and the Comrades of WFTU Central Offices, Athens led by Comrade Anda for steering the activities of WFTU with highly appreciable scales despite the Covid-19 pandemic related socio-political restrictions.

Covid-19 pandemic worldwide crisis has brought into light the inherent strength of Socialism and class oriented fighting character of working class in one hand, and on the other hand, inhuman barbaric character of capitalist system and cruelty of the capitalist class has been exposed once again.

In pushing utterly anti-people policies and in snatching basic rights of the working class, the pandemic situation is misused as 'advantage' by the capitalist ruling polities of the capitalist countries. Ultimately the triumph of Socialism and dooms of Capitalism is inevitable.

This Presidential Council meeting is taking place in the background of the celebration of the 75 years of the foundation of WFTU and the forthcoming 18th World Trade Union Congress to be held in Vietnam.

One of the clarion calls of WFTU from the foundation Congress was the fight against the imperialist forces. Today finance capital driven neo-liberal globalization has lost its appeal and capitalism is in systemic crisis and financial capital promoted fascistic forces are surfacing in the world.

At the moment in 37 countries there are authoritarian extreme rightwing regimes in power. Therefore fight against imperialism has become all the more imperative and urgent.

The scheduled 18th Congress of WFTU is significant for the reasons that it is being held in the socialist country – Vietnam.

Further it would take place with the world situation under the ill influence of pandemic, ever aggravating capitalist economic situation and the threat of fascistic authoritarian ruling polities. I hope our General Secretary will draw the path of preparation for the WFTU Congress.

The online address of Comrade Mavrikos to the members of all the WFTU affiliates in India on 14th October 2020 was a very important event.

It was very successful in the sense that participants were very much enthused and motivated. The WFTU Fund campaign was successful and emulative.

Red salute to all the Comrades!

## H. Mahadevan

WFTU Deputy General Secretary  
Head of the WFTU Asia-Pacific Regional Office  
Acting President of All India Trade Union Congress, India

I would not repeat what Com. Amarjeet Kaur spoken 15th Dec 2020 on behalf of AITUC India. I also speak on behalf of APRO. The current situation of AITUC India is that of worker-peasant / Farmers Unity, an exemplary example of united struggle of the working class against the programs and policies of the Government, both at the Centre as well as the States, against the anti workers, anti-farmers and anti peoples policies, the All India General Strike launched by all central trade unions and independent federations on the 26th Nov 2020, followed by the massive protest march to Delhi by the Farmers, one supporting the other and extending solidarity to each other which is a unique example resembling the united struggles during the colonial rule. The farmers struggle is continuing for the 21st day today.

I would like to concentrate on 2 or 3 issues only. Present pandemic's big casualty is democracy. The impact of Covid-19 on various aspects of social life of people has been widely discussed. One important aspect is the impact on the state of democracy, to freedom of people and human rights. Democratic rights and human rights have suffered setbacks in most of the countries after the onset of Corona virus.

What began as a worldwide health crisis has become a part of global crises of democracy and that governments in a very part of the world have abused their powers in the name of public health, seizing the opportunity to undermining human and democratic rights. Governments have used the pandemic as an excuse to curb citizens rights. Very often this is done by undermining the institutions that protect their rights and sometimes by brazen and direct assault on the people.

There are more restrictions on freedom of expression and media freedom, Ethnic, religious and other minor groups were specially target during this period in the democratic countries also. Lockdown measures have been used in a discriminatory manner and regimes have tried to hide their failures by scapegoating minorities and marginalised groups

or by attacking critics. Immigrants rights have been violated across nations and international migrants have suffered.

Millions of informal / unorganised workers and their families walked across the country several miles from South to North etc in India, which exposed the plight and conditions of the people.

Another aspect of the assault on the rights is the diminished space for protests. Demands for better governance and accountability have met with brutality from autocratic government and wrong and inadequate responses from democratic regimes. Many democratic countries have degenerated into autocrats. In the above background, we view the working class movements in the Asian countries. We see: TU laws getting amended to the disadvantage of the workers and to the advantage of the capital and owners of the industries. Monopolies are growing with unchecked powers and without even the normal/moderate restrictions. Profit by all means allowed to capitalists. Privatization of public assets are unleashed in all shears, including service sector. Our International/national struggle on the above will have to continue.

‘ Working from Home ‘ fast growing: One other fast growing issue is “working from Home “. This has been extensively happening in several countries including India, violating every aspect of law, social concerns, working hours, safety, work and productivity norms, work culture, human relations, principles of natural justice, compensation policies, obstructing and adversely affecting the ‘ work life balance’. “Permanent working from home” is becoming the new normal in many areas, particularly in white collar and IT related work. Accordingly organizations have also learned to benefit from this practice of “permanent work from Home” and plan to make it the norm of the jobs.

We in WFTU should study the new norms brought by the capitalists to divide the working class unity in the future. We support the correct demand of the WFTU for Nobel Prize to CUBA for their exemplary health work. We condemn the attack on Palestine by Israel and on the Middle East countries by the imperialists and their henchmen governments. We strongly disapprove the fascist methods and actions by the governments. America / USA brought down Donald Trump. But similar Trumps, the pro-capitalist mafia leaders are else where also including India. We shall fight for them more vigorously, more militantly and more unitedly with the working class and their allies, the peasants. Our fight against privatization and monopoly capital shall continue relentlessly. We await the historic 18th World Trade Union congress of WFTU decided to be held in Vietnam with great expectations.

We shall struggle we shall win.

Long Live WFTU-Workers of the World, Unity.





## Dr. Wajedul Islam Khan

Member of the Presidential Council of the WFTU  
Gen. Sec. of Bangladesh Trade Union Congress, Bangladesh

Comrade President and dear comrades,

On behalf of the Bangladesh Trade Union Center (BTUC), I would like to express my warmest greetings to you all. It is a great pleasure for all of us that this year we have marked 75th founding anniversary of the WFTU with a historic legacy of class oriented global trade union movement aiming towards a peaceful and just society.

The whole world is experiencing an unprecedented situation because of the Covid 19 pandemic. This pandemic poses a serious socio-economic challenges to the global working class as well as toiling working people of Bangladesh. This pandemic situation has created a complicated consequence for workers of Bangladesh in terms of their livelihood. At the beginning of the pandemic and consequential lockdown owners of the factories declared a sudden and unnoticed shutdown of factories and industrial zones. Therefore, millions of workers have been resulted in several impacts in the form of retrenchment of workers, unemployment, under employment and labour law violation for private sector worker in Bangladesh including large number of Informal Sectors workers. Workers have been recalled to join their work and because of lockdown they started their journey by foot to their workplace depending on a hope to have already owing salaries. It was a painful experience that big capitals and owners of our industrial sector have enjoyed the benefit of that compensation packages but they shared very negligible amount of this benefit with their workers and employees. Workers in Bangladesh are in everyday struggle for their wages and trade union rights when illegal dismissal, suspensions, underpaying and nonpaying of wages are common phenomenon even in this Covid period.

Dear friends, we all understand that this pandemic has posed an extraordinary thought and apprehension in relation to 'workplace health safety' for workers. In Bangladesh, we have already raised the demand to set up health care Center in every industrial zone. We don't know when

and how long this pandemic will continue. We even don't know about the effectiveness of impending Covid 19 vaccine instead of having danger of vaccine monopoly and national chauvinism regarding vaccine. Consequently, this situation compelled us for a slow and steady opening up of national and international economy. This understanding necessarily requires a guideline from the working class perspective to handle the pandemic-time global trade union movement. Our fundamental position to consider healthcare as a basic human rights against the thought to consider health care as a commodity has again proved its vitality. In this difficult scenario we also experienced military tension and arms race in South Asia at the cost of public money and hunger of millions of workers.

Dear Comrades, we are happy to announce you that in Bangladesh, under the leadership of BTUC with other five affiliate organization and main stream trade union organization of Bangladesh have currently started a countrywide united struggle. Simultaneously Jute workers are continuing the movement on their issues. BTUC president Comrade Shahidullah Chowdhury as a convener leading that joint struggle of Jute mill worker which involves about hundred thousands of workers demanding immediate opening of Jute mills and payment of wages. At the same time our comrades are struggling in the frontline of Garment Workers movements and other sectors upholding spirit of WFTU. Despite having the difficulties posed by ruling class to establish basic unions at the factories our workers are struggling very hard. This situation is a big obstacle for Bangladeshi workers to organize and agitate for their just demand. Although the government of Bangladesh ratified the Art.87 and 98 of ILO convention but this ratification not yet properly reflected within our labour law and industrial sectors. Consequently, workers are being assaulted and harassed widely while they exercise their trade union activities.

Dear Colleagues, workers of Bangladesh have become the victim of neo liberal economic policies and basically it started after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibu Rahman. The military rulers who came to power after killing Bangabandhu started a speedy and malevolent denationalization process with a prescription from World Bank and IMF in our whole economic sector. By keeping millions of workers in misery, this unjust and inhumane process still continued. Instead of sharing profit and ownership with workers the owners are brutally exploiting them. Covid 19 Pandemic therefore has clearly exposed bankruptcy of so-called neoliberal agenda and strongly necessitates the importance of Social safety net for Working class.

Thank you



## Ali Rıza Küçükosmanoğlu

Member of the Presidential Council of the WFTU  
Gen. Sec. of TUI Transport  
General President of Nakliyat-IS, Turkey

Dear Comrade Mzwandile Michael Makwayiba, President of the WFTU,  
Dear Comrade George Mavrikos, General Secretary of the WFTU, Dis-  
tinguished Members of President Council of the WFTU,

I would like to greet you with my best revolutionary feelings. This year we honour the 75th Anniversary of the foundation of the WFTU, the class oriented struggling organization of the Working Class, which has been fighting against Capitalism with the aim of eliminating the wage slavery for 75 years. I hereby commemorate all the comrades with affection and respect whom we lost physically during the struggle of 75 years.

Dear comrades, nowadays, the human beings in all over the world have been experiencing a historical period. Coronavirus/Covid-19 Pandemic continues causing trouble to the humanity. The number of deaths and cases is increasing day by day.

In such a period while people are striving for their lives, the imperialist gang led by the US and including the European Union and other imperialist countries continue to attack the peoples and Working Class in all over the world by means of their economic organizations such as the IMF and World Bank, military organizations such as the NATO and spy organizations such as the CIA.

They implement the most despicable and inhuman policies against Venezuela, Bolivia and other countries in Latin America. Their economic and political blockade against Socialist Cuba continues. They impose their inhuman policies also to the Middle East, Caucasia and the other regions throughout the world. In cooperation with Zionist Israel, they implement all-out annihilation policy against Palestinian People. They continue to implement imperialist conspiracies, policies of war and occupation against Syrian People. In this historical period, the native and foreign Finance-Capitalists in many countries like France, Greece, India,

Turkey, Brazil, Chile and other countries have political powers attack the Working Class and have them pass many new anti-people and anti-workers laws.

The number of deaths is the highest in the United States, the centre of imperialism. As we know, more than three hundred thousand people died due to Covid-19 pandemic in the US. We can clearly see that the US is a country where the whole health system has collapsed and people can receive no healthcare if they don't have money. In this period, a reality has once again imposed itself: Socialism is the future of the humanity. In spite of a constant economic and political blockade of sixty years and countless imperialist provocations of many kinds, Socialist Cuba has done its best to serve for the humanity by implementing humane policies and sending "Medical Brigades" to some forty countries.

The World Federation of Trade Unions has made the right evaluations, taken right decisions in this period. And this period brings about some opportunities for us to strengthen our struggle. By making use of these opportunities, we can prove the class oriented trade union perspective and struggle of the WFTU. Another fact is that the unions in some countries under the influence of yellow-collaborationist unionism, which is concretized in the ITUC, have left the Working Class to the mercy of bourgeoisies, monopolies, capitalists and their political powers.

At this point a critical question arises: As WFTU, to what extend could we make use of these opportunities? Of course we are aware of the fact that the WFTU, the TUI's and the affiliated unions in different countries have limited possibilities in terms of using these opportunities. But because of our responsibility to the Working Class, we should be able to end up with this period by creating a more organized and effective WFTU.

We know that the number of WFTU affiliates has clearly increased, which is a positive situation. However; we can't say that we have succeeded to make TUI's more active and organized, which is a clear situation totally independent from the right policies implemented by the WFTU Secretariat. It's also critical that as WFTU, we should not only give a militant ideological struggle against imperialists, Finance-Capitalists, their political powers and collaborators. But also, we should find the ways of improving the economic struggle in our primary battle fields, that is, in the unions and among the Working Class. I believe that the 18th Congress of WFTU to be held in the future will help us fulfill our responsibilities in a more proper way.

Long live the WFTU!

Long live Proletarian Internationalism



# Renat Karimov

Member of the WFTU Financial Control Committee  
Chairman of the Trade Union of Migrant Workers, Russia

Hello dear members of the Presidential Council!

Let me briefly describe the situation in Russia. And in particular the situation with labor migrants.

Unemployment has grown and is currently around seven percent. This is a lot for Russia, because we still have a hidden part of unemployment.

About five million workers are registered with the labor exchange and receive state unemployment benefits. This is very little money. It is impossible to live on them.

As a result of the restrictions associated with the pandemic, salaries have dropped. All this together led to a reduction in the living standards of workers and people.

The scope for collective action to protect the rights of employees is also diminishing. In addition to the natural restrictions associated with the pandemic, parliament adopts laws restricting workers' rights to collective action and mass protests.

In these conditions, the role and importance of workers' solidarity increases. The value of helping each other in difficult conditions.

Trade unions need to look for new forms of protection for workers' rights in a pandemic. At the same time, the role of social networks will increase, in general, the role of online work will increase. Exchange of information, experience of working in new conditions, manifestations of solidarity, expressed in networks, and so on and so on.

We support this kind of work that our main headquarters in Greece is doing.

The work carried out by the General Secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions, Comrade Georgios Mavrikos.

This is a good example for all of us.

Labor migrants in Russia also experience the same difficulties along with Russian workers. However, they often work longer than the accepted working hours. More than eight hours a day. More than forty hours a week.

They do not receive any additional payment for such work. In this way, they destroy the achieved balance between employers and employees. This provokes a natural protest among Russian workers. This is a big problem. This destroys the unity of the working class in the struggle against the capitalists.

This is the biggest problem.

Our union is working to resolve it. Above decreasing it. We require additional payment for overtime hours.



## Dr. Adnan Azzouz

WFTU Secretariat Member  
WFTU Middle East Office Director

Dear comrade George Mavrikos  
General Secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions

Dear Comrade Michael Makawaiba  
President of the World Federation of Trade Unions

Dear Comrades, members of the WFTU Presidential Council

I would like to thank brother Mavrikos our Secretary General and my other colleagues; members of secretariat for the great contributions and work that they have carried out since the pandemic.

Concerning the Arab area, a lot of workers have suffered from the COVID-19 Lockdown, so we have to think more on virtual workshops and seminars that help these young people for the reactivation of their teleworks. We could benefit from the ILO and ALO Seminars and workshops. ILO has carried out tens of virtual seminars about the effect of the pandemic on young people, the methods of the transition from the informal to the formal sector due to the Pandemic, the social security system and its fragility as a result of the pandemic, the laws that govern the transition into the telework...among many others.

The Arab area is suffering more out of the US intervention in the area. This is manifested in the Caesar Act that was issued by the U.S. Administration in September 2019. This act punishes any person or entities or governments that attempts to have any economic relations with the Syrian governments. This matter has affected millions of Syrian people who do not have any electricity, fuel or any economic facilities. Also, this act has affected Lebanon, Iraq and Iran and prevented the natural cooperation between the region governments and peoples. Thus, I advocate the WFTU action plan of having an international campaign to try to raise these sanctions and having protests in front of the US embassies in

the world to expose their role in looting the Syrian oil and preventing Syrian people from getting it.

Also, more sanctions are directing against Iran and the last assassination of the Iranian scientist 'Zadah' shows that US and Israel are attempting to send the region into more chaos.

Israel is attacking our Palestinian brothers and sisters and more aggression is directing our Palestinian people. Thus, I fully support the initiatives of Palestinian day and campaign regarding raising the international community awareness through drawings and protests.

We call the Sudanese government to give all rights to GFTU of Sudan. We salute brother Yousef and other Sudanese cadres who have been subject to the worse attack of the Sudanese government who has deprived them from their rights and participation.

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of WFTU, we have to honor our past to look steady into the future. I propose to have a virtual museum into our website that contains all documents, photos and videos of our rich history that can be interactive for any visitor similar to the environment of a real museum.

We stand in firm position next to our people in Cuba, Venezuela and the struggle of all our brothers and sisters in Europe who are attempting to fight COVID-19 negative effects of their governments in PAME, Cyprus, USB Italy, Nakliatech of Turkey and everywhere.

I totally advocate the holding of 18th Congress of WFTU in Vietnam for the rich anti-imperial history of Vietnam.



# Masha Johannes

English Speaking Africa Regional Office  
National Union of Mineworkers, South Africa

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I extend my fraternal greetings to Members of the Presidential Council, Members of the Secretariat, Members of the Special Committees of the WFTU and Leaders from ALL fronts of the WFTU formations including different TUI's and Regions.

2020 has been one of the most difficult years of the working class and the poor because of the crisis created by the capitalist system. In South Africa just like the rest of the world the effects of the COVID-19 have been felt across and job losses have been particularly severe.

The employers are taking advantage of the situation by crying foul, retrenching workers by claiming they cannot afford salaries and wages anymore – We know this is far from the truth! The governments across the world are taking on sovereign debts with the likes of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank etc. thereby impoverishing their countries even further and at the end the costs of these loans are paid for by the sweat, the tears of the workers and the poor.

In South Africa the government recently committed to such a loan to the value of around \$4.3 billion from the IMF and there's a risk the country's economic situation might deteriorate and it will struggle to pay back the loan. Also most of these monies are misspent on the acquisition of personal protective equipment through corrupt tender means and by enriching the select few and multinationals companies.

It is estimated that same personal protective equipment which was meant for the poor never even made it to the recipients yet the same debt is taken under their name. It is truly inhumane to see the way at which the capitalists around the globe rush in competition towards developing a vaccine in order to maximise profits. That the poor, third world countries where the peoples and workers cannot protect themselves against

covid19 priority is not given to them but consideration given to the rich western world like the UK, the imperialist US and others.

We are therefore in support of the Proposed Action Plan 2021 to make priority a call and the fight for a public free health for all, for a safe and free vaccine for all against covid19.

One of the first industries in South Africa to be permitted to resume activities during the covid19 was the mining sector. The availability and provision of masks was still a problem yet workers were been compelled to report for work. In the public sector workers are deemed essential services, during the height of covid19 they were also forced to report for duty amidst inadequate health and safety guidelines and protocols. The WFTU Africa Region makes a call to strengthen education, training and mobilisation especially in sectors where the most vulnerable and the poor are present. There is a need to revive and reactivate the WFTU Africa Regional Office so the following key aspects have been identified as priority for the 2021 year:

1. Organising and Recruitment.
2. Solidarity Action and Campaigns.
3. Trade Union Education and Training.
4. Improvement on the coordination of the regional office.

The meeting led by WFTU President held virtually on the 9th December 2020 with South African affiliates leaders took a firm decision to help Reset and Reactivate the African Regional Office – English Speaking. We aim to extend our reach to other countries in the region and also extend working relations with our brothers and sisters in the French speaking part. Towards the end of January 2021 WFTU Africa Regional Office – English speaking will host the first Virtual Regional Council and we urge those affiliates from the region to participate as this will be a very important landmark.

Our region in Africa is still plagued by poor infrastructure, high costs of data, poor internet connectivity etc. This makes it a huge challenge to even have those virtually meetings but dear comrades and colleagues be assured that we will continue to soldier on. Capital continues to consolidate their efforts in cementing its position to maximise profits no matter the cost. They do this at the expense of the working class and the poor hence the need for us to be more intentional and coordinated in our approach through WFTU Central Office, Regional Offices, TUI's and affiliates.

Members of the Presidential Council I wish for all of You Good Health.

Long Live WFTU Long Live!!! – Amandla!!!

# Freddy Huck

Vice-Président de la FSM  
Fédération Nationale Agroalimentaire et Forestière

Chers Camarades,

La période que nous traversons frappe les travailleurs de plein fouet. La crise du capitalisme est devenue une crise systémique profonde et irréversible. La pandémie dont souffrent les peuples du monde en est une conséquence, comme l'aggravation des conditions de vie et de travail de tous les peuples. Ceux de nos professions agricoles et alimentaires les subissent très fortement.

Le patronat et l'impérialisme mènent une guerre féroce idéologique, sociale, économique, policière et militaire contre les masses populaires pour conserver leurs hégémonies et leurs profits. Aujourd'hui des fortunes colossales, méconnues dans l'histoire humaine, se chiffrent en milliards d'euros ou de dollars. Par la seule spéculation sur un vaccin, le patron d'un grand groupe capitaliste a accumulé 3 milliards d'euros en quelques mois.

Les opérations financières poussent à la centralisation du capital autour du grand capital financier. La concentration foncière que mène les grands hobereaux entraîne la marginalisation de millions de petits paysans et de travailleurs de la terre et ceux qui pour vivre n'ont que le travail informel. Nous partageons l'opinion de l'économiste Samir Amin qui affirmait que nous sommes face à un génocide visant la moitié de la population mondiale, celle formée des petits agriculteurs, des travailleurs de la terre, des paysans sans terre, des salariés du monde rural, et ceux qui, pour vivre, n'ont que le travail informel.

L'immense combat engagé par la paysannerie laborieuse de l'Inde, que notre Union Internationale soutient fermement est l'expression de cette volonté de résister au libéralisme capitaliste le plus violent et à la domination impérialisme.

Nous avons transmis à nos camarades des syndicats d'Inde notre disponibilité pour leur transmettre une aide financière permettant de soutenir leurs combats.

La situation dramatique pour les peuples, constituée de reculs sociaux constants, de misère, de désespoir, de la faim qui de nouveau progresse notamment en liaison avec la pandémie, exige des syndicats une attitude combative, unitaire, ouverte aux combats centraux autour des revendications sociales et économiques, de la construction de perspectives politiques révolutionnaires, du combat pour la paix, de multiples initiatives autour du climat et de l'environnement. Nos organisations de la FSM ont la capacité de développer sur ces orientations de classe des actions rassembleuses, solidaires comme par exemple avec nos camarades du Venezuela qui luttent courageusement contre l'impérialisme yankee.

Notre Union Internationale a lu et apprécié positivement la documentation reprenant nos initiatives passées. Nous pensons qu'il aurait été utile, dans cette période, lors de ce conseil présidentiel, l'écriture d'un texte politique permettant de saisir et de nous situer dans l'affrontement de classe sur des bases solides rassembleuses, combattives, conséquentes. La lutte des classes a atteint une ampleur dont l'enjeu est la vie de l'humanité.

Elle mérite un effort de clarification théorique et idéologique que seul le marxisme peut permettre de saisir, de comprendre et de transformer en luttes concrètes. Nous souhaitons pour notre part que la préparation du prochain congrès de la FSM soit porteuse d'une telle analyse de classe.







## Mamdouh Mohamdy

Sec. Gén. UIS Hôtel - Tourisme (HOTOUR)  
Fédération Syndical Égyptienne (ETUF), Egypte

...Nous toutes et tous voyons comment le monde est affecté par la flambée de pandémie du Covid 19 où beaucoup de pays ont imposés quelques mesures comme le blocage des frontières, le confinement et la quarantaine des affectés. L'économie des pays ont été touchée sérieusement et comme l'habitude les travailleurs sont les catégories le plus touchés par cette crise en particulière les travailleurs de l'économie informelle et les travailleurs du secteur privé et les travailleurs du secteur de tourisme en ajoutant les travailleurs de bas salaires qui n'ont pas de protection social convenable et qui n'ont pas de revenu alternative en cas de suspendre le travail...

Dans ce Cadre nous comme des représentants des travailleurs nous devons être leurs voix pour défendre leurs droits comme le droit des assurances social compréhensive, le droit du salaire décent. On doit inciter les gouvernements de prendre d'autre mesures nécessaire pour protéger les travailleurs et les travailleuses basé sur le dialogue social en vue de trouver les solutions de la crise actuelle.

L'UIS de l'Hôtelier et du Tourisme a tenu le troisième congrès le dernier Février 2020, elle était le dernier réunion où nous nous sommes rencontrés face à face, en outre le dernier Juin on a été tenu une réunion virtuelle avec les membres du secrétariat et je propose d'organiser un autre séminaire virtuel après le Noël et inviter nos affiliés de l'UIS pour discuter les actualités concernant les travailleurs et les préoccupations de notre travailleurs.

J'adresse le remerciement pour camarade le secrétaire général George Mavrikos pour ses efforts prises qui ont des résultats positives sur la classe ouvrière orientée. L'UIS de l'Hôtelier et du Tourisme exprime la solidarité avec le peuple de travailleurs Palestiniens en assurant leurs droits à une Etat indépendant.

Merci pour votre attention!



## Ibrahim Abdel-Fatah

Gen. Sec. of TUI Textile - Garment - Leather (TEXGAL)  
Egyptian Trade Union Federation, (ETUF) Egypt

Dear brothers and sisters,

I would like to thank you for inviting me to attend this meeting, I would like to salute the WFTU General Secretary George Mavrikos, the President mr. Mike, the members of the secretariat the meeting is taking place while we are suffering from covid19 pandemic which affects the whole world as a result of this situation many jobs are lost in addition to many deaths.

I would like to mention the fact that the capitalists and the employers use this pandemic to close factories in addition to cutting wages and salaries. We struggle to ensure that all workers will take their salaries during the pandemic, and personally raised the situation to the government represented by the ministry of manpower to protect the workers during the closing of the factories due to the pandemic.

While waiting for the introduction of the new vaccine we must ensure that it is provided to the workers, the poor people and those who are fighting in the front line and are vulnerable to the disease.

We would like to denounce the US policy and the blockades imposed to Syria, Cuba, Venezuela against their peoples. We also support the struggle of Syrian, Lebanon, Iraqi and palestinian people and the struggle against imperialism and liberation movement around the world. We support the policy of WFTU against barbaric capitalism the yellow unions and ITUC. We salute the decision of WFTU for the next World Trade Union Congress to take place in Vietnam, a country with history in the struggle against Imperialism.

We wish every success to all of you in our future activities!



## Francisco José Sousa

Gen. Sec. of TUI Mining, Metallurgy  
and the Metal Industries (MMM)

Dear comrades from the Presidential Council, other WFTU friends and trade unions leaders from all around the world. I start my brief speech with sadness because we have lost so many companions, in such an unexpected way — and, somehow, inconsequent, face to the incompetence of the great powers, in particular the US empire in create some help to organize the struggle against the new coronavirus, with the purpose of minimizing the tragic effects of the loss of so many lives.

Unfortunately, in the middle of another crisis in the capitalist system and the failure of the new neoliberal wave headed by the White House, the world waited for a kind of armistice in the politics to face the coronavirus. After all, it is a struggle for life, a humanitarian cause. What a deception! We saw the intensification of the negationism, the opposition to science, the attacks against WHO and the running for the profits from the pandemic. Even the US people were affected by Donald Trump's unreason and incapacity. There is another terrible situation: even after his defeat at the presidential election, in November, we will not forget the shameful number of fatal victims all around the world. The US government, led by an eccentric billionaire, death apologist and supporter of neofascism, was completely unprepared to conduct the biggest capitalist nation-power.

In Latin America, after the storm who tried to delete the Bolivarian and libertarian ideals, the pandemic accelerated the process of struggles and alliances to defeat the conservative forces, financed by US. The RESISTANCE of Venezuela, Bolivia and Argentina gave us lots of hope and joy.

In Brazil, despite the terrible times after the Coup of 2016, with the election of a fascist president in 2018 (shielded by military forces and a reactionary National Congress), we keep on alert in our struggle. At record speed, they approved reforms who took off historical rights and intensified the attacks against the trade union movement, trying to

criminalize our struggles. The working class is been suffering lots of pressure, with thousands of dismissals. Companies close their doors; the labor market is increasingly precarious and the government tries to privatize strategic sector of our Economy. Our sovereignty is under attack, in a setback never seen in our history.

We left the position between the eight largest economies in the world and now we can become just a raw material exporter nation, with million of unemployed and lower wages. The largest industrial companies (automotive, machines in general and equipment) are still in crisis and low production. Flexibility is the “new normal”, with no advantages to the working class, under the risk of more dismissals.

Miner industry intensifies its production without environment control, while the tension in the Amazon with the indigenous people becomes an agenda at the richest countries — not just because the biodiversity importance, but for the irresponsibility and incompetence of Brazilian government. Bolsonaro is a corrupt, a politician who was part of the Brazilian Army during our dictatorship. He is someone who supported the torture and deaths of thousands of people. His government used to serve Donald Trump, with automatic alignment to the White House. Nowadays, he is in serious trouble after Biden's victory. Bolsonaro is isolated and lost, but he is trying to increase his alliance with criminal factions and corruptions to destroy our nation and the democratic values achieved in the last 30 years.

We will not give up our struggles. We will keep on fight against the virus and the Brazilian worm. We need to go forward and defeat the far-right ideals, as racism, homophobia, fascism, negationism and hateful. We need to rescue our process of unity, organization and struggle for the autonomy and development to the Latin America.

Long live to the Working Class!

Long live to the WFTU!

Vaccine for everyone!





## Etienne Moussavou

Membre du Conseil Présidentiel de la FSM  
Secrétaire Général de la Confédération Gabonaise  
du Travail - Force Libre (CGT-FL)

Chers Camarades Membres du Conseil Présidentiel,

Je prends la parole pour saluer et remercier de tout cœur les camarades du Bureau Central de la FSM pour les efforts consentis à la préparation de ce conseil Présidentiel virtuel.

L'année 2020 a été pour toutes les organisations syndicales nationales et mondiales difficiles à plus d'un titre, due à la pandémie du Covid-19 et les politiques mises en place par les gouvernements à l'échelle planétaire. Les conséquences pour ce qui concernent les travailleurs et leurs familles sont nombreuses :

- Accroissement de la précarité
- Restrictions des libertés fondamentales
- Difficultés d'approvisionnement en eau, nourriture etc...
- Fermeture d'établissements scolaires et Universités
- Licenciement économique massif des travailleurs
- Départ obligatoire en congés technique

L'incohérence de l'ordre économique international actuel, engendre le système de l'économie de marché basé sur les principes égoïstes qui se manifestent comme acheteurs des matières premières brutes, vendeurs des principaux, produits finis, détenteurs et actionnaires des lobbys pharmaceutiques et des institutions financières internationales.

Chers camarades du Conseil Présidentiel,

Le rapport d'activité et le plan d'action 2020 et 2021 présenté par le camarade MAVRIKOS répondant aux orientations fixées lors du 17e Congrès Afrique du Sud.

Je note que la participation de la FSM à la CIT de Juin 2019 à Genève n'a pas été mentionné dans le rapport, de même que la 3eme

conférence panafricaine FSM prévue en Novembre 2019 en RDC et reportée n'a pas été retenu. Il faut souligner que le rapport de la 3eme conférence panafricaine en RDC a annulée l'activité du Bureau Régional Afrique Francophone au Cameroun, activité liée à la femme africaine francophone.

Les dépenses occasionnées par l'annulation de ces deux conférences ont été lourdes de conséquences dans les maigres finances des affiliés FSM Afrique (Billets avions et visas non remboursés).

Camarade Secrétaire Général

Nous ne cesserons de vous interpeller sur la situation funeste des affiliés FSM auprès d'ACTRAV dans la sélection des organisations à des formations de l'OIT. Une telle discrimination ne peut et ne doit perdurer.

Pour ce qui est du 18eme Congrès Mondial au Vietnam, la fixation des dates est plus que nécessaire pour permettre une préparation à temps de l'ensemble des affiliés. Nous avons encore à l'esprit à Durban le discours du camarade Georges MAVRIKOS qui annonçait ne plus se représenter au prochain congrès mondial en 2021, au motif du respect scrupuleux des statuts FSM qui lui confèrent trois (3) mandats.

Le Bureau Régional Afrique Francophone de la FSM propose que l'article querellé soit revu et modifié comme suit :

« le Secrétaire Général de la FSM est élu pour un mandat de cinq ans renouvelable » et que le camarade MAVRIKOS soit candidat à sa propre succession. La FSM qui retrouve d'année en année ses lettres de noblesse dans les cinq continents, la délocalisation de son siège d'Athènes vers d'autres pays du fait de l'élection d'un nouveau Secrétaire Général est irrecevable pour l'Afrique francophone.

Nous confirmons notre conception du syndicalisme de lutte et de classe, tout en réaffirmant notre solidarité avec tous les peuples de Cuba, Palestine, Syrie, Colombie, Venezuela, Liban, Libye, Centre-Afrique, Mali, etc....pour la satisfaction des revendications des travailleurs et la construction des sociétés libérées de l'exploitation.

VIVE LA FSM

Je vous remercie



## Artur Sequeira

Miembro del Secretariado de la FSM (Observador)  
FSTFPS/CGTP-In, Portugal

Camaradas: Un saludo fraternal a los miembros del Consejo Presidencial y a los trabajadores de vuestros países. Nuestra reunión se realiza en un marco en que, a pretexto de la crisis sanitaria, se realiza una violenta ofensiva del capital y del imperialismo. Por todo el mundo capitalista, con el argumento del COVID-19, se acentúa la ofensiva del sistema, basada en el Estado capitalista y en las fuerzas políticas bajo su servicio, imponiendo una huida adelante relativamente a su crisis estructural. Se agudizó brutalmente la ofensiva y sus consecuencias.

Millones de trabajadores son despedidos o empujados al lay-off, recortando sus salarios, aumentando sus horarios de trabajo y la precariedad, sin respeto por sus condiciones de seguridad y salud en el trabajo, obligados al teletrabajo, entre otras formas de agravar la explotación y empobrecimiento. Las fragilidades de los servicios públicos, particularmente de sanidad, educación y transportes son utilizadas para promover los intereses de los grupos económicos de estos sectores, fundamentalmente mediante la canalización de fondos públicos y de mecanismos que aumentan la rentabilidad del capital. En todos los continentes los trabajadores, el movimiento sindical de clase, ha resistido y luchado, a pesar de la brutal ofensiva ideológica, del recorte de derechos y libertades y garantías democráticas, particularmente visibles en el intento de limitar o impedir el derecho de organización y acción sindical, el derecho a la huelga y la protesta. En Portugal, la CGTP-IN organizó en las calles de más de 20 ciudades un 1º de Mayo con rigurosas medidas de protección sanitaria, juntando miles de trabajadores en una corajosa y determinada acción de masas. La lucha continúa y ha habido algunos éxitos, aunque insuficientes, frente a la dimensión de la ofensiva, desarrollándose alrededor de reivindicaciones concretas de los trabajadores, por el aumento general de los salarios y del salario mínimo interprofesional, en defensa de la negociación colectiva e los convenios.

Camaradas: Vivimos una situación internacional marcada por la intensificación de la injerencia y agresividad del imperialismo. En

la UE, el crecimiento y la llegada al poder de fuerzas de la extrema derecha y fascistas es indisoluble de la situación de crisis económica y social y de la naturaleza y de las políticas de la Unión Europea, que no respetan derechos democráticos y la soberanía y promueven la explotación y la pobreza, las desigualdades e injusticias sociales. El contexto actual confirma la naturaleza de clase de la Unión Europea. Intentan ahora embaucar a los pueblos de Europa, anunciando “Planes de Recuperación” con fondos que, además de que no llegan nunca, no saldrán gratuitos. Así siendo es fundamental el refuerzo de la lucha de los trabajadores en cada país, la solidaridad y el impulso para la acción común y convergente por parte de la FSM, particularmente en Europa. Camaradas: Queremos reiterar nuestro apoyo y solidaridad a la lucha de la resistencia de los pueblos que, en otros continentes, luchan contra la ofensiva imperialista, fundamentalmente:

- A los pueblos de Siria, de Yemen, de Irán, de Palestina, al pueblo saharauí, a los pueblos de países africanos que sufren injerencias y la ofensiva colonizadora. A los trabajadores y al pueblo de Ucrania y de Bielorrusia. A todos los trabajadores, pueblos de América Latina, particularmente de Venezuela, de Bolivia, de Nicaragua, de Chile, de Brasil y de Cuba.
- Y nuestra activa solidaridad y defensa de los derechos de los migrantes y refugiados.

Camaradas: A un año del XVIII Congreso de la Federación Sindical Mundial, reafirmamos, ante todo, el empeño de las organizaciones portuguesas en reforzar la FSM como organización internacionalista y antimperialista. Es con este objetivo que hemos aportado esfuerzos al trabajo que las UIS desarrollaron, a su discusión y objetivos comunes. A la cooperación en defensa de los intereses de clase de los trabajadores. Tenemos que evaluar colectivamente las posibilidades existentes y la capacidad y los espacios necesarios para atraer más estructuras sindicales a las UIS y a la FSM.

Camaradas: La UIS-PS realizó su Congreso a finales de 2019 en Chipre, donde elegimos una nueva dirección y aprobamos importantes medidas para alargar la influencia de nuestra Unión Internacional. Estamos aunando esfuerzos para su representatividad en cada país y a nivel regional y global, sobre todo mediante el refuerzo de la intervención de sus estructuras para aumentar la sindicalización de más trabajadores de nuestro sector en sindicatos de clase y en la UIS, así como un calendario de iniciativas para nuestra actividad en los próximos años.





## Success Eniojukan Leke

Member of the Presidential Council of the WFTU  
President of the National Union of Hotels  
and Personal Services Workers, Nigeria

On behalf of the entire Workers and Staff of all Nigeria Affiliates of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), I bring warm and militant greetings to all Workers around the globe who have continued to suffer untold hardship engineered by COVID-19 pandemic. This hardship could have been minimized if our leaders at various level of governance all over the world have been able to marshal policies and programmes to address emergency health situations in their respective countries. Since the outbreak of this virus in December, 2019 different steps and actions have been taken by Countries to stem the tide of the spread which include:

- Closure of air space, land and sea borders
- Restrictions on movements, work and other outdoor activities
- Adoption of series of protocols and/or measures which include social distancing, use of face mask, etc
- Aggressive testing to discover citizens that have contacted the virus and contact tracing
- Scientists working day and night to develop a vaccine to stem the spread

All these policies and actions of various national governments have massive negative impacts on the global economy which include:

- World economy was virtually shut down due to lockdown policy embarked upon by various governments.
- People were ordered to stay at home, Salaries of Workers most especially in the private sector were not paid. No support for vulnerable members of the society most especially in poor countries including Nigeria.
- No international travel, borders were shut etc
- Loss of job due to factory closure or business closures
- Increase in social vices at home and in the society
- Most family were locked down at home together for the first time for a very long period thereby increasing domestic violence, rape, incest, out of job stress, increase in mental health crisis

- Astronomical increase in the prices of goods and commodities
- Increase in cost of living thereby subjecting many to days without food
- Hunger and anger in the society
- Increase in the number of poor people across the globe
- Separation of family Members and break up of marriages necessitated by anger and poverty
- Children kept out school for a long period thereby lowering the rate of literacy
- Increase in teenage pregnancy
- Most economies going into recession including that of Nigeria and many other countries in Africa

The Catering, Hospitality and Tourism Industry: The Hospitality and Tourism Industry in Nigeria has continued to suffer and bear much of the brunt of this pandemic through cancellation of hotel bookings, closure of hotels due to non patronage - since all land, sea and air borders were closed to local and foreign travelers. This has tremendously affected our membership strength in all our member organizations. To survive this trying time, even if there has been significant improvement in patronage since businesses reopened, most employers in the industry have resulted into:

- Sending Staff on compulsory leave without pay
- Job rotation and extended working hours above what is internationally recognized and accepted
- Closure of businesses until further notice without recourse to extant labour laws and regulations as well as palliatives to staff to survive while staying away from work
- Downsizing of the work force
- Termination of appointment without payment of severance wages
- Closure of sales outlets within the hotels due to social distancing
- Union bursting by most management under the guise of restructuring
- Lowering of service standard and remuneration of few lucky working members

Impact of the Above Actions on the Union: All the above actions were targeted at the working people and by extension the Union. Thus, since the re-opening of business we have lost more than forty percent of our numerical strength through redundancies, terminations, retirements etc. The effect is very clear on our monthly income. Check off dues - through which union activities are financed - have dropped significantly which has made it extremely difficult for us to foot our bills monthly as well as meet our other statutory obligations to our Staff and member

Way Forward: For the Hospitality and Tourism Industry to survive this crisis, especially in Nigeria, government needs to intervene urgently through salary support, tax holiday and interest free soft loans to these establishments for them to absorb the shock and the challenges of the pandemic and to also re-strategize their businesses.



## Aslim Singh

Head of the International Relations of GAWU Guyana

Comrades of the WFTU, please accept our sincerest apologies and regrets from being unable to provide this address during the course of the meeting. At this time, we send our firmest greetings of solidarity and fraternity to members of the Presidential Council.

Our meeting takes place at a significant period of the WFTU which observes its 75th anniversary at this time. Indeed, the WFTU has several proud achievements at is has been steadfast champion of the workers, the farmers and the downtrodden of the world. Certainly as the predominant international working-class organisation, the WFTU, which speaks on behalf of millions, remains an indispensable ally in confronting imperialism and advocating for a world based on equity, fairness and social justice.

As the WFTU observes its anniversary, we recognise two of the many outstanding comrades are no longer with us. Here we refer to our Union's President, Cde Komal Chand and Cde Ramon Cardona who for many years led the WFTU's activities in Latin America.

Both comrades were unflinching in their commitment to the working-class and stood together with the workers to realise their lofty goals. Indeed, the WFTU has lost two (2) outstanding comrades and whose legacies will continue to serve as an inspiration.

Of course, our meeting takes place at a time when the world is gripped by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has changed everyday life drastically. Drastic quarantines are turning the most populated cities into deserted areas. Social life is non-existent except in the digital networks. Everything is changing. The many waves and the haunting death toll has inflicted serious damage to the world economy and the deterioration of social development.

But the multidimensional crisis it has unleashed clearly shows the great mistake of the dehumanized policies fully imposed by the market dictatorship. Today, we are witnessing with sadness the disaster the world has been led to by the irrational and unsustainable production and consumption system of capitalism, decades of an unjust international order and the implementation of ruthless and rampant neoliberalism, which has widened inequalities and sacrificed the right of peoples to development.

Unlike excluding neoliberalism, which puts aside and discards millions of human beings and condemns them to survive on the leftovers from the banquet of the richest one percent, the COVID-19 virus does not discriminate between them, but its devastating economic and social effects shall be lethal among the most vulnerable and those with lower incomes, whether they live in the underdeveloped world or in the pockets of poverty of big industrial cities.

According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) projections, the 690 million people who were going hungry in 2019 might be joined by a further 130 million as a result of the economic recession caused by the pandemic. Studies by the International Labour Organization (ILO) say that over 305 million jobs have been lost and that more than 1.6 billion workers are having their livelihoods at stake.

We cannot face COVID-19, hunger, unemployment and the growing economic and social inequalities between individuals and countries as unrelated phenomena. There is an urgency to implement integrated policies that prioritize human beings and not economic profits or political advantages. It would a crime to postpone decisions that are for yesterday and for today. It is imperative to promote solidarity and international cooperation to lessen the impact and in this vein we see the WFTU playing a leading role.





Closing Remarks  
by WFTU General Secretary,  
George Mavrikos

Dear colleagues, dear comrades, brothers and sisters,

It is a pleasure for me to conclude our fruitful two days discussion i hope all of us we share the same feeling that our discussion was very good, successful and the participation was very good.

Brothers and Sisters,

49 members, cadres received the floor yesterday and today and all of us spoke freely and openly and also we listened your suggestions, your proposals, etc. It was complicate about the time, because for example when we finished yesterday evening in Asia, in East Asia, in DPRK, in Indonesia it was very late, it was 3am but they were with us, and this is a good picture, with good feeling, with discipline, with class spirit, and i think this is the stance of our cadres.

Very important for us is the fact that we had this meeting for the first time through this way, virtual way and i congratulate all of you because all of you respected the time. It is usual for trade unionists, sometimes it is impossible for us to respect the time, but yesterday and today we were very disciplined and all of us respected the time.

Brothers and Sisters,

From today with our decision from the PC for the 18th World Trade Union Congress, we start our work, we start our efforts for the preparation of the 18th World Trade Union Congress. You know, we know that we want to have a congress open, democratic, class-oriented, with unity and with a militant spirit. I assure that we have, the experience, we have the power, we have the wishes to organize a congress like our duties, like our necessities, the necessities of the working class all over the world.

From today we need from our forces, national forces, regional forces, sectoral forces, from TUIs, Regional Offices, national organizations, to organize their plan for the preparation of the 18th Congress. To be an important topic inside, in front of the workers, for ordinary people, especially inside workplaces, in front of workers, we need to organize through TUIs, Regional Offices, national unions open discussions. We need the opinions, the ideas, the suggestions, the proposals of the ordinary workers, through all these we will strengthen WFTU and we will open new ways, new possibilities, new positive steps. It means that we, as cadres of WFTU have many important and serious tasks.

About the action plan, as we agreed we decide now about the action plan for 6 months, we suggest that July 2021 we are going to organize a new Presidential Council, we hope that by that time the situation of the pandemic will be different, positive, but today we don't know, we need to decide today to have the next PC in July 2021 to discuss about all topics and especially about the many many procedures of the 18th World Trade Union Congress.

About the next 6 months, from January to June we have many many initiatives, many actions and we need all of us to give the best of ourselves for positive results, for the benefit of the working class, for the benefit of our members, for the benefit of the trade union movement in general.

First of all we need to strengthen the struggles, you know the struggles in India last week, on 26 of November, the struggles of poor farmers in India also, gave hope, the struggles in France, in many countries of Europe, in Asia and Pacific, in Latin America, in Africa gave hope. Our hope is in our struggles. It is impossible for us to wait the god to solve the problems, because of this, dear brothers and friends, we will continue the celebrations for the 75th Anniversary of WFTU, country by country, sector by sector.

Comrades,

The 75th Anniversary are not the history, it is not only about the past, something very old. No, it is very young for today and tomorrow. Without the past it is impossible to have present and future, and we are proud of the history of World Federation of Trade Unions. Others need to go under the table, because their history is dirty history. WFTU history is proud history, of course with difficulties, with faults, with weaknesses, but always was on the same bank of river. Because of this, the best training for the young generation is to give them the resolutions, the history of World Federation of Trade Unions.



That through difficulties, through obstacles, through faults etc it was always together with the people. In the period of colonialism, in period of wars in Korea, in Vietnam, in Chile, in Nicaragua, all over the world, against dictatorship in Spain, in Portugal, in Greece, in Turkey, everywhere. Because of this we need to continue our initiatives for the 75th Anniversary and maybe we hope that we will be in better situation regarding the pandemic in order to organize in Cyprus the main event for the 75th Anniversary which was postponed from this year 2020.

Another very crucial topic for us is public health, the situation in the hospitals, the situation of the staff, doctors, nurses, all staff, about the vaccine, the right of all people to have the vaccine free and safe. You saw the antagonisms between the multinationals, they do not care for the health of people, they care for their pocket, for their influence, geostrategic plans etc. We demand vaccine for all, at the same time we have to demand for the public sector health. We saw the situation in USA, a very rich country, but very poor, the poorest in Public sector health. All the workers we need to support the doctors for their salaries.

About democratic and trade union freedoms: because of pandemic through telework for example, the companies want to cut the salaries, social security trade union rights. They want each one alone in front of his computer without collective discussion inside the workplaces, to work all day.

We need to pay attention to all these. Against dismissals, against poverty and hunger, in all continents the hunger raises. We need to pay attention for March, we decided that all March, not only 8 of March we will organise initiatives for working women, the April for young generation, to support the immigrants and refugees, to organize initiatives.

Also we need to have the TUIs' congresses, through this way, difficult way, with difficulties, problems, but we need to organize meetings and congresses. I think we have the possibility, we also have experience from today, yesterday, many TUIs organized, many Regional Offices organized, also from the Central Offices we organize training and seminars, we need not to postpone again and again our congresses.

Also first of May, this important day, i think it is good day to strengthen our voice against neofascism, 1st of May it is a symbolic day, yesterday one of our colleagues in Latin America underlined that the fascism is dangerous for all working class in our times. We think it is good to put in our demands this topic on 1st May.

Our internationalism is our main weapon we decided to organize campaign for Palestinian people, inside Israeli prisons there are more than 200 children 13-17 years old, because they struggled for their country, their independent country. We need to organize campaign for Venezuela also, in February we are going to organize the meeting. For the Nobel prize to be awarded to Cuba, you did many suggestions in your speeches and we agree to organize. Also to organize seminars with ILO as you suggested, about informal workers, we agree. Also many seminars and webinars.

Dear brothers and sisters, i want to suggest you to think and see if we have the possibility to create or print a calendar of trade union days. For example, as you know there are day for the forest, day for bicycles, day for mathematics etc, maybe we need to have day for the miners, for the pensioners in struggle we have 1st of October, for education 4 of October, maybe we need to think for example, April 2013 more than one thousand, 1134, people lost their life in Rana Plaza, 851 were women, maybe we need to think to have that day for garment workers, textile workers, we need to think and discuss next time.

Dear brothers and sisters, we think that our main topic is our internationalism, our solidarity we have already sent to you solidarity messages and we suggest all of us to be agree about resolutions, i repeat:

- 1) Resolution of solidarity with Syria and Iran against Caesar Act
- 2) Resolution of solidarity with the Working Class in Turkey
- 3) Mexico: Resolution of solidarity with the struggle of the SUEUM trade union
- 4) Resolution of solidarity with the rights of Indigenous Peoples
- 5) Solidarity Resolution with the People of Venezuela
- 6) Resolution of the WFTU in solidarity with the member of its Presidential Council, Julia Amparo Lotán





7) Consejo Presidencial de la Federación Sindical Mundial: Resolución de Solidaridad con las luchas de trabajadores Peruanos encabezados por la Confederación General de Trabajadores del Perú (CGTP)

8) WFTU Presidential Council Resolution in support of the workers and People of Sudan and Palestine

9) Resolution: The 2021 Nobel Peace Prize must be awarded to the International Health Contingent "Henry Reeve" of Cuba

10) WFTU Presidential Council Solidarity Resolution with Indian farmers

11) WFTU Presidential Council Solidarity Resolution with the forefront workers during the pandemic

12) WFTU Presidential Council resolution on prisoners rights during the Pandemic

13) Resolution of solidarity with workers of Kazakhstan

Brothers and comrades, you have two days from now to send us if you have any suggestions to add to our resolutions and then we will publish our decisions from our presidential council.

At the end, from my side, we have sent you all the affiliation requests, you have the list from 2019 and 2020. The procedure of our constitution says that first the new affiliations need to be discussed and approved by the WFTU Secretariat and then, the final decision belongs to the Presidential Council, all the list has been approved in our secretariat and we need your decision to put them to our affiliates list. My colleagues inform me that with a union from Colombia there is a problem with the papers, we will solve it, it is a technical problem not political.

Brothers and sisters, we are in good position in front of difficulties, during the pandemic we have our power, we have our forces, we have our members: in more than 130 countries we are present, there is no corner of the world without our voice.

In some countries strong, in some countries with weaknesses but there is not a corner of the world without members of WFTU and for me is very important that today we also approve one member from a very long distance, from New Zealand, it is the first union, small union but militant union who they sent affiliation request some days ago and they want to join their voice with us for our common struggles.

Brothers and sisters we will continue all together, thank you again from my side for your support, we want you also to pay attention to the financial support of WFTU, we full agree with some of you who underlined that we need small amounts worker by worker, people by people, we need all of you to support, because without financial power it is difficult for us to organize all this action and we need from your side the support also in this way, together we had these results, you support politically, in action, ideologically, in all levels.

We know that we have poor unions, but we are rich in ideas, very rich in actions, also at the same time we have difficulties, because the only our finances come from the workers, not from multinationals, not from other ways, under the table or on the table. Because of this we are proud and we have autonomy and we will solve our problems together with the workers.

Thank you very much, on behalf of the secretariat we will try to do our best for the 18th Congress, i am sure that all together we will organize a very important congress because all these years we realized collectively all our actions, collectively all our initiatives, all our positive steps, and i am sure that with the same way we will be in front of the 18th World Trade Union Congress.

Thank you very much.

Take care for your health, your families, your unions, for our colleagues, for our members.

## WFTU 2021 (first semester) ACTION PLAN Presidential Council 15-16 December 2020

### DECISION

Dear colleagues,

The meeting of our Presidential Council takes place in the midst of the difficulties created by the Covid19 pandemic.

We all know that the meetings of the PC were always lively, democratic and with rich documents. Virtual meetings are not the same. They are far behind in immediacy and rich debates. However, we believe that it is necessary, even through difficulties, to discuss, as much as this can be done, through a virtual meeting. There should be mutual information and we should all take together some basic decisions for the Action Plan 2021.

The guidelines of the World Health Organization so far refer to the difficulties of travelling around and meeting with many participants until the first half of 2021. This is why the Action Plan we send you is six months long and almost all activities are through web.

It is a time when we have the opportunity to read a useful book to gain the necessary knowledge for the class-struggle for the interests of the workers in our countries, in our industries and on the planet as a whole. To take advantage of the trade union training seminars at regional and sectoral level.

Despite of the difficulties, we can organize international campaigns of solidarity and support with peoples and workers who are fighting for their rights.

Our important priority remains the fight for a public - free health for all, for a safe and free vaccine for all against covid19; to build large, modern and public hospitals with all necessary human and technological equipment.

We continue our efforts to strengthen the campaign for the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Cuba for its medical and humanitarian assistance

in dealing with the pandemic in many countries.

Many governments and employers use the Pandemic to remove workers' rights and gains, to restrict trade union freedoms and the right to strike. We need to defend all gains and acquisitions for the benefit of workers.

This situation imposes the tele-meetings of the WFTU Secretariat with every country, every Region and every Sector to be often organized.

From the last year's Action Plan 2020 we propose to keep

- the book competition for the history of the WFTU until the end of June 2021
- the international event for the 75 years of the WFTU in Cyprus to be held after the lifting of travel restrictions. EACH COUNTRY - EACH SECTOR - EACH REGION TO CONTINUE THE SEMINARS FOR THE 75-YEAR-OLD WFTU COURSE OF PRIDE AND DIGNITY.
- Digitalization of the WFTU Archives; this is imperative to move on so that the rich history of the WFTU to be preserved.

We believe that in 2021 we can develop initiatives beneficial to all workers, to strengthen the trade union movement and to promote the value and the pioneering role of the WFTU at all levels.

#### JANUARY:

- WFTU Regional Council South Africa and Working Youth Seminar
- WFTU Campaign : free the children of Palestine from Israeli prisons
- International Action against Caesarian Law voted by the US against Syria, Iran, Lebanon and other countries.

#### FEBRUARY

- Balkan meeting virtual
- 2ND TUI Meeting virtual
- International Campaign of Solidarity with Venezuela
- Web-meeting for the actors, singers, musicians, art workers in general and people who work in art and culture science.



## MARCH

- 8 March international working women's day. Also throughout the month activities for the rights of the working women.
- European Campaign on tele-work and the participation of working youth in Trade Unions
- 15-25 March 2021: 341st Session of the ILO GB
- 15-26 March 2021: UN CSW65

## APRIL

- 6-9 April 2021: ILO 17th Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (Singapore)
- New Zealand meeting??
- April to be declared as a month of activities for youth, for the participation of young workers in trade unions and the strengthening of the role of the young workers in the trade union leaderships.
- 24th April: International Forum on the employers' crime of Rana Plaza in Bangladesh, where 1.134 workers lost their life, among whom 851 women workers.

## MAY

- 1: May Day Celebrations via ZOOM under the slogan: "Covid19 and its repercussions in workers life -the reply of the militant trade unions" - FREE VACCINE FOR ALL
- THE STRUGGLE AGAINST FASCISM AND XENOPHOBIA ALSO TO BE INCLUDED IN MAY DAY DEMANDS
- WFTU BIFU Congress
- Public Health: actions everywhere with main slogan "Free public and satisfactory health services for all".

## JUNE

- 7-18 June 2021: 109th Session of the International Labour Conference
- 19 June 2021: 342nd Session of the ILO GB
- WFTU Virtual activity

## Finances :

We thank the affiliates who even in the midst of the difficult circumstances have paid their annual fees for 2020 and those who contributed with some extra financial assistance.

The WFTU is in a poor and bad financial situation. THE ONLY SOURCE OF FINANCES ARE THE FEES OF OUR MEMBERS, THE FEES OF ORDINARY WORKERS. OUR MEMBERS SUPPORT THE WFTU FROM THEIR LOW INCOME, BECAUSE MOST OF THE UNIONS ARE IN A DIFFICULT FINANCIAL SITUATION ALSO DUE TO THE CORONOVIRUS PANDEMIC. This gives us moral superiority and autonomy. We thank the colleagues in India and Nepal who are trying to support financially the WFTU.

## 18TH WORLD TRADE UNION CONGRESS:

The preparations of the Congress have officially started, aiming at a democratic, militant and unifying Congress, that will give contemporary answers about the duties and role of trade unions in the 21st century. The open and rich discussion inside the workplaces, in sectors, regions and every country is the main goal. The Pre-congress discussions start from now!

THE WFTU SECRETARIAT  
Athens 21 December 2020

## PLAN D'ACTION 2021 (premier semestre) FSM Conseil Présidentiel les 15-16 décembre 2020

### DÉCISION

Cher(e)s collègues,

La réunion de notre Conseil Présidentiel se déroule au milieu des difficultés créées par la pandémie de Covid19.

Nous savons tous que les réunions du CP ont toujours été animées, démocratiques et riches en documents. Les réunions virtuelles ne sont pas la même chose. Elles sont loin d'être aussi immédiates et riches en débats. Cependant, nous pensons qu'il est nécessaire, même avec des difficultés, de discuter, autant que possible, à travers une réunion virtuelle. Il devrait y avoir un échange d'informations et nous devrions prendre tous ensemble quelques décisions principales pour le plan d'action 2021.

Les lignes directrices de l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé évoquent jusqu'à présent les difficultés de se déplacer et de rencontrer de nombreux participants jusqu'au premier semestre 2021. C'est pourquoi le plan d'action que nous vous envoyons est d'une durée de six mois et presque toutes les activités se font à travers le web.

C'est une période où nous avons l'occasion de lire un livre utile pour acquérir des connaissances nécessaires sur la lutte de classe pour les intérêts des travailleurs dans nos pays, dans nos industries et sur la planète dans son ensemble. Profiter des séminaires de formation syndicale au niveau régional et sectoriel.

Malgré les difficultés, nous pouvons organiser des campagnes internationales de solidarité et de soutien avec les peuples et les travailleurs qui luttent pour leurs droits.

Notre priorité importante reste la lutte pour une santé publique gratuite pour tous, pour un vaccin sûr et gratuit pour tous contre le covid-19; pour construire de grands hôpitaux modernes et publics avec tout l'équipement humain et technologique nécessaire.

Nous poursuivons nos efforts pour renforcer la campagne en vue de l'attribution du prix Nobel de la paix à Cuba pour son aide médicale et humanitaire dans la lutte contre la pandémie dans de nombreux pays.

De nombreux gouvernements et employeurs utilisent la pandémie pour supprimer les droits et les acquis des travailleurs, pour restreindre les libertés syndicales et le droit à la grève. Nous devons défendre tous les gains et acquis au profit des travailleurs.

Cette situation impose que des réunions virtuelles du Secrétariat de la FSM avec chaque pays, chaque région et chaque secteur soient souvent organisées.

Par le plan d'action 2020 de l'année dernière, nous proposons de maintenir

- le concours de livres sur l'histoire de la FSM jusqu'à la fin juin 2021
- l'événement international pour les 75 ans de la FSM à Chypre qui aura lieu après la levée des restrictions de voyage. CHAQUE PAYS - CHAQUE SECTEUR - CHAQUE RÉGION À POURSUIVRE LES SÉMINAIRES POUR LE PARCOURS DE 75 ANS DE FIERTÉ ET DE DIGNITÉ DE LA FSM.
- la digitalisation des archives de la FSM; il est impératif d'aller de l'avant afin que la riche histoire de la FSM soit préservée.

Nous pensons qu'en 2021, nous pourrions développer des initiatives bénéfiques pour tous les travailleurs, pour renforcer le mouvement syndical et pour promouvoir la valeur et le rôle pionnier de la FSM à tous les niveaux.

### JANVIER

- Conseil Régional de la FSM Afrique du Sud et Séminaire des Jeunes Travailleurs
- Campagne de la FSM: libérer les enfants Palestiniens des prisons israéliennes
- Action internationale contre la loi César votée par les États-Unis contre la Syrie, l'Iran, le Liban et d'autres pays

### FÉVRIER

- Réunion virtuelle des pays balkaniques
- 2eme réunion virtuelle des UIS
- Campagne internationale de solidarité avec le Venezuela
- Rencontre sur le web pour des acteurs, chanteurs, musiciens, travailleurs de l'art en général et les personnes qui travaillent dans le domaine des sciences de l'art et de la culture.



## MARS

- 8 mars, Journée internationale des femmes travailleuses. Également tout au long du mois, des activités pour les droits des femmes travailleuses.
- Campagne européenne sur le télétravail et la participation des jeunes travailleurs dans les syndicats
- 15-25 mars 2021 : 341e session du Conseil d'administration de l'OIT
- 15-26 mars 2021 : ONU CSW65

## AVRIL

- 6-9 avril 2021: 17e réunion régionale de l'OIT pour l'Asie et le Pacifique (Singapour)
- Rencontre Nouvelle-Zélande ?
- Avril devrait être déclaré mois d'activités pour la jeunesse, pour la participation des jeunes travailleurs aux syndicats et le renforcement du rôle des jeunes travailleurs dans les directions des syndicats.
- 24 avril: Forum international sur la crime patronale de Rana Plaza au Bangladesh, où 1.134 travailleurs ont perdu la vie, dont 851 femmes.

## MAI

- 1: Célébrations du 1er mai via ZOOM sous le slogan : "Covid-19 et ses répercussions sur la vie des travailleurs - la réponse des syndicats militants" - VACCIN GRATUIT POUR TOUS
- LA LUTTE CONTRE LE FASCISME ET LA XÉNOPHOBIE DOIT ÉGALEMENT ÊTRE INCLUSE DANS LES REVENDICATIONS DU 1ER MAI
- Congrès de l'UIS BIFU de la FSM
- Santé publique: des actions partout avec slogan principal "Des services de santé publics gratuits et adéquats pour tous".

## JUIN

- 7-18 juin 2021: 109e session de la Conférence Internationale du Travail
- 19 juin 2021: 342e session du Conseil d'administration de l'OIT
- Activité virtuelle de la FSM

## Finances :

Nous remercions les affiliés qui, même dans des circonstances difficiles, ont payé leurs cotisations annuelles pour 2020 et ceux qui ont contribué avec une aide financière supplémentaire.

La FSM est dans une situation financière difficile. LA SEULE SOURCE DE REVENU EST PAR LES COTISATIONS DE NOS MEMBRES, LES COTISATIONS DES TRAVAILLEURS ORDINAIRES. NOS MEMBRES SOUTIENNENT LA FSM PAR LEURS FAIBLES REVENUS, CAR LA PLUPART DES SYNDICATS SONT DANS UNE SITUATION FINANCIÈRE DIFFICILE, ÉGALEMENT EN RAISON DE LA PANDÉMIE DE CORONOVIRUS. Cela nous donne une supériorité morale et une autonomie. Nous remercions les collègues en Inde et au Népal qui essaient de soutenir financièrement la FSM.

## 18E CONGRÈS SYNDICAL MONDIAL:

Les préparations du Congrès ont officiellement commencé, ayant pour objectif un Congrès démocratique, militant et unifiant, qui apportera des réponses contemporaines sur les devoirs et le rôle des syndicats au 21e siècle. L'objectif principal est d'avoir une discussion ouverte et riche dans les lieux de travail, dans les secteurs, les régions et dans chaque pays. Les discussions pré-congrès commencent dès maintenant!

LE SECRÉTARIAT DE LA FSM  
Athènes 21 décembre 2020

## PLAN DE ACCIÓN 2021 (primer semestre) FSM Consejo Presidencial 15-16 de diciembre de 2020

### DECISIÓN

Estimados-as compañeros-as,

La reunión de nuestro Consejo Presidencial tiene lugar en medio de las dificultades causadas por la pandemia de Covid-19.

Todos sabemos que las reuniones del CP fueron siempre animadas, democráticas y con ricos documentos. Las reuniones virtuales no son lo mismo. Están muy atrasadas en cuanto a inmediatez y riqueza de debates. Sin embargo, creemos que es necesario, incluso a través de las dificultades, conversar, tanto como se pueda hacer, a través de una reunión virtual. Debería haber información mutua y todos deberíamos tomar juntos algunas decisiones básicas para el Plan de Acción 2021.

Las directrices de la Organización Mundial de la Salud hasta ahora se refieren a las dificultades de viajar y reunirse con muchos participantes hasta la primera mitad de 2021. Por eso el Plan de Acción que les enviamos es para seis meses y casi todas las actividades son a través de la web.

Es un momento en el que tenemos la oportunidad de leer un libro útil para adquirir los conocimientos necesarios sobre la lucha de clase por los intereses de los trabajadores de nuestros países, de nuestras industrias y del planeta en su conjunto. Aprovechar los seminarios de formación sindical a nivel regional y sectorial.

A pesar de las dificultades, podemos organizar campañas internacionales de solidaridad y apoyo a los pueblos y trabajadores que luchan por sus derechos.

Nuestra importante prioridad sigue siendo la lucha por salud pública y gratuita para todos, por una vacuna segura y gratuita para todos contra el covid-19; construir grandes hospitales públicos y modernos con todo el equipo humano y tecnológico necesario.

Seguimos esforzándonos por fortalecer la campaña para la otorgación del Premio Nobel de la Paz a Cuba por su asistencia médica y humanitaria para hacer frente a la pandemia en muchos países.

Muchos gobiernos y empleadores utilizan la pandemia para eliminar los derechos y logros de los trabajadores, para limitar las libertades sindicales y el derecho a la huelga. Necesitamos defender todos los logros y conquistas en beneficio de los trabajadores.

Esta situación impone que se organicen con frecuencia reuniones virtuales del Secretariado de la FSM con cada país, cada región y cada sector.

Del Plan de Acción 2020 del año pasado proponemos mantener

- el concurso de libros sobre la historia de la FSM hasta finales de junio de 2021
- el evento internacional por los 75 años de la FSM en Chipre que se celebrará tras el levantamiento de las restricciones de viaje. CADA PAÍS - CADA SECTOR - CADA REGIÓN A CONTINUAR LOS SEMINARIOS PARA EL CURSO DE 75 AÑOS DE ORGULLO Y DIGNIDAD DE LA FSM
- digitalización de los Archivos de la FSM; esto es imperativo para seguir adelante para que la rica historia de la FSM sea preservada

Creemos que en 2021 podemos desarrollar iniciativas beneficiosas para todos los trabajadores, para fortalecer el movimiento sindical y promover el valor y el papel pionero de la FSM a todos los niveles.

### ENERO

- Consejo Regional FSM Sudáfrica y Seminario de la Juventud Trabajadora
- Campaña de la FSM: liberar a los niños Palestinos de las prisiones israelíes
- Acción Internacional contra la Ley César votada por los EE.UU. contra Siria, Irán, Líbano y otros países

### FEBRERO

- Encuentro virtual de los Balcanes
- 2a Reunión virtual de las UIS
- Campaña Internacional de Solidaridad con Venezuela
- Reunión web para los actores, cantantes, músicos, trabajadores del arte en general y gente que trabaja en la ciencia del arte y la cultura.

### MARZO

- 8 de marzo Día Internacional de la Mujer Trabajadora. También a lo



largo del mes actividades por los derechos de las mujeres trabajadoras.

- Campaña europea sobre el teletrabajo y la participación de la juventud trabajadora en los sindicatos
- 15-25 de marzo de 2021: 341a Reunión del Consejo de Adm. de la OIT
- 15-26 de marzo de 2021: UN CSW65

#### ABRIL

- 6-9 de abril de 2021: 17a Reunión Regional de Asia y el Pacífico de la OIT (Singapur)
- ¿Reunión Nueva Zelanda?
- Que el mes de abril se declare como un mes de actividades para la juventud, para la participación de los trabajadores jóvenes en los sindicatos y para el fortalecimiento del papel de los trabajadores jóvenes en las direcciones de los sindicatos.
- 24 de abril: Foro internacional sobre el crimen patronal de Plaza Rana en Bangladesh, donde perdieron la vida 1.134 trabajadores, entre ellos 851 mujeres trabajadoras.

#### MAYO

- 1: Celebraciones del Primero de Mayo a través del ZOOM bajo el lema: "Covid-19 y sus repercusiones en la vida de los trabajadores - la respuesta de los sindicatos militantes" - VACUNA GRATUITA PARA TODOS
- LA LUCHA CONTRA EL FASCISMO Y LA XENOFOBIA A INCLUIRSE TAMBIÉN EN LAS REIVINDICACIONES DEL PRIMERO DE MAYO
- Congreso de la UIS BIFU de la FSM
- Salud Pública: acciones en todas partes con el lema principal "Servicios médicos, públicos, gratuitos y adecuados para todos".

#### JUNIO

- 7-18 de junio de 2021: 109a Reunión de la Conferencia Internacional del Trabajo
- 19 de junio de 2021: 342a reunión del Consejo de Administración de la OIT
- Actividad virtual de la FSM

#### Finanzas:

Agradecemos a los afiliados que, incluso en medio de estas difíciles circunstancias, han pagado sus cuotas anuales para el año 2020 y a los que han contribuido con alguna ayuda financiera extra.

La FSM está en una situación financiera pobre y mala. LA ÚNICA FUENTE DE INGRESOS SON LAS CUOTAS DE NUESTROS MIEMBROS, LAS CUOTAS DE LOS TRABAJADORES SENCILLOS. NUESTROS MIEMBROS APOYAN A LA FSM DE SUS BAJOS INGRESOS, PORQUE LA MAYORÍA DE LOS SINDICATOS ESTÁN EN UNA SITUACIÓN FINANCIERA DIFÍCIL, TAMBIÉN DEBIDO A LA PANDEMIA DEL CORONOVIRUS. Esto nos da superioridad moral y autonomía. Agradecemos a los compañeros de la India y Nepal que tratan de apoyar financieramente a la FSM.

#### 18o CONGRESO SINDICAL MUNDIAL:

Se han iniciado oficialmente las preparaciones del Congreso, con el objetivo de un Congreso democrático, militante y unificador, que dará respuestas contemporáneas sobre los deberes y el papel de los sindicatos en el siglo 21. La discusión abierta y rica en los lugares de trabajo, en sectores, regiones y en cada país es el objetivo principal. Las discusiones pre-congreso comienzan desde ahora!

EL SECRETARIADO DE LA FSM  
Atenas, 21 de diciembre de 2020

## خطة عمل اتحاد النقابات العالمي للعام 2021 (النصف الأول من العام) للمجلس الرئاسي لاتحاد النقابات العالمي 15-16 كانون الأول 2020

### لقرارات

#### زملائي الاعضاء

ينعقد اجتماع مجلسنا الرئاسي في خضم الصعوبات التي أوجبتها جائحة كورونا 19. تعلم جميعاً أن اجتماعات المجلس الرئاسي كانت دائماً حية وديمقراطية وبناتلغ غنية. ونعلم أن الاجتماعات الافتراضية ليست نفس الأمر. وهي متأخرة كثيراً في المناقشات الثرية والقررية. ومع ذلك، نعتقد أنه من الضروري، حتى من خلال الصعوبات، عدم المناقشة، بقر ما يمكن العلم بذلك من خلال اجتماع افتراضي. إذ يجب أن تكون هناك معلومات متبذلة ويجب علينا جميعاً اتخاذ بعض القرارات الأساسية لخطة العمل 2021.

تسير إرسادات منظمة للصحة العالمية حتى الآن إلى صعوبات السفر والاجتماع بالحيد من المعتادين حتى النصف الأول من عام 2021. وهذا هو السبب في أن خطة العمل التي ترمطها إليكم مدتها سنة أشهر وجميع الأنشطة تقريباً تتم عبر الإنترنت.

إنه الوقت الذي نتاح لنا فيه الفرصة لقراءة كتاب مفيد لاكتساب المعرفة اللازمة للنضال الطبقي من أجل مصالح العمال في بلدنا. وفي صناعاتنا وعلى كوكب الأرض ككل. وأن تتم الاستفادة من الندوات التدريبية للنقابة على المستوى الإقليمي والقطاعي.

وعلى الرغم من الصعوبات، فإننا يمكننا تنظيم حملات دولية للنضال والدعم مع الشعوب والعمال الذين ينضلون من أجل حقوقهم.

ونظراً لأولويتنا القصوى هي النضال من أجل صحة عامة مجالية للجميع. من أجل نضال آمن ومجالي للجميع ضد فيروس كورونا، لبناء مستشفيات كبيرة وحديثة وعامة بكلفة المحلات البشرية والتكنولوجية اللازمة.

تواصل جهودنا لتعزيز الحملة من أجل منح جائزة نوبل للسلام لكوبا على مساعدتها للطبية والإنسانية في التعامل مع الوباء في الحيد من البلدان.

نستخدم الحيد من الحكومات وأرباب العمل الوباء للانتفاض على حقوق العمال ومكافئهم، ونكيد للحريث النقابية والحق في الإضراب. نحن بحاجة للدفاع عن جميع المكاسب التي حققها العمال.

يفرض هذا الوضع عد اجتماعات عن بعد لأمانة لاتحاد النقابات العالمي مع كل دولة وكل إقليم وكل قطاع يتم تنظيمها في كثير من الأحيان.

ومن خلال خطة العمل للعام الماضي 2020 فإننا نقرح الحفاظ على مفلي:

- مسابقة الكتاب عن تاريخ اتحاد النقابات العالمي حتى نهاية حزيران 2021

- الحدث الدولي في الذكرى 75 لتأسيس اتحاد النقابات العالمي في قبرص والذي سيعقد يد رقع قيود السفر. كل بلد - كل قطاع - كل منطقة لتواصل الندوات حول الذكرى الـ 75 علماً من الفخر والكرامة لاتحاد النقابات العالمي.

- رخصة أرتيف لاتحاد النقابات العالمي. من الضروري للمضي قدماً حتى يتم الحفاظ على التاريخ الثري لاتحاد النقابات العالمي.

نعتقد أنه في عام 2021 يمكننا تطوير مبادرات مبنية لجميع العمال، لتقوية الحركة النقابية وتعزيز القيمة والدور الرائد لاتحاد النقابات العالمي على جميع المستويات.

### شهر كانون الثاني:

- المجلس الإقليمي لاتحاد النقابات العالمي يجتوب أفريقيا وندوة الشباب للعمال

- حملة لاتحاد النقابات العالمي: حرروا أطفال فلسطين من السجون الإسرائيلية

- تحرك دولي ضد قانون قبرص الذي سموت عليه الولايات المتحدة ضد سوريا وإيران وأبذل ودول أخرى.

### شهر شباط

- اجتماع للبلقان الافتراضي

- الاجتماع التالي الافتراضي للاتحادات المهنية الدولية



• الصحة العامة: إجراءات في كل مكان مع شعار رئيسي "خدمات صحية عامة مجانية ومرضية للجميع".

#### شهر حزيران

• 7-18 حزيران 2021: الدورة 109 لمؤتمر العمل الدولي

• 19 يونيو 2021: الدورة 342 لمجلس إدارة منظمة العمل الدولية

• نشاط اقتراضي لاتحاد النقابات العالمي

#### لوضع الماليين

تشكر المتقنين الذين دفعوا حتى في خضم الظروف الصعبة رسومهم السنوية لعام 2020 والذين ساهموا ببعض المساعدة المالية الإضافية.

إن اتحاد النقابات العالمي في حالة مالية سيئة. المصدر المالي الوحيد هو رسوم أعضائنا ، ورسوم العمال العاملين. يدعم أعضائنا اتحاد النقابات العالمي من خلال المنخفض ، لأن معظم النقابات في وضع مالي صعب أيضاً بسبب وباء فيروس كورونا. هذا يمتدنا التفوق الأخلاقي والاستقلالية. تشكر الزملاء في الهند ونيبال الذين يحولون تقديم الدعم المالي لاتحاد النقابات العالمي.

#### للمؤتمر الثامن عشر لاتحاد النقابات العالمي :

بدأت رسمياً الاستعدادات للمؤتمر. يهدف تشكيل مؤتمر ديمقراطي فضائي وموحد يعطي إجابات معاصرة حول واجبات ودور النقابات العمالية في القرن الحادي والعشرين. الهدف للرئيسي هو المناقشة المفتوحة والخفية داخل أماكن العمل وفي القطاعات والمناطق وكل بلد. تبدأ المناقشات التمهيدية للمؤتمر من الآن!

الأمانة العامة لاتحاد النقابات العالمي

أثينا 21 كانون الأول 2020

• الحصة الدولية للتضامن مع قزوين

• لقاء على شبكة الإنترنت للممثلين والممثلين والموسميين والعاملين في الفن يشكل علم والأشخاص العاملين في مجال الفن وعلوم الثقافة.

#### شهر آذار

• 8 آذار اليوم العالمي للمرأة للعطلة. وأيضاً عيد فكتسطة لحقوق المرأة للعطلة على مدار الشهر.

• الحصة الأوروبية حول العمل عن بعد ومشاركة الشباب للعمل في نقابات العمل

• 15-25 آذار 2021: الدورة 341 لمجلس الإدارة في منظمة العمل الدولية

• 15-26 آذار 2021: لجنة وضع المرأة 65 التابعة للأمم المتحدة

#### شهر نيسان

• 6-9 نيسان 2021: الاجتماع الإقليمي السابع عشر لمنظمة العمل الدولية لمنطقة آسيا والمحيط الهادئ (منخفضة).

• اجتماع نيويوركنا ؟؟

• إعلان شهر نيسان شهر الأنشطة التحفيزية لمشاركة العمال الشباب في النقابات العمالية وتعزيز دور العمل الشباب في التحويلات التنموية.

• 24 أبريل: الملتقى الدولي حول جريمة أرباب العمل في راتا بلارا في بنغلاديش حيث قد 1.134 عملاً حرقهم ، من بينهم 851 عطله.

#### شهر أيار

• 1: احتفالات عيد العمل عبر منصة زوم تحت شعار: "كوفيد 19 وانعكاسه في الحياة العمالية - ورد النقابات التضامنية" - لقاء مجالي للجميع.

• الفضل ضد الفاقة ورهاب الأجانب يجب أن يُدرج أيضاً في مطالبات الأول من أيار

• مؤتمر الاتحاد المهني الدولي لعمال المصرف

## Resolutions

### 1) Resolution of solidarity with Syria and Iran against Caesar Act

The WFTU Presidential Council denounces the unjust and imperial procedures that the US government has taken against Syrian people in what is known as Caesar Act. This act deprives the people of Syria from buying or selling any product from the outside world.

### 2) Resolution of solidarity with the Working Class in Turkey

The WFTU Presidential Council expresses its solidarity with the workers of Uzel Makina, Real Market, Makro/Uyum Market and TÜVTÜRK and the workers employed in Mining sector especially in Soma and Ermenek against unjust dismissals, state repression and for the protection of their rights.

### 3) Mexico: Resolution of solidarity with the struggle of the SUEUM trade union (EN)

The WFTU stands in solidarity with the struggle of the Union of Employees of the Universidad Michoacana (SUEUM) in Mexico that is fighting against the omission of the economic resources assigned to the Michoacan University of San Nicolás de Hidalgo by the competent authorities and the non-payment of their salaries.

### 3) México: Resolución de solidaridad con la lucha del Sindicato SUEUM (ES)

La FSM se solidariza con la lucha del Sindicato Único de Empleados de la Universidad Michoacana en México que está luchando contra la omisión y falta de fiscalización de los recursos económicos asignados a la Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo por las autoridades competentes y la falta de pago de sus salarios.

### 4) Resolution of solidarity with the rights of Indigenous Peoples (EN)

The WFTU stands in solidarity with the indigenous peoples of the Americas, Africa, Asia and Oceania and has always been a strong defender

of the rights of indigenous peoples as their right to maintain their ancestral lands and territories, to preserve their culture, languages and customs.

### 4) Resolución de solidaridad con derechos de Pueblos Originarios (ES)

La FSM se solidariza con los pueblos originarios de las Américas, África, Asia y Oceanía y siempre ha sido un firme defensor de los derechos de los pueblos originarios como su derecho a mantener sus tierras y territorios ancestrales, a preservar su cultura, lenguas y costumbres.

### 5) Solidarity Resolution with the People of Venezuela (EN)

The WFTU has been firmly on the side of the Venezuelan people and has fought on their side against the imperialists and their puppets and we reiterate our firm demand to stop the interference of the imperialists in the internal life of the country and the pillaging of the natural resources of the country by monopolies.

### 5) Resolución de Solidaridad con el Pueblo de Venezuela (ES)

La FSM ha estado firmemente del lado del pueblo venezolano y ha luchado de su lado contra los imperialistas y reiteramos enérgicamente nuestra firme reivindicación para que cesen ya las injerencias de los imperialistas en la vida interna del país y el pillaje de los recursos naturales del país por los monopolios. (ES)

### 5) Résolution de Solidarité avec le Peuple du Venezuela (FR)

La FSM a été fermement du côté du peuple vénézuélien et s'est battue de son côté contre les impérialistes et leurs marionnettes et nous réitérons énergiquement notre ferme demande d'arrêter l'ingérence des impérialistes dans la vie intérieure du pays et que le pillage des ressources naturelles du pays par les monopoles.

### 6) Resolution of the WFTU in solidarity with the member of its Presidential Council, Julia Amparo Lotán (EN)

The WFTU stands in solidarity with Julia Amparo Lotán for the extension of her house arrest, requesting the Judge of First Instance for Drug Trafficking and Crimes against the Environment of the department of Guatemala, to review the measure of home detention and to extend it to the entire Guatemala territory.

### 6) Resolución de la FSM en solidaridad con el miembro de su Consejo Presidencial, Julia Amparo Lotán (ES)

La FSM se solidariza con Julia Amparo Lotán por la ampliación de su



arresto domiciliario, solicitando al Juez Décimo de Primera Instancia Penal Narcoactividad y Delitos contra el Ambiente del departamento de Guatemala, que revise la medida de prisión domiciliaria y que la extienda a todo el territorio de Guatemala.

7) Consejo Presidencial de la Federación Sindical Mundial: Resolución de Solidaridad con las luchas de trabajadores Peruanos encabezados por la Confederación General de Trabajadores del Perú (CGTP)

La clase obrera y pueblo Peruano ha sido muy golpeada por las consecuencias generadas por la pandemia y agravada por las políticas anti laborales del gobierno del Perú y la CGTP y demás organizaciones sociales y populares han librado valerosas luchas, movilizaciones y acciones de protesta y huelgas; el CP de la FSM ratifica pleno respaldo solidario con sus luchas.

8) WFTU Presidential Council Resolution in support of the workers and People of Sudan and Palestine

The WFTU PC expresses its firm solidarity with the Sudanese Workers Trade Union Federation (SWTUF) and workers of Sudan against the efforts dissolve the SWTUF and reiterates its unwavering support and solidarity with our Palestinian brothers and sisters until the recognition of their free and independent homeland.

9) Resolution: The 2021 Nobel Peace Prize must be awarded to the International Health Contingent “Henry Reeve” of Cuba

We distinguish the heroic medical personnel of socialist Cuba, who are offering a helping hand to the peoples of the world despite the blockade imposed by the imperialists and we consider as the highest expression of humanity and internationalist solidarity the contribution made with selflessness by the Cuban medical brigades for 60 years.

10) WFTU Presidential Council Solidarity Resolution with Indian farmers

The WFTU PC expresses its internationalist solidarity with the justified struggle of the farmers in India who massively participated in

the strike of 250 million strikers on November 26th, 2020 and calls upon the workers and farmers of India to continue their struggle until the full satisfaction of their fair demands.

11) WFTU Presidential Council Solidarity Resolution with the forefront workers during the pandemic

We express our warmest appreciations to the health workers who do their best, risking their lives, to deal with the pandemic, the understaffing and criminal shortages in the great majority of hospitals and we greet the heroic efforts of all workers in the production of food, medicine, transport, cleaning, communications, energy, to provide all the goods and services for the continuation of life.

12) WFTU Presidential Council resolution on prisoners rights during the Pandemic

The WFTU condemns the unacceptable exposure of prisoners in conditions of complete lack of social distancing and limited provision of necessary equipment for protection against the Pandemic in various countries around the world and demands the action of international organizations and governments to ensure the dignified and safe detention for all detainees.

13) Resolution of solidarity with workers of Kazakhstan

The WFTU stands in solidarity with the workers of Kazakhstan, who are trying to defend their trade union liberties. We demand that the law “On Trade Unions” be brought into line with the norms of the ILO and the release of all trade unionists, the rehabilitation of convicted oil workers in Zhanaozen and the investigation of the events of December 2011, which led to the deaths of dozens of workers.



## Zola Saphetha

Gen. Sec. of TUI Public Services & Allied Workers  
Gen. Sec. of NEHAWU, South Africa

### Annex I

The COVID Pandemic and Its Consequences  
on the Workers Work and Life;  
the Duties of the Class Oriented Trade Union Movement

#### Introduction

The COVID-19 global crisis has once again exposed the limits of capitalism and its imperialist policy of neoliberal-globalisation. The crisis is an epistemic break that represents a rapture in the seemingly entrenched ideology of neoliberalism. It is no surprise that Lenin's quote that "there are decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happen" adorn almost every other article written about the COVID-19 crisis. In a period of just a few months, after decades of neoliberal dogma; free-market fundamentalism were usurped by government interventionism. It turned out that "PR consultants", "change managers" and "lobbyists" are not particularly useful in combating global pandemics such as the COVID-19. Societies now know what jobs are essential to their health and wellbeing – neoliberal governments can no longer pretend that the "free market" represents the solution to humanity's problems.

The year 2020 signified a defining conclusion to the end of this decade, a moment where humanity would either irrevocably descend into the abyss or pull itself back from the brink. The new was about to be born, but the old was refusing to die. Either humanity would emerge into a new capitalist nightmare or enter into a period of socialist awak-

ening. Of course, we might experience neither of these scenarios. Like Ernest Mandel believed that the economic and geopolitical crises of the late 1960s and 1970s would signal the end of capitalist hegemony, many of us thought the 2008 financial crisis would precipitate the end of the neoliberal order. Capitalism, however, reimagined and consolidated itself after each of these events rather than collapse as was expected.

There is certainly a probability that the coronavirus pandemic might give way to an even more bloody capitalist war against populations, a brutal form of austerity. Just as the neoliberal orthodoxy of the post Keynesian welfare state was about reasserting the power of economic elites and protecting them from the adverse effects of the economic crisis of the 1960s and 1970s; it must be expected that the working class will once again be expected to bear the social and economic costs of the post COVID-19 crisis just as it happened in the aftermath of 2008 financial crisis when the bankers and capital were showered with "bailout" money and the working people were given austerity.

Around the world, millions are applauding the heroic efforts of frontline workers in the fight against COVID-19, while this is welcome, trade unionists must demand more. Frontline workers play an indispensable role in the fight against the coronavirus and thousands of them have lost their lives in this struggle. Class oriented trade unions can only do justice to these momentous efforts by calling for deep, systemic changes that will result in better working conditions for frontline workers and healthcare systems that are not driven by the profit motive. Workers cannot accept a return to the old normal that was part of the problems that predated COVID-19.

At the same time, millions of workers have lost their jobs and incomes as a result of the COVID-19 related economic lockdowns and limitations that were placed on many industries and sectors throughout the world. No worker has been left unaffected by the crisis. The latest job loss bloodbath comes on top of an already existing crisis of unemployment spawned by the neoliberal policy of pauperising workers through informalisation, outsourcing and destruction of formal secured jobs; the crisis of unemployment and pauperisation of the working class predates the COVID-19 crisis. Workers are once again asked to fend for themselves during a period of a capitalist generated crisis while business is given "financial bailouts" and other forms of financial concessions.

It is not only workers that are being made to bear the weight of the COVID-19 crisis their organisations too are under siege during this period. Employers in many countries have used the coronavirus restrictions imposed by governments as a Trojan horse to restrict trade union activity, and harass trade union activists that dare to challenge them. Access to workplaces, the



right to strike and assemble are all under threat under the guise of “adhering to national COVID-19 guidelines” of countries.

### Profit over people, cost over care: broken public system under capitalism exposed by COVID-19

Suddenly, humanity found itself in a transformed world. Empty streets, closed shops, unusually clear skies, and climbing human deaths tolls: something unprecedented is unfolding before our eyes.

The state of national economies is alarming almost everywhere in the world: the COVID-19 pandemic has triggered the sharpest and deepest economic contraction in the history of capitalism. To paraphrase The Communist Manifesto, all that was solid has melted into thin air: ‘globalisation’ has gone into reverse, long supply chains, that were previously the only ‘rational’ way to organise production, have collapsed and hard borders are back, trade has declined drastically and international travel has been severely constrained. In a matter of weeks, tens of millions of workers became unemployed and millions of businesses lost their employees, customers, suppliers and credit lines.

The political implications are uncertain. Ideologically, neoliberal discourses about the imperative of ‘fiscal austerity’ and the limitations of public service provision of basic social services have vanished while the private sector pleads for unlimited public spending in order to save private initiative. No doubt, neoliberal orthodoxy will get back to normal when circumstances change and memories fade. At that point, state intervention will once again become ‘bad’, and the public sector workers will be ready for another round of job cuts. We will once again be told about the virtues of the free market and the inefficiencies of the state.

Indeed, the pandemic hit after four decades of neoliberal dogma had depleted the capacity of nation states. In the name of the ‘superior efficiency’ of the market, neoliberalism oversaw de-industrialisation in developed countries through the ‘globalisation’ of production by exporting manufacturing jobs to cheap labour destinations under the mantra of; “labour deregulation”. Poor countries were forced to compete in a race to the bottom in the name of “attracting investors, while

millions of secured jobs were lost in developed countries. The fragile financial system secured only by state sanctioned fiat money was and still is dedicated solely to short term financial speculation, and not to social wellbeing. It is thus not surprising that the capitalist world economy under the stewardship of neoliberalism finds itself unable to respond to the crisis at hand.

Frontline workers and the public are today paying with their health and lives for the short sighted neoliberal policy of destroying public services such as health-care through successive budget cuts in social security and public health. The big private Healthcare Insurance companies that were supposed to replace the state in the provision of healthcare are only good at multiplying profits for their shareholders. Privatisation of healthcare undermines the job security and rights of healthcare workers and makes healthcare inaccessible to the majority of people – particularly the working class.

The struggle for quality public healthcare, and the rights of public health workers today is in essence a struggle against the policy of governments to feed the greed of big capital through the commodification of healthcare by privatising healthcare provision. The lives of doctors, nurses and other health care workers, including the broader public, are put at risk by the neoliberal policy of turning the basic health needs of people into business opportunities for big business to profit from. The constant cuts in public spending carried out by the political elites at the behest of capitalist have destroyed social security and public health thus condemning millions of poor people into misery.

All over the capitalist world, governments in collusion with big business are undermining the capacity of states to provide for the basic needs of populations while at the same time threatening the jobs and livelihoods of workers. Increasingly, the role of governments is merely to pass legislation to enable business to profit from the misery of workers and the public. The COVID-19 pandemic has proven once again that governments are there to secure the wellbeing and prosperity of capital and big business; not to look after the needs of citizens.

### COVID-19 and the acceleration of new technologies in the workplace

The restrictions on the movement of workers as part of the measures to



mitigate the spread of COVID-19 has meant that many work places have remained closed. To overcome the challenge of COVID-19 lockdowns employers, particularly those in face-to-face services sectors have had to resort to technological interventions in order to continue doing business. Although employers would like workers to believe that such interventions are aimed at their health and safety, the reality is that these interventions are driven mainly by the imperative to continue doing business and the cost cutting opportunities they present to employers.

New technologies like telework are playing an increasing role in many workplaces in the services and retail sector as part of the strategy to mitigate against the negative impact of COVID-19. This new development has exposed the lack of legal frameworks, as this type of work has up until recently not been part of collective bargaining agreements. Thus workers doing this kind of work find themselves facing health and safety issues, long working hours and generally poor working conditions. Issues of privacy, and the need to learn to use new technologies and gadgets are some of the other issues workers doing this sort of work have to contend with. There is thus clearly a need for more trade union work and focus in this developing area.

### The impact of COVID-19 on women, youth and immigrants

National lockdowns have also affected millions of vulnerable workers engaged in precarious work or survivalist activities in the informal economy. Lockdowns have led to these workers losing their incomes and livelihoods and they also do not enjoy the protection provided for by labour legislation or the benefits of social security. The struggle for a universal social security net to protect the millions of workers who find their livelihoods threatened is one of the most urgent tasks of the class oriented trade union.

In most countries women make up the majority of the frontline workers in the healthcare services and care industries. Many of these women doing care work are immigrants who endure poor pay and poor

working conditions. Equally, it is women who dominate in the informal sector and occupy the bottom place in production and thus endure the worst impact of the COVID-19 crisis without any social relieve. To make matters worse, studies also show that the COVID-19 lockdowns have also led to an increase in the cases of domestic violence and abuse against women.

With regard to the youth; even before the effects of the coronavirus the youth made up a disproportionate number of the unemployed in the world. As a result of the high unemployment rate, many young people found themselves engaged in precarious work in the form of agency jobs, temporary work and survivalist activities. The COVID pandemic has thus brought the plight of youth into stark contrast in the light of the current economic challenges facing many countries.

Immigrants too face some of the severest challenges under COVID-19, already before the pandemic they were employed in some of the lowest paying and appalling working conditions. In most instances, due to their immigrant status, these workers are denied the protection enjoyed by other workers. They are easy victims of xenophobic attacks and serve as a scapegoat for rightwing movement to explain the crisis of unemployment in their respective countries and thus also suffer violence at the hands of these groups. The COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdowns have only multiplied all these problems for immigrants.

For millions of vulnerable workers at the bottom of the global supply chains, life was already a struggle even before the advent of COVID-19 and the restrictive measures that have accompanied it. The pandemic has only increased the crisis of rising unemployment, growing inequality and poverty, and women, youth and immigrants are among the worst affected workers with regard to these challenges.

### Workers and the working class must not accept a return to the old normal that was part of the problem

A number of assertions and predictions that the international working class movement has been making to the world about capitalism has now been proven correct by the Covid-19 pandemic. The WFTU has always opposed neoliberal capitalist globalisation because the privatisation of public services and the export of secured quality jobs to low paying destinations with poor working conditions only serve to undermine the social and economic wellbeing of workers and the working class as a whole. Secured quality jobs, accompanied





by a social wage in the form of basic public services (public healthcare provision, affordable state provided public transport and free education up to tertiary level remain vital for a quality life for the working class under capitalism).

The working class struggles against capitalist neo-liberal at tempts to make profits from the suffering and basic needs of the people has now been proven correct beyond doubt. History has demonstrated that our position on role of the state in relation to the free market is the correct and humane position.

It is now apparent to everyone who cares to know, that neoliberal capitalist globalisation is unable to meet the needs of humanity under both its normal course of existence and during periods of crisis. The market, and private commercial enterprises are not, and have never been, up to the tasks of resolving the problems facing humanity in the 21st century.

At the height of the Covid-19 crisis rather than proving their effectiveness in responding to crises in the world, the capitalist supply chains and markets proved the opposite. The capitalist market for health supplies instead degenerated into price speculation and hoarding of PPE's thus hampering the global fight against the virus. Even now we see the same commercial logic and greed, from the imperialist camp, with regard to the race to develop a vaccine for the virus driven by competition rather than collaboration. All the signs thus far indicate that the distribution and rollout of the vaccines being discovered is going to take on the form of profiteering for pharmaceutical companies rather than bring the pandemic under control.

## Conclusion

The coronavirus has not only brought new challenges for the working class, it has also magnified existing problems. At the same time, the contradictions presented by the crisis present an opportunity for the red trade union movement and the working class to expose the weaknesses of capitalist globalisation as expressed by neoliberalism. The contradictions and hardships ordinary people are subjected to presents optimal conditions to mobilise the working class for better working conditions, a quality life for all and a humane world.

That is why it is not surprising that in spite of the challenges and hardships imposed by the covid-19, trade unions throughout the world have intensified their historical demands and struggles against capitalism. Everywhere in the world, class oriented trade unions are engaged in practical struggles against attempts to restrict trade unions rights and freedoms by governments and business elites.

The WFTU regions and affiliates must continue to mobilise through strikes, protests, seminars and pickets, combining the struggle for the health of the people of the world with our anti-imperialist struggle for a better society. In the past 75 years, the WFTU has proven and continue to prove that no obstacle can bend its unwavering belief in the struggle for a world without exploitation of men by men. As a family of red trade union movement, our ultimate goal is the overthrow of capitalism and the building of a socialist future.

## Evelin Martínez

Subdirectora de Relaciones Internacionales del MINSAP

### Annex II

La Covid-19 constituye una crisis sanitaria con repercusión en todas las esferas de la sociedad y a su vez es un desafío gubernamental.

Cuando el 11 de marzo del 2020 la Organización Mundial de la Salud declaró esta Pandemia en Cuba se diagnosticaban sus tres primeros casos importados, turistas que se encontraban en nuestro país, sin embargo desde el 29 de enero el Consejo de Ministros aprobó el plan para la prevención y control del coronavirus, un plan que se actualiza constantemente, compuesto por 500 medidas y que es intersectorial e involucra a todos los organismos del estado y del gobierno, a las organizaciones sociales y comunitarias para su implementación y control.

Se creó el Grupo Temporal Nacional que preside el compañero Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, Presidente de nuestro país, con reuniones diarias para evaluar la situación epidemiológica y sanitaria y de esta forma tomar decisiones de forma oportuna a nivel de los territorios.

Se activaron los Consejos de Defensa, que no son más que los máximos órganos del poder político y estatal en cada una de las regiones, y adecuaron las características de sus territorios a este plan nacional, al mismo tiempo se creó el grupo técnico nacional que preside el Ministro de Salud Pública cuya función fundamental es la implementación de las acciones previstas en el plan nacional.

De forma general podemos decir que la estrategia cubana tiene elementos distintivos, dentro de estos: el inicio temprano de la preparación y presentación de un plan nacional intersectorial y adecuado a

todos los territorios, una dirección única de su conducción y control por el presidente del país, objetivos diseñados acorde a los diferentes escenarios que se han previsto para la evolución de esta enfermedad, incorporación de nuevas medidas de acuerdo al avance de la pandemia, resultados exitosos de otros países y las recomendaciones de la Organización Mundial y Panamericana de la Salud en Cuba.

El escenario preventivo es el elemento clave en el modelo de gestión de la epidemia, las acciones inician y concluyen en la comunidad, además existe integración de todo el Sistema de Ciencia e Investigación.

En el país se trabaja de forma conjunta entre el Ministerio de Salud Pública, la Industria Médica Biotecnológica y el Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medioambiente y de esta forma se realizan propuestas específicas y se realizan ensayos clínicos, además el país desarrolló el Plan de Recuperación para la etapa post Cobit, lo que permitirá el regreso de forma gradual, escalonada y asimétrica en cuanto a las medidas y la situación epidemiológica así lo permitan.

En el mundo ya existen 185 países que reportan esta enfermedad con más de 27 millones de personas contagiadas y más de 893.000 fallecidos y Cuba hasta la fecha ha diagnosticado cuatro mil 551 personas de estas más de 3.800 guías recuperadas y 104 fallecidos lo cual evidencia su adecuado manejo con un sistema integral de enfrentamiento, ejemplo de la voluntad política del partido y gobierno cubano al conducir la acción en el nivel local, el nacional y viceversa con el individuo en el centro de todo.

Con el carácter intersectorial y por supuesto con la participación comunitaria existe un elemento distintivo que ha permitido obtener estos resultados y es el Sistema Nacional de Salud, el mismo se caracteriza por ser único, gratuito y accesible para el 100% de los ciudadanos, con base en la atención primaria de salud y con el médico y enfermera de la familia como su principal fortaleza, preparado para responder a contingencias y cuenta con una red de servicios que se integran desde la atención primaria hasta el nivel terciario con recursos humanos suficientes y capacitados y un indicador de nueve médicos por mil habitantes o sea llegamos a esta pandemia con una sólida organización del sistema una atención primaria de salud consolidada, recursos humanos y materiales suficientes, así como capacidades instaladas en todo el país para brindar una atención de calidad.

El modelo de enfrentamiento tiene cuatro componentes:

Un primer componente que es la gestión epidemiológica caracterizada por la búsqueda activa de casos mediante pesquisa al 100% de la población y enfocada hacia grupos vulnerables. El sistema se preparó para todo este trabajo de pesquisa activa y se trabaja de forma conjunta entre todas las instituciones





que lo componen desde los 210 mil consultorios, 449 policlínicos, 150 hospitales y 12 institutos de investigación con adecuados medios diagnósticos y tratamientos, además 28 mil estudiantes de las carreras de ciencias médicas se incorporaron a la atención primaria de salud para, de conjunto con el médico y enfermera de la familia, trabajar en la activa pesquisa dentro de la comunidad para la diaria detección y diagnóstico temprano de casos, así como el aislamiento de contactos y sospechosos.

El reforzamiento de la vigilancia epidemiológica con el control sanitario internacional y la vigilancia en fronteras en puertos y aeropuertos.

Fortalecimiento de las capacidades de laboratorio a nivel nacional y del Instituto de Medicina Tropical Pedro Kourí, centro de referencia para la atención y manejo diagnóstico y tratamiento de infecciones y centro colaborador de la Organización Mundial y Panamericana de la Salud.

Se ampliaron las capacidades en nueve laboratorios de Biología Molecular de la capital y se certificaron seis en el resto del país lo cual permite que el 100% del territorio pueda contar con medios diagnósticos de primer nivel para esta enfermedad de forma conjunta con la Universidad de Ciencias Informáticas.

Se desarrolló el programa de auto pesquisa virtual, ejemplo de cómo las tecnologías de la información se pueden poner en servicios de la salud y de la población.

El segundo componente: la gestión de la organización de los servicios de salud se estableció de modo escalonado y regionalizado. La atención de los pacientes con garantía en el número de camas suficientes para la terapia intensiva, ventiladores suficientes, así como para el resto de los requerimientos médicos y tecnológicos.

Se habilitaron hospitales solo para la atención de pacientes sintomáticos, asintomáticos y sospechosos de alto riesgo.

Se establecieron los protocolos de bioseguridad y se garantizaron los medios de protección para el 100% de los profesionales de la salud que están en la primera línea de combate, recibieron, de forma preventiva, medicamentos para fortalecer su sistema inmunológico, productos de nuestra industria biotecnológica.

Se activaron centros de vigilancia para todos los contactos y sospechosos y para viajeros, de esta forma se pudo hacer un uso óptimo de las camas hospitalarias. El Sistema Nacional de Salud tiene previstos para la atención de pacientes enfermos 20 hospitales, 5000 camas hospitalarias, 447 camas para terapia intensiva, 54 centros para sospechosos, 248 de vigilancia de contactos y 40 para la atención a viajeros.

El tercer componente: la gestión de la ciencia, incluido el manejo clínico preventivo, permitió conformar el Comité de Innovación con varios grupos de expertos donde se aprueba el protocolo para el manejo del paciente de tratamiento y además preventivo y ese protocolo que se actualiza y se perfecciona constantemente incorporó 25 productos de la industria biotecnológica y farmacéutica cubana, de estos algunos novedosos como son el Interferón Alfa 2b, Interferón Alfa y el anticuerpo monoclonal cd6 y el péptido 6 258, además de utilizar el plasma de pacientes convalecientes, de esta forma se ha logrado una rápida recuperación y se evita que gran cantidad de personas lleguen a estados de críticos y graves. Se implementó el protocolo de seguimiento a los convalecientes por parte del médico y enfermera de la familia y se encuentran en curso 58 investigaciones y dos ensayos clínicos con 211 publicaciones nacionales e internacionales que permite exponer al mundo toda la experiencia cubana.

Además, se implementó el plano nacional de comunicación para la promoción de salud y acciones de prevención con divulgación permanentemente en todos los medios de difusión del país.

Es importante señalar que durante estos meses no ha colapsado el Sistema Nacional de Salud, no ha fallecido ningún niño, ninguna embarazada, ningún médico, ningún trabajador de la salud, por Covid-19.

Nuestra línea de trabajo consiste en seguir incrementando la percepción de riesgo de la población y mantener las medidas de prevención, lo cual no sólo ha permitido sortear la epidemia sino prepararnos para la reapertura y vuelta a la normalidad cuando la situación epidemiológica lo permita.

Todo lo anterior ha sido posible a pesar de las inmensas restricciones que nos impone el bloqueo económico comercial y financiero del gobierno de EE.UU. a nuestro país por seis décadas, que en medio de la Covid-19 se ha recrudecido.

A pesar del llamado internacional de poner fin a esta política genocida desde abril del 2019 hasta marzo del 2020 el bloqueo ha causado pérdidas en el sector de la salud en el orden de 160 millones 260 mil 880 dólares y de forma acumulada desde el inicio de esta política hasta la actualidad 3 mil 74 millones 33 mil 738.



Las principales afectaciones consisten en la dificultad para adquirir en empresas norteamericanas o subsidiarias en otros países recursos necesarios para el funcionamiento del sistema ya sean equipos, dispositivos médicos, medicamentos, reactivos y otros insumos, esto obliga a que Cuba tenga que utilizar mercados distantes o intermediarios, lo cual encarece y ralentiza significativamente estas adquisiciones.

Igualmente, los bancos se niegan a aceptar transacciones procedentes de Cuba, y EE.UU. aplica sanciones a navieras que transportan mercancías hacia nuestro país en tiempos de Covid, ésta política impidió la materialización de la compra que se tramitaba para adquirir ventiladores pulmonares para los pacientes enfermos y la misma no pudo concretarse debido a que dos fabricantes suizos que antes los vendían anunciaron el fin de los vínculos comerciales con Cuba luego de que fueran adquiridos por la empresa estadounidense Bayer Medical inc.

Otro ejemplo fue la imposibilidad de recibir la donación procedente de la fundación Jackman debido a que la empresa naviera transportista estadounidense APEX cargo, contratada para su envío, en el último minuto declinó hacerlo por temor a las regulaciones del bloqueo.

Sin embargo, ante esta situación el país ha buscado alternativas para continuar prestando atención a nuestra población y no ha renunciado al principio de la solidaridad en la salud que nos caracteriza en el sistema nacional.

Desde hace 57 años, ante la solicitud oficial de gobiernos, 46 brigadas del Contingente Internacional de médicos especializados en el enfrentamiento de esas graves epidemias Henry Reeve laboran en 42 países y territorios de América Latina, El Caribe, África, Medio Oriente y Europa con 3081 integrantes, de ellos más de 2000 son mujeres y han atendido 300.000 personas con esta enfermedad, además los 28 mil colaboradores que forman parte de brigadas médicas permanentes en 58 países se han incorporado a los esfuerzos nacionales y locales en el combate de esta enfermedad.

Esto no ha podido impedirlo ni el genocida bloqueo cruelmente recrudescido ni los intentos de ese país de desacreditar y obstaculizar la cooperación médica internacional, lo que se ratifica con esta experiencia que solo la cooperación y la solidaridad internacional salvarán a la humanidad de esta grave crisis

La visión de desarrollo científico y de recursos humanos en nuestro país se remonta desde el 15 de enero de 1960 cuando el comandante en jefe Fidel Castro Ruz en la Academia de Ciencias de Cuba expresó "El futuro de nuestra patria tiene que ser necesariamente el futuro de hombres de ciencia" y esto ha sido la base para el desarrollo científico y de recursos humanos.

Desde la década de 1980 y con mayor énfasis en 1990 se estableció el desarrollo de la industria biotecnológica y de todo el polo científico cubano, a pesar de que en esa época justamente el país atravesaba una seria crisis económica como lo fue el período especial por lo que contábamos con un potencial ya existente en el país cuando apareció la enfermedad y desde que iniciaron las acciones de enfrentamiento Miguel Díaz-Canel ha sostenido 23 encuentros con científicos y expertos cubanos que se enfrascan en esta batalla diaria.

El 21 de agosto se anunció el registro del candidato vacunal presentado por la isla, denominado Soberana 01, desarrollado por el Instituto Finlay de vacunas y ese mismo día ocurrió el bloqueo de cuentas de Youtube del programa televisivo Mesa Redonda y de Cubavisión Internacional, una acción para impedir que Cuba anunciara públicamente al mundo este importante logro, lo cual ratifica que el bloqueo se extiende hacia todas las áreas incluido el ciberespacio. El candidato vacunal cubano es el primero de Latinoamérica, el primero de un país pobre en recursos económicos y bloqueado por una gran potencia, pero grande en espíritu y esa ha sido la base en la razón por lo que se ha logrado.

El 24 de agosto iniciaron las primeras fases del estudio, el cual está previsto que concluya en enero del 2021 y en febrero ya estará a disposición de la población, de esta forma Cuba forma parte de los 33 países en el mundo que tienen candidatos aprobados en ensayos clínicos, países como China Rusia EE.UU. Japón, Alemania Australia el Reino Unido- todos grandes economías y con multinacionales conectadas.

El candidato vacunal Soberana 01 es fruto de la experiencia acumulada por Cuba en la medicina preventiva y del desarrollo de la industria biotecnológica que tiene gran reconocimiento a nivel internacional, actualmente el país administra 11 vacunas a toda la población que protegen contra 13 enfermedades y 8 de ellas son de producción nacional alcanzando un nivel de cobertura superior al 98 por ciento.

Esta vacuna no será la primera en aparecer en el mundo, pero si abarcará a todos los cubanos sin excepción de forma universal, accesible y como resultado del compromiso y voluntad política con la salud de nuestro pueblo.

Muchas gracias.



