WFTU | TRADE UNION
INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC
SERVICES WORKERS
AND ALLIED

XIV INTERNATIONAL
CONGRESS

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EDITOTRIAL COMMENTS
By General Secretary, Cde. Zola Saphetha

If any of the delegates who attended the Trade Union International of Public Service and Allied (TUI-PS&A) XIV International Congress came with any doubts in their minds about the solidity, strength, maturity and vitality of our TUI, including its commitment to the struggles of the working people and their class agenda, those doubts were erased by what they saw and heard at our recently concluded congress in Bogota, Colombia.

The hearts of all delegates and commitment of our affiliates has been warmed by an unshakeable certainty which gives them courage in the difficult but glorious struggle against the common enemy of the working class. No power in the world – today - is in a position to destroy the TUI PS&A’s organisational strength, which is not only responsible for generating a new life in the different continents and regions of the world, but also – and more importantly - creating a New Man; fully conscious of their national, continental and international responsibilities toward the advancement of the agenda and struggle of the working class.

Our TUI has made major progress in the last four years since the International Congress in 2019 that it held in Cyprus. Its renewal and the establishment of its presence in all continents is self-evident and cannot be doubted or denied.

The recent congress also brought together a diverse spectrum of workers from different cultural backgrounds coming from different countries, although they spoke different languages, they spoke in one voice and were unanimous about the need for a single class agenda to confront the common challenges facing workers in every country.

The lesson that each member and friend, particularly those delegates who attended our international congress, must take home, is that workers’ struggles in any country are the struggles of the entire working class in the world. This means that the victory of the working class and the success of its revolution can only be guaranteed through the principle of working class unity, internationalism and solidarity work to confront its common enemy.

The XIV International Congress refused to reduce our TUI to a mere collaborationist yellow union narrowly focused on the sectoral demands of its members at the expense of the broader working class struggle. Equally, congress also rejected the neoliberal anti-worker language of rationalisation, austerity and privatisation that is wielded as a weapon by our class enemies to destroy quality jobs, worsen working conditions, and reverse the historic gains of workers and wage war against their unions.

Thus, our TUI is clear in its role as a strategic sectoral arm of its mother body; the class oriented World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU). As TUI for public service and allied, we simply refuse to allow any distortions about our struggles and our fundamental demands for social change. Congress also emphasised that our commitment and struggles as a public service TUI of the WFTU are not only geared toward defending the rights and working conditions of workers in the sector; we also fight to defend state provided essential services such as water, electricity, health, education etc. from privatisation. The right of the public to readily access essential state provided services that are provided on the basis of need rather being driven by the profit motive
of the private sector is one of the non-negotiables of our TUI. Neoliberal policies such as the policy of privatisation and austerity do not only attack workers but put the whole working class into misery as they remove all social safety nets and the social wage that normally cushion the working class from the pauperising effects of capitalism.

Given our understanding on the revolutionary tasks at hand not only at the workplace but also in society where we live, and also our grounding on the materialist conception of history that all human societies’ progress through class struggles as proclaimed by the 1848 Communist Manifesto that: “The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles”. The TUI-PS&A remain steadfast in its opposition to fascism, capitalism and imperialism; for that reason, a significant amount of our work will involve campaigns in support of countries under US imperialist siege such as the illegal economic blockade of Cuba, the illegal sanctions on Cuba, including the destructive wars in Syria, Libya and Ukraine that are designed to serve the West’s geopolitical interest. Our TUI also condemn the barbaric oppression of Palestinians and the illegal occupation of their lands by the apartheid Israeli regime; in the same breath we continue to condemn and call for the end of the occupation of Western Sahara by Morocco.

Lastly, the congress reaffirmed our commitment to grow our TUI and position it to carry-out its economic, political and ideological tasks in a manner that will materially improve both the working and living conditions of our members and workers in general. As part of this process, congress also explored ways to increase the role and participation of women and youth in the leadership and activities of the TUI. In our struggle to change society, we will continue to rid ourselves and our organisations of the vestiges we inherited from the very system we seek to overthrow.

In our view, we conclude by declaring the XIV International Congress as a resounding and successful congress regarded as a turning point in terms of future congresses at the level of both content and form and producing the balance leadership outcomes (in terms of gender, age and inclusivity of continents and regions).

This bulletin therefore is meant to be distributed among all our member affiliates, public servants and friends to understand and familiarise themselves with our TUI, its policy perspectives, strategies and programs. Cultivating such an understanding will then hopefully contribute towards growing our TUI and ensuring its presence or voice in every corner of the world. All our leaders, structures, members and friends are called upon to circulate to their maximum this bulletin to everyone in the world for interaction and information.

Viva TUI PS&A Viva!
Viva WFTU Viva!
Aluta Continua!

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WELCOMING ADDRESS
By SINTRAEMSDES President, Cde. Humberto Polo Cabrera

“Independence is not a prize, it is the result of the constant struggle for justice” Jose Marti

The public service workers of America, Colombia and SINTRAEMSDES received with a fraternal and warm welcome to Comrades Artur Sequeira, TUI PS&A President; Zola Saphetha, the General Secretary of TUI PS&A and Swadesh Dev Roy, the Deputy General Secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions (the WFTU); members of the TUI PS&A Directive Committee; to the delegation of the National Government of Colombia headed by our Minister of Labor GLORIA INES RAMIREZ RIOS, to the honorable congressmen and councillors, to our dear comrades participating in this XIV International Trade Union Congress.

Welcome to this important and historic International Trade Union Congress of Public and Allied Service Workers. Historic because after 74 years of the founding of the International Union of Workers’ Unions in Public and Allied Services of the World Trade Union Federation, it holds its first congress in America; representing 104 member organizations, bringing together more than 30 million workers from different public services such as education, health, justice, home services, among others; characterizing it as the most representative international trade union organization, with presence in more than 34 countries in all continents of the world.

That is why, the enthusiasm and the wide presence of the members of Latin America and the Caribbean, in this first congress that takes place in our continent, which today has the presence of 116 delegates from 17 countries, who will accompany us the following days, joining more than 150 delegates from our country; those taking part in the debate on problems and proposals to guarantee universal access to essential public services, human rights, the right of association, freedom of association, collective bargaining and strike; as well as the right to a safe energy transition and a healthy environment. Demands that the world population is making, in the midst of a capitalist model in crisis.

I am sure that the answer is the recognition that will be given, through the ability to contribute and address the complex problems that are experienced, not only in Latin America and the Caribbean, but in all regions of the world. The positive social dialogue and the exchange of knowledge between our different organizations will be able to provide a work agenda, with immense possibilities of mutual learning, to move from confronting to proposing a fair and equitable global economic model, to bring out billions of people who are submerged in absolute poverty and destitution, a product of capitalist barbarism.

The economic crisis and adjustment policies define the development of trade union life in Latin America and the Caribbean; the reduction of production and the reduction of the States lead to the elimination of millions of jobs in sectors that are strategic for the trade union movement, which means a dramatic fall in the rate of unionization, together with the structural and programmatic deficit, of the old practices, which no longer provide answers to the new challenges of the contemporary world of work, in this sense, has all the importance and relevance that this important Congress will be held in Colombia, a strategic country for Latin America and the Caribbean.
SINTRAEMSDES is the national union of public service, information technology and communications workers, merged in 1994 to bring together all the grass-roots unions in this industry sector, with histories of more than 86 years; reactivated with the aim of confronting the neoliberal model in Colombia, which began with the economic opening in 1990 and the issuance of the 1991 Constitution and its regulatory laws, including Law 100 of 1993, 142 and 143 of 1994 and others, which have led to the stripping of workers’ social rights, the handing over of state-owned public utility companies to private operators and the transfer of financing for the provision of essential public services to users, through expensive tariff systems, which have dragged millions of Colombians into absolute poverty and destitution.

Our victims and many of the survivors and threatened who are present in this Congress today, we have been a military target of paramilitary groups, state intelligence apparatuses such as the former DAS, and armed groups created to exterminate the trade union movement, with systematic assassinations of trade union and social leaders, who have had the audacity to confront, the barbarism of capitalism and its neoliberal model, a model that has deepened the plundering of natural wealth, the dispossession of public wealth, through privatizations, outsourcing and job insecurity in Colombia and virtually all Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Anti-union practices have not ceased; today we have to denounce before this Congress and the international community, some facts that continue to occur in our country, one of them is the suspension of the trade union registration of our Sub-directive Arauca for a period of six (6) months, in a second instance judgment delivered by the Arauca Judicial District Court, Single Decision Chamber, issued on 31 October 2023, leaving headlong from its Board of Directors to our affiliated workers of the Arauca Utility Company EMSERPA ESP.

Equally serious are the anti-sical practices developed by the multinational Zueca MILLICOM, which has been implementing a systematic policy of dismissals, voluntary retirement plans that in reality forced, triangulation of employment through satellite companies or subsidiaries such as Colombia Móvil, with offers to workers to switch to these companies in exchange for maintaining employment, restricting the right of association, in order to annihilate the Collective Labour Convention. With these policies of the transnational MILLICOM, SINTRAEMSDES has lost more than 500 affiliates in the last 3 years, leading Subdirectives such as Medellín, Pereira and Cali, to a dramatic reduction in their membership rate, economic income, which threatens the livelihood of some of this Subdirectives. In this sense, we ask for the solidarity of all of you rejecting these facts that affect the viability of SINTRAEMSDES in the future and for these practices to be eradicated from the world of work in our countries.

Today we can say with all certainty that the barbarity of capitalism and its neoliberal arm have proven to be ineffective in meeting the basic and essential needs of the peoples of the world and especially in Latin America and the Caribbean, taking as a reference the ECLAC figures, which indicate that more than 17 million people do not have access to electricity, 75 million without access to fuel and clean cooking technologies, 161 million do not have adequate access to drinking water and, 431 million do not have access to basic sanitation, most of them belong to the most vulnerable populations in Latin America and the Caribbean, including Colombia.

In terms of health and education, they also show the deep crisis of the neoliberal model, with an average infant mortality rate of 43 per thousand in Latin America and the Caribbean, reaching 70 per thousand in the poorest countries. The main culprits are transmissible diseases, emerging new infectious diseases, increased violence and environmental hazards.

In education there is an economic contraction of 7.7% of GDP. Between 2015 and 2019, educational spending fell from 16.1% to 15.4% in the region and, in relation to GDP, fell from 4.5% to 4.3%, all of the above as a result of the crisis of capitalism, which finds in the reduction of investment to
meet basic needs, his salvation.

The essential public services in Colombia are tied to the figures of the Latin American and Caribbean region, with profound inequalities, between the big cities, the municipal capitals, the populated centers and the rurality of the country, according to the figures provided by the DANE with coverage in aqueduct, in the urban areas of 787 municipalities in coverage ranges from 90% to 100%, while in rural areas 163 municipalities are in a lower range in their coverage. On the other hand, the rural area in 359 municipalities has coverage of aqueduct less than or equal to 15%. Overall, more than 6 million people do not have safe water.

I express on behalf of the Colombian trade union movement, of my trade union organization SINTRAEMSDES, our gratitude to the governing body of the International Trade Union Union of Public Service and Allied Workers of the World Federation of Trade Unions, all its members, especially those present, for having chosen Colombia as the host country of this Congress, motivated by support for the Alternative and Left Governments of Latin America, and in particular the National Government of our President GUTAVO PETRO ORREGO, leading the political program of the HISTORIC PACT, Colombia World Potential of Life.

I am part of those millions of Colombians, who dream of a different country, where dignity, equality and equity, become customary as our vice president FRANCE MARQUEZ says, to remain the country of beauty, world power of life, where human rights, the right of association and the right to live in dignity reflect freedom and the free right to development of individuals.

We hope that, despite the regional election results of 29 October, they will serve as teaching and reflection for the different alternative and left parties, to seek the path of unity, to confront the ultra-right that has been recomposed, in order not to lose power and generate the conditions so that progressivism and the left never again return to power. This congress must serve to call for that urgent unity, to surround our president and above all not to lose hope of a real change in Colombia.

I am sure that this support of internationalist trade unionism, represented in the International Union of Workers’ Unions in the Public and Allied Services of the World Federation of Trade Unions, will serve as motivation for the 22 million occupied Colombians, to increase the current unionization rate to at least a double-digit rate of 6%, and to increase from 11,994 unions registered with the Ministry of Labour to at least 21 large national unions, in correspondence with the organization of the Colombian trade union sector and to privilege collective bargaining by branch of industry.

Likewise, we hope that these voices of support will be expressed for our President Gustavo Petro, his national development plan, his social reforms, his policies on the safe energy transition, the reversal of climate change, the defense and conservation of the Amazon. Likewise, the rejection of persecution by the right-wing majorities of the Congress of the Republic and the institutions of the State co-opted by them, which have been decimating the Historic Pact bench, with the annulment of the election of representatives and senators of the republic, with what happened with our comrade ALEXANDER LOPEZ MAYA.

To express our full solidarity with the Palestinian people and to accompany them with the loyal force of our hearts, rejecting and condemning the vile genocide and invasion of which they have been the victims of the Zionist regime in Israel, lament the immobility and complacency of the international multilateral organizations, which are deaf, dumb and blind, in the face of this global atrocity, showing that the interests of the imperialist countries prevail over life, false prophets of world democracy.

To regret the leap into the void made by the Argentine people, by electing as president a
person who expresses the most recalcitrant fascism of the far right, by recycling the neoliberal proposals that led Argentina to the deep economic crisis, legacy of neoliberals Carlos Menem and others. These represent a setback for the policies of change that have been taking place in Latin America.

We invite you to enjoy your stay in Colombia and especially in Bogota Capital District, to share with all present, this wonderful Congress that embodies the solidarity of the peoples of the world, the brotherhood between the different cultures and the knowledge of each of the regions of the world, which will undoubtedly make our Colombian working class better men and women, working for the welfare of all our peoples. Thank you all, they will always be in our hearts.

“Let us sow faith and sow freedom; we sow breath and we will be sowing freedoms; we sow solidarity and we will be sowing freedoms”
(Commander Fidel Castro 1959).

Long live the Palestinian people
Outside Israel of the Palestinian Territory
Long live free and sovereign Palestine.

OPENING ADDRESS
By TUI President, Cde. Artur Sequeira

Comrades.

I would like to begin by saluting the President of the Republic of Colombia represented here by the Minister of Labour Dr Glória Inés Ramirez Rios whom I also send my greetings.

I salute Comrade Dev Roy – Deputy General Secretary of WFTU - who is with us on behalf of General Secretary Pambis Kiritisis, who cannot be present.

I salute comrade General Secretary Zola Saphetha, and his organisation, NEHAWU and the entire Board of TUI – PS & A for the work carried out to ensure the success of this 14th. Congress, in the year in which our TUI completes 74 years of internationalist action of cooperation among our organisations in defence of the workers and public services.

I salute all public service workers, particularly those from Colombia.

I salute all the delegates to this 14th. Congress of the Trade Union International of Public Service & Allied (TUI-PS&A) of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) and its organisations, especially the Leadership of SINTRAE MSDES, for their willingness to host our Congress and for the logistical and organisational efforts to make it a success.

“Defend Collective Bargaining and Fight Privatization, to reinforce International Working - Class Solidarity against Capitalism and Imperialism” is the theme of our XIV Congress of TUI.
Comrades,

We are in Colombia, a country whose workers and people, with their heroic struggle, overcoming a bloodthirsty oligarchy, managed to elect a government of unity and change which represents an internationalist hope for all of us. A government of peace, agrarian reform, labour reform with social justice; a government that stands up to the interests of the Colombian oligarchy and its deeply reactionary nature; a government that defends the sovereignty of its people and friendship between peoples, in particular between the countries and peoples of Latin America; a government that confronts the interests of North American imperialism and demands the end of the blockades on Venezuela and Cuba. A government that was one of the, unfortunately few, that had a stand of solidarity with Palestine in view of Israel’s barbaric aggression.

I reiterate the Internationalist solidarity of the TUI-PS&A of the WFTU with the cause of peace and social justice in Colombia and with its People.

Comrades,

This 14th. Congress of the TUI-PS&A takes place at a time when exploitation and gamble on fascist and extreme right-wing projects are heightening on all continents, sworn enemies of public services and their workers. Neoliberal governments reconfigure national State apparatuses to put them at the service of multinationals and transnationals, sometimes privatising, sometimes reconfiguring systems, companies and services to transfer public funds to pay private interests, sacrificing rights and their universality. A course that, in Europe, is achieved through the imposition on workers of European treaties that establish neoliberalism, federalism and militarism in the European Union, sacrificing sovereignty and opening the field to increasingly anti-democratic policies, social regression and war. as witnessed in its involvement with the war in Ukraine.

Invoking various pretexts, such as the pandemic or war, what neoliberalism does is increase exploitation. Based on false inevitabilities, invoking values of collective morality, it imposes a social setback on workers to increase the profits of big capital. Completes the attack on labour and social rights of workers, hard won through their struggle, benefiting from the disappearance of the socialist bloc from Eastern Europe, and the resulting hegemony of the capitalist system.

The USA, EU and their allies, particularly NATO, raise their militaristic and aggressive action to an increasingly dangerous level, as can be seen with the war in Ukraine, or the barbaric aggression in Palestine. From our point of view, it is the policy of the ruling classes in the most advanced capitalist countries, it is the dispute for control and domination of natural resources and their main sources; it is the neo-colonial domination exercised by economic pressures (with increasingly illegal sanctions and blockades), diplomatic pressures and interference; that are at the root of the deep instability of the international situation. The growing aggressiveness towards Russia and China and the development of lines of confrontation and military siege are a cause for concern.

In Latin America, where experiences of resistance against imperialism and progressive and revolutionary advances have developed, imperialism counterattacks and develops processes of interference and destabilisation, which the aim of their defeat. The continued blockade on Cuba continues, a blockade that was once again rejected at the United Nations General Assembly, where North American imperialism achieved yet another defeat. Blockade also on Venezuela. Sanctions and blockades on African countries facing the power of neo-colonial powers. Unilateral and illegal blockades and sanctions, based on the imposition of the law of the strongest, which we here want to condemn and demand their end, as well as demand respect for the sovereignty of these countries and peoples.
Comrades,

In the context of a great onslaught against workers, rights with a historical and civilisational dimension are being attacked. The right to work is attacked; wages are attacked; working hours increase; work rates also increase, unpaid work increases; the retirement age increases; the right to strike and protest is attacked; the right to rest and leisure; attack on the regulation of collective bargaining with the individualisation of labour relations to the detriment of the former; unfair dismissal is expanded; lines of action are developed against the exercise of freedom of association in the workplace and on the streets; policies of pressure and attack on class-oriented trade unions and other representative structures of workers, their autonomy, independence and internal democracy.

The workers resist, they are not willing to give up on having a decent life, but we cannot fail to recognise that the struggle has fallen short of the needs. It is the class struggle that determines the historical evolution of Humanity. The mass struggle continues to prove itself as the instrument par excellence of resistance and advances on the path to the emancipation of workers, there are advances in some countries and continents. But the working masses are led to believe false solutions promoted by the dominant social democratic sectors in a very significant part of the trade union movement. We are witnessing a strong mobilisation by big employers and governments with colossal means in the ideological offensive, corruption, seeking to instil in them the inevitability of the withdrawal of their rights, the need to adapt the labour world to global competition, calling for their submission.

Our TUI and the WFTU remain firm in their class orientation and internationalist identity, highlighting that exploitation and domination by capital is not inevitable. What is inevitable is our struggle for concrete objectives in defence of the class interests of workers. What is inevitable is our solidarity and internationalist nature. What is inevitable, given the current historical circumstances, is our commitment to the unity of workers, to the unity of the trade union movement, to the expansion of their action and influence. It is necessary to take advantage of the existing means, create new means with all possible help: reinforce mutual knowledge, the sharing of experiences, respect for the positions of each organisation, and the cooperation and solidarity on which the action of our TUI is based. Our TUI has a better future as long as we are able to take measures to expand its base, boost forms of work that go beyond our borders, as long as we are always there to defend the rights and interests of workers.

We also reaffirm the fight in defence of Peace, against the growing influence of the extreme right, fascism and Nazi-fascism, racism and xenophobia.

Comrades,

The Board of TUI-PS&A, elected at the Cyprus congress, in which FNSTFPS of Portugal assumed the Presidency and NEHAWU assumed the General Secretariat, managed to promote a significant activity, even more relevant in the context in which it had to face a pandemic, with the response that was required from public services. A very important increase was given to the action of this TUI, based on the congressional decisions adopted in Cyprus and the action plan adopted at the World Board meeting, held in Johannesburg, in February 2020.

We cannot fail to value the fundamental leadership work of the General Secretariat, in particular the work that has been carried out by Comrade Zola Saphetha and all the comrades who work with him.

As I am coming to the end of my current term as President of the TUI, I address you with conviction...
in the commitment placed in fulfilling the task assigned to me and ready – both me and my organisation – to accept the future responsibility that the Congress decides to assign us.

The action plan being considered at this 14th Congress of our TUI results from a process of collective involvement of affiliated organisations, in the assessment of the political, economic and social situation in the world, in each continent and country, and its consequences on the rights of workers in Public Administrations, in the social functions of States and in the public services that ensure them, particularly in the areas of education, healthcare, social security and culture.

In this sense, we will take decisions to develop a strategy of solidarity action and internationalist support, always considering the political, economic, social and cultural diversity and specificity of each country and each organisation, of the struggle carried out by Public Administration workers in each country. A strategy to defend their professional dignity and defend the social functions of the State, public services and the public and universal nature of these services. Public services and their valorisation, as well as the rights they guarantee, are guarantors of democracy; which makes the struggle against their privatisation and for their valorisation a priority; against the handing of resources and funds to big capital to increase its profits.

In this Congress, we will reaffirm the class stand of our TUI- PS&A, which should promote and encourage unity work, the most effective way to combat those who – in unions or governments – aim to promote the interests of capital and weaken the struggle of Public Administration workers.

Comrades,

Without calling into question its statutory autonomy, the TUI-PS&A assumes itself as a sectoral organisation of the WFTU and its action will always have as its objective its prestige and strengthening.

It is in this sense that the resolution under discussion at this TUI-PS&A Congress points. It aims to adopt decisions that are a contribution to maintain and deepen contacts and relationships with class-oriented organisations in our sector, on all continents, all those who identify with our trade union project or who want to converge with it in action in defence of the rights and interests of workers.

It is therefore important that this 14th Congress of the TUI-PS&A of the World Federation of Trade Unions, adopt organisational measures to reinforce our solidarity and internationalist action with the workers and peoples who fight for freedom, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and against oppression and exploitation, a principle that has always been affirmed by the WFTU and for which we will continue to fight.

Long live the TUI-PS&A Congress!
Long live the WFTU
Long live the workers and the Colombian People!
Long live Internationalist Solidarity!
KEYNOTE ADDRESS
By the World Federation of Trade Unions
(WFTU/FSM)
Deputy General Secretary, Cde. Swadesh Dev Roye

Dear Comrade President & the Comrades of the
Presidium

Dear Comrade Delegates
Distinguish Guests

On behalf of the Secretariat of World Federation of
Trade Unions, I convey fraternal working class greetings
to all the international and national participants of this
Congress

At the very beginning I salute the people of Colombia led
by the Colombian Working Class for achieving a historic
victory by electing a pro-working class President in the
last elections in Colombia held in June 2022. The significance of the victory must be understood
from the facts narrated hereunder:

Colombia has been the most dangerous country in the world for trade union leaders and cadres
for more than half a century. Apart from the countless brutalities, according to a recorded
account, between 2018 and 2023 the working class in the country suffered 15,810 identified
cases of brutal deadly attacks, while 3,323 were killed, 449 cases of attempted murders, 254
cases of forced kidnapping, 7,884 death threats and 1,987 forced displacements. It is horrifying
to note that Colombia alone accounted for over 60 per cent of worldwide killings of trade
unionists during this entire period. However, I assume these figures are an understatement.

It is rewarding that on March this year the Administration of President Petro has declared official
recognition of trade unions in the country for the first time in its history. Further, a Government
Directorate called, “Government-run Victims’ Unit” to provide rehabilitation and compensation to
the families of the victims of the atrocities of the previous Governments has been established.
Deservingly the workers of Colombia organized victory rallies all over the country in September
this year. The celebration in Bogota on 13 September was addressed by President Petro and
the Labour Minister of the country Madam Gloria Ramirez, who was a trade union leader. The
following quotation from the speech delivered by the President in the rally is a piece of pride
and stimulation for trade union movement.

Quote: “I cannot say that Videla [Argentina’s military dictator who was behind the murder and
disappearance of thousands] killed more than Colombia: he killed fewer. There, they are called
dictators, [whereas] in Colombia, [they are called] presidents, but here they killed more. You are
going to tell me that it wasn’t the presidents who did the killing. Well, they stayed silent and allowed
the lords of greed to kill workers”. The President also drew parallels between certain former
leaders of Colombia and dictators Francisco Franco, Augusto Pinochet and Adolf Hitler.
[source:- Colombian Armed Conflict Human Rights Trade Unions]

To conclude this chapter, I believe the Congress of our TUI in session here is the continuation
of the victory celebration of the working class of Colombia. I hope the delegates from different
countries shall carry the message of struggles, sacrifice and success of our Comrades in
Colombia.
Genocide in Palestine: I express my deep anguish and strongly condemn the brutal, barbaric genocide of the people of Palestine by the Fascistic Zionist Netanyahu led ultra rightist alliance government of Israel.

Targeted killing of children and women in thousands is nothing else but act of animal cruelty. As per WHO release every ten minutes one child is killed. It is universally accepted that gaza is nothing but ‘Open Prison’ of more than two million people. Thus it amounts that the genocide has been going on inside a jail.

Comrades, I have not gone for the disastrous data of horrific killing of innocent people of Palestine by the Zionist Israel because the pathetic picture is aggravating too fast to track numerical update.

Thus far, Israel has dropped a higher tonnage of explosives on Gaza than the combined weight of the two atom bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Further, the civilian death toll in Ukraine during one year and eight months of the conflict has already been surpassed by the civilian death toll in Palestine in just more than a month.

The spokesperson of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) James Elder said of this situation: "Gaza has become a graveyard for thousands of children. It’s a living hell for everyone else".

We all must remember that the 7th October did not fall from the sky out of void. To quote the UN Secretary General ‘it is important to also recognize that the Hamas action did not happen in a vacuum. The Palestinian people have been subjected to 56 years of suffocating occupation. They have seen their land steadily devoured by settlements and plagued by violence; their economy stifled; their people displaced, and their homes demolished. Their hopes for a political solution to their plights have been vanishing.”

The origin of the current course of catastrophe started with the General Assembly of United Nations adopted resolution on 29 November, 1947 recommending the implementation of partition of Palestine into an Arab State, a Jewish State and the city of Jerusalem.

The nefarious project of occupation and persecution by the Zionist began with first Nakba in 1948; the forced displacements during the 1967 war and ongoing displacements and illegal settlements, better called occupation.

Craig Mokhiber, in his resignation letter from the office of UN Human Right Adviser, protesting Israeli genocide in Palestine, who lived in Gaza on UN assignment for many years, has noted, quote: “But the current wholesale slaughter of the Palestinian people, rooted in an ethno-nationalist settler colonial ideology, in continuation of decades of their systematic persecution and purging, based entirely upon their status as Arabs, and coupled with explicit statements of intent by leaders in the Israeli government and military, leaves no room for doubt or debate.”

Hypocritical and Sinister game of Imperialism led by USA, be it on implementation of UN Resolution on Palestine or be it on the ongoing Israeli genocide in Palestine has once again been exposed before the entire world.

It requires no mention that the Zionist could have never succeeded in capturing even an inch of Palestine land without the imperialist nexus – first the British and subsequently, since the 1960s with the unstinting support of US imperialism.

Recall, since 1970, the US has repeatedly exercised its sinister veto power to block UN Security
Council resolutions for a two State solution for territorial division to pre-1967 status quo ante, with East Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian State.

Flash point of US betrayal to the people of Palestine and for that matter to entire Arab people is the atrocious action of US President Trump who went to the extreme extent of relocating the US embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

Not just the US secretary of state Antony Blinken has already visited Israel twice during last one month since 7th October, but President Biden himself visited Tel Aviv and desired to meet the leaders of key Arab nations. It was unprecedented that the Arab nations refused to meet the US President.

Even when high-ranking US officials talk about a ‘humanitarian pause’, USA continue to provide billions of US dollars and more weapons systems for the Israeli military. Only just recently Biden has obtained sanction from the Congress for 14.1 billion US dollar for Israel genocide in Palestine. It is noteworthy, US military funding to Israel topped at $3.8 billion in 2023 cumulating to massive $263 billion between 1946 and 2023.

Obviously, in 2022, America's top five weapon contractors made $196 billion in military-related revenue and US military equipment sales to foreign governments rose 49% to $205.6 billion, which has given a boost to US economy at the cost of millions of lives and habitations. Alas! The systemic crisis is leading to profit-mongering also through barbarous genocide.

Craig Mokhiber wrote in his resignation letter quote: “Western Corporate Media are continuously dehumanizing Palestinians to facilitate the genocide, and broadcasting propaganda for war and advocacy of national, racial, or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility, and violence. “US-based social media companies are suppressing the voices of human rights defenders while amplifying pro-Israel propaganda. In the wake of this genocide, there must be an accounting for these actors as well.”

To conclude this chapter rather on an optimistic note, the most motivating and inspiring development is that People all across the globe irrespective of Regions or Religions are coming into the street in millions with militant protest against this barbaric genocide. Significantly both the Arab streets and the people even within the land of Israel are out in huge scale vociferously protesting Israeli barbarity.

Relevant and imperative to note that the extraordinary joint Islamic-Arab Summit held at Riyadh on 11 November 2023 has issued joint communiqué affirming quote: “condemnation and categorical rejection of this barbaric war against our brothers in Palestine. We are facing humanitarian catastrophe that proves the failure of the Security Council and international community to put an end to the flagrant Israeli violations of international law. The Summit urged the International Criminal Court to investigate war crimes and crimes against humanity that Israel is committing in Palestinian territories.”

The message: Such an international action of people in a row day after day in millions on the streets laterally across the globe against the uncivilized and inhuman act of cruelty and barbarism on Palestinian by imperialist powers, perhaps has no parallel in immediate memorable past. It is once again proved people possess fire to fight against imperialism.

Further, overthrowing capitalist system, class conscious leadership of working class to ignite the fire in the people is practical and possible. This should be the lesson and task for class oriented trade union movement from this uprising of the people. It would be pertinent to recall that Fighting against imperialism is the birth pledge of WFTU.
WFTU Secretariat has been put into top priority mode in condemning Israeli genocide and organizing solidarity action in support of the people of Palestine on the streets. General Secretary Comrade Pambis Kyritsis has been in constant touch with our Palestine affiliates.

The General Secretary himself visited Middle East from 24th to 27th October 2023. During the Five day long visit, the General Secretary held series of meetings with leaders of trade unions from Syria, Lebanon and Palestine including International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions. He also had meeting with the President of Syria, Bashar al-Assad.

The highlight of the activities of the GS during his visit was a massive public solidarity meeting of the fighting people of Palestine in Syria. In the meantime WFTU Secretariat has called for observation of ‘International Day of Solidarity’ with the people of Palestine on 29th November.

Our Understanding of World Political & Economic Situation

Today Capitalism is in the iron grip of Galloping Rise in Rate of Inflation; Squeezing money supply through various steps including pushing Federal Fund Rate, better called high interest rate; FII Flights, Price Rise, Fall in purchasing power of people; Recession in Market, Exchange Rate Volatility, Export Market drastically shrinking, Adversely impacting Capital Account and Current Account, Aggravating Debt-GDP ratio, ever burgeoning unemployment and so on.

The global capitalism at the stage of this systemic crisis has been losing all sanity and sanctity of civilization and taking shelter under fascistic aggression within and outside national boundaries to impose the burden of the crisis on the shoulders of working class and toiling people.

In the situation demands struggle against capital integrally and organically linked with the political ideological struggle against all sorts of military expansionism and wars, against authoritarianism, against ultra nationalist jingoism and much more.

The Ukraine War although fought in the soil of Ukraine, it is in reality a war between USA-led NATO countries and Russia. The unique formulation of WFTU is that the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics (USSR) played the guarantee to World Peace. If USSR would not been the victim of internal and external conspiracies resulting in its dismantling, the imperialist forces would not have been succeeded in their hegemonic aggression and destruction of world peace with repeated Regional Wars.

The Ukraine war has got a very dangerous Economic angle too. It is not mere Economic Sanction imposed by USA against Russia. It is freezing the Bank Account of Russia and confiscated 630 billion in US dollar Foreign Exchange reserves of Russia.

Thus USA has weaponized Dollar and launched economic warfare. Even bourgeois Economists have defined this as “Economic Weapon of Mass Destruction”.

This atrocious act of USA has sounded alarm bell globally apprehending same can happen with the dollar reserve of other countries. The result is, according to Stephen Li Jen, famous currency analyst US Dollar’s share in international reserves has declined to 50% from the high of 73% in 2021.

A CNN online post has captioned ‘So is king dollar about to be dethroned?’ Well this may not happen tomorrow! But such earth shaking manifestations must be looked linking with the aggravating Systemic Crisis of Capitalism which has big bearing on the working class movement, both in short term and long term basis.
The point is if the weapon called US Dollar is turned toothless, US hegemonic power is bound to be down significantly. Consequently co-relations within Capitalist camp shall be impacted and new global and regional reoriented alliances can emerge.

**Inflation:** Capitalist World has entered into a phase of \textit{profit-price} spiral driven enduring inflation. This situation has been flagged by Economists as 'Greed-flation'. Notably today Debt-GDP ratio in capitalist world has climbed to alarming 300%. Even during the crisis of 1930s it was 150%.

According to a September 2022 World Bank Comprehensive Study Report, Global Recession is prone to grip Developing Economies with string of financial crises that would do lasting harm. **Betrayal of Social Democracy:** Another serious phenomenon is the Right-wing Populist Autocrats in power, essentially require to study in conjunction, through political and ideological lens.

Today there are around 30 Right-wing Populist Autocrats in Government across the Continents. There are 50 such parties which have representation in Parliament in their respective countries.

These Autocrats pursue neo-liberalism aggressively but barbarously divide people and divert their attention from the issues concerning life and livelihood by spreading the poisonous virus of region, race, face, colour, cast, creed, communalism and atrocities on migrant workers. Our class oriented trade union movement must not be victims of illusion with ‘Social Democrats’

**The Capitalist Game of ‘Just Transition’:** Of late the campaign for "Just Transition" from fossil fuel to green renewable energy has been reverberating globally. It is attributed that the concept of just transition was born in the US in the 1970s. The preamble of Paris Climate Agreement too contains this.

Not to be surprised, ITUC, in close collaboration with ILO has been entering into ‘tripartite partnership’ in all the concerned countries for this so called just transition. Remember ITUC has been partner in the baseless day dream of ‘Fair Globalisation’. No wonder, they are partner in ‘just transition’ project also.

**Urgency and Challenges** before the working class arise from onslaught of loss of employment of millions of workers globally now working in Energy Sectors directly and indirectly. Due to technological factors such job losses in undeveloped and under developed countries shall be shockingly higher.

We the affiliates and friends of WFTU must be in the forefront in protecting Natural Resources and Cleaning and Protecting environment from the onslaught of capitalist class. We should not have any illusion on partnership which is nothing but class collaboration.

It has been the imperialist countries who have produced the bulk of the carbon dioxide emissions now concentrated in the environment. It is these nations still have the highest per capita emissions. These states, moreover, monopolize the wealth and technology necessary to reduce global carbon emissions dramatically. Notably, in terms of per-capita emission of carbon dioxide, the first five polluting countries are New Zealand, Canada, Australia, USA and Argentina.

Dear Comrades,

It is a matter of great opportunity for me to attend the XIV International Congress of the TUI (Public Services and Allied) representing WFTU in the soil of Colombia. The Secretariat of WFTU recognises your TUI is one of the best functioning TUIs. That’s a different matter we have
experienced ups and downs during its long journey of 74 years. I am sure the diamond jubilee celebration of your TUI shall be a befitting class oriented event for the WFTU family as whole.

In the meantime, the self-critically balanced Organisational Assessment Report provided in Book 3 presented here captures an encouraging picture. In course of your journey from Cyprus to Bogota you have expanded. It is a milestone that more than 69 new unions have joined your TUI and compared to the XIII Congress, number of delegates attending this Congress has increased by 157. These are encouraging development for WFTU as well.

**A Few Lines About TUIs:** The TUIs are integral part of the WFTU. The TUIs have their own Constitutions which should, however, be in harmony with basic aims and objective of that of the WFTU. The TUIs are centers for the planning, formulation, coordination and stimulation of international trade union activity at industrial levels, for greater unity and solidarity in the interest of the workers of their respective branches of industry.

The TUIs cooperate and participate with the WFTU in implementing the policies which emerge from the World Trade Union Congress, in formulation of which the TUIs participated and in organizing the support and solidarity of the entire international trade union movement.

Our TUIs are fundamentally different from the so called ‘Global Unions’ created by the class collaborationists which enjoy the confidence of the employers of the sectors concerned at national and international level.

Our TUIs function strictly under the principle of class struggle of the working class of the respective industrial and service sector concerned. The TUIs are counted as members of the family of WFTU. In fact WFTU looks upon the TUIs as the avenues for direct contact with the grass root level workers.

A Consultative Conference of TUIs Secretariat and the WFTU Secretariat is held generally annually. In one such two-day session of the principal leaders of all the TUIs and Secretariat of WFTU led by then General Secretary Comrade George Mavrikos, a Charter of Task for TUIs was adopted. I consider it appropriate to reproduce only few vital tasks from that charter:

- Support the struggles of workers in their industries across the world, plan solidarity actions and implement them; inform WFTU Secretariat about these struggles for broader support and solidarity
- Plan activities that would help ideological development of the working class in their respective sectors
- Strengthen coordination among the various affiliated unions of the TUIs and between the TUIs and the WFTU to develop effective global resistance to the global onslaught of the capitalists
- TUI affiliates are to take up the day to day problems of workers, analyse objectively from working class angle the cause of the problems and organise struggle to achieve the demands of the workers.
- TUIs to work for developing unity with the farmers, students; self-employed youth and women
- TUIs have the task of promoting international solidarity with workers from other sectors and countries.
• TUIs must act as powerful lever of struggle against capitalist barbarism pursued by monstrous multi-national corporations (MNCs).

• To establish co-ordination between the Regional Offices and TUIs in each Regions, so as to help each other and the implementation of collective programmes.

• TUIs must continuously promote the WFTU amongst the grass root level workers and unions and bring them into the WFTU family. This should be an important parameter to judge the organisational success of all the TUIs.

• TUIs must participate in the activities of the different forums of WFTU and implement the campaign and action programmes time to time decided by the WFTU including observation of the Action Day on 3rd October every year

**In final conclusion:** we must pay attention that centering round competition for capturing markets in the era of crisis of capitalism, contradiction among Monopoly Capital and Multinational Corporate are in play.

We have to understand as a consequence of the unprecedented hegemonic onslaught of imperialism, present era is the monopoly stage of capitalism. Over the last decades, the domination of multinational companies has been consolidated, assisted by strong imperialist centers such as the EU and the US.

Today, the majority of global exchanges are carried out by multinational companies. Such companies have consolidated themselves in the local market and are being expanded to other countries and other continents and control production facilities beyond the country of their origin. The above inevitable features of capitalism have been intensifying with accompanying political volatility globally.

TUIs are called on to study the strategy and tactics of multinationals, the cartels creation, and conflict of interests of the cartels with imperialist plans; to study acquisitions and mergers, as well as the developments in strategically important sectors. And draw formulation and adopt international working class action.

**Dear Comrades**

Let me finally conclude with optimism that the future for the International Working Class cannot be capitalist barbarism. We struggle for a world of working class democracy, social justice and freedom from exploitation by man by man. Our TUIs, our Regional Offices, the whole family of the WFTU has the experience, knowledge, willingness and strength to continue our struggle until the final victor.

**Socialism is the answer to the systemic comprehensive crisis of capitalism; the path of class struggles and overthrow of capitalism is an imperative.**

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ADDRESS BY COLOMBIAN MINISTER OF LABOUR
Madam Gloria Ramirez

Good morning ladies and gentlemen comrades and friends from all over the world, thank you for the solidarity that you have shown to the workers of Colombia, the government of Colombia and the people of Colombia, by having your 14th International Congress in Latin America.

Special greetings to the General Secretary Cde Zola Saphetha, President Artur Sequeira, WFTU DGS Cde Swadesh Dev Roye, SINTRAEMSDES President Cde Humberto Polo, and all of you who have come from different parts of the world, welcome to Colombia.

I also bring you fraternal greetings from all over Colombia, from our government of change lead by our President Gustavo Petro and Vice President Cde Francia Marquez.

This 14th Congress of the Public Services Unions takes place in the midst of global turbulence including pandemics, environmental catastrophes, global economic meltdown, increase in poverty as well as the genocides being committed against innocent civilian.

As government we are working through a process of geopolitical reconfiguration, taking forward the struggles for peace, social justice, climate change, defence for fundamental rights of all workers, rights of immigrants all these are very important in our defined task as this government.

We therefore not only call for solidarity but for unity of all workers. We want to say to you all that as from the year 2022 in Colombia we have ushered for the first time in more than 200 years a New Leftist progressive government.

This government comes with a clear mandate, which is a mandate of change a mandate that allows Colombia to move towards being a country where human rights, social rights, economic rights, are in the centre of our actions and program, so that all those that were disenfranchised, marginalised, exploited can begin to move towards advancement of their lives.

We also want to say to you with clarity that we got into government, but we do not yet have the power. As all of you know that as soon as we were pronounced as government, there were many factors against us, the resistance against us started in anest, the destabilisation of this government.

We got here as government through the peace process, which we signed with FARC who have been part of the many year of conflict in our country which a resulted in many casualties and victims due to fighting for tenancy and land distribution and secondly the wealth that is controlled by a few minority individuals, who each and every day are becoming richer and fewer in front of growing poverty of the majority of Colombians.

Let us not forget the great work of mobilisation that was carried out by the great number of the working class of Colombia that has allowed us to be where we are today. We are living in a much polarised country with the right wing forces who want to take us back into war. These right wing forces are waging a war of misinformation to discredit the good work that this government has done so far.
They want to create a vacuum of power but above all they want to take away from us our ethical process of peace of rebuilding our country, our moral and social program, our organic connection with the people of Colombia as this is the only way we can respond to the needs of our people.

I also want to assure you here today that this government of change of our President Gustavo Petro has done all possible to be close to the poor, the social movements and the trade union movement of workers in our country. Today we are involved in major struggles, we have not yet attained the revolution but we are undertaking enormous reforms, and our responsibility is working hard so that these reforms become structural, so that they are able to transform the lives of all Colombians in totality.

We are also witnessing the capitalist crisis, creating a reactionary sector, whose only interest is increasing their profits at the expense of workers rights that they have fought for in a long time. Let me say to you there is no place for hopelessness, as we have lived and struggled more difficult times, the political climate of our times calls us for more solidarity among our people and the international working class for the transformation of our living conditions at all levels.

It is for this reason that I cherish the space that you gave me to participate in this congress, you know very well that, my long journey in the trade union movement and see the advances made in the unity of the trade union movement, I want to say I feel very proud to have been groomed inside the trade union movement of the working class as well as from a leftist party that has reaffirmed our principles, and when they say this is trade unionist they don’t offend me they make me feel proud and strengthen my resolve to continue in the struggle to defend our principles, and our popular action for the people.

The data coming from the United Nations agencies paints a very precarious situation about access to public services by our people around the world, million have no access to health, drinking water, electricity, food and many other amenities. I would not want to end my speech without reiterating our solidarity our solidarity with the peoples of Palestine, who have been resisting with much bravery the genocide being committed by the Zionist government of Israel.

I call upon this congress to denounce these acts. Homes have been destroyed, close to 15,000 people have been killed the majority being women and children and a third of these being children. Thousands have been displaced, we receive everyday images from the media of man and women seen digging in the rubble of destroyed buildings looking for their family members and loved ones.

We also call upon this congress to pronounce and support the call by our government that we organise two international peace conferences to find a solution for the people of Palestine for a two State solution with a free Palestine, and a second peace conference to end the conflict in Ukraine.

Once again thank you very much to the TUI of Public Services for having chosen Colombia as the host for your Congress, which has allowed us to exchange and get to know your experiences, thank you very much and welcome again to Colombia, to the comrades of SINTTRAEMSDDES who are working here locally fighting against monopolies and transnational companies.

I call upon that you continue ahead with unity in this organisation, the workers popular movement, with the forces of change that we need to maintain this government so that we prevent the soft coup that they want to execute against the government of Gustavo Petro and Francia Marquez and the popular left of this country.

Thank very much comrades, thank you.
POLITICAL OVERVIEW
Presented by the General Secretary, Cde. Zola Saphetha

Comrades, compatriots, friends, brothers and sisters.

On behalf of the XIII directive committee collective, we take this opportunity to pass our profound and revolutionary greetings to you all on the occasion of this august international Workers’ parliament convened under the auspices of the trade union international of public service and allied represented by delegates coming from all corners of the world to genuinely reflect on the plight of exploited and oppressed labour at the point of production, their miseries, pains and suffocations that they are going through on daily basis in their lives given the devastation and conditions they are subjected to work under.

We are meeting precisely three weeks and three days after reaching 74th years of our existence, therefore we should regard this congress as an appropriate audience to celebrate our 74th anniversary on behalf of our more 30 million members. While on the other hand, we must use this opportunity also to provide a full account about our strengths and weaknesses so as to build a capable international trade union of public servants to represent the actual aspirations and interests of public service and allied workers.

In addition, the directive committee collective is accounting about general performance of our TUI in the period under review on ideological, political, socio-economic and organisational mandated by the XIII International Congress held in Cyprus in 2019.

This congress must also map out a clear strategic way forward for public servants and public service in particular and the contribution to the totality of the working class struggle under the prevailing material conditions, largely dictated by the historical objective realities and subjective conditions facing the world society today. To achieve this, we need to be guided by the working perspective as there is no class pities the other.

This overview report departs from a recognition that “The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles” (1848 Communist Manifesto). Precisely because it is a correct conceptualization of the world informed by the materialist conception of history that all human societies’ progress through class struggle as affirmed by the two antagonistic and irreconcilable class contradictions characterizing society – the bourgeoisie and proletariat.

Indeed, the world we live in is dominated by the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie (capitalism) and its highest stage (imperialism) posing an unjust and unsustainable international order, intensifying exploitation and worsening the conditions of the working people in particular and the working class as a whole.

It is a fact that the bourgeois political system defends the interest of monopolies and corporations, manages the systematic crisis of capitalism for its own benefit and attempts to control the growing social discontent of workers and peoples through pressure and violence.

It is therefore imperative for conscious working class formations and class oriented trade unions to always know and keep warnings that capitalism feeds into human miseries, pains and
exploitation, worsening the plight of the working people at all material time. It is against this reality that trade unions like ours must from time to time analyse and engage with the nature and stages of capitalism including grappling with features of imperialism so as to strategically position themselves better in the struggle for socialism by overthrowing this inhumane and barbaric system of capitalism.

It is important therefore to emphasize the point that the battles of the working class against the capitalist system of exploitation requires, in the first place, the working together of the working people and the working class movement with social and popular movements to strengthen the class struggle against the bourgeois and imperialist plans and for the construction of a world of peace, justice and social equity.

Comrades and friends

Our congress convenes at a challenging time when the world is faced with many man made problems, these unfolding developments and changes we are witnessing are mainly driven by the competing needs and interests of different geopolitical forces. It cannot be denied that, the US led imperialist camp is the main instigator and at the centre of almost all prevailing world tensions and conflicts. This reality is informed by the role of the US led camp as a self-appointed police of the world seeking to preserve its post-cold war self-declared status as “the leader of the world”.

This US imperialist camp and their apologists, insists that the prevailing Western dominated capitalist system is the best system suited for humanity, hence they want to impose it to the rest of the world in the name of creating and upholding a “rules based on democratic world order”.

The Ukraine war in Europe, the tensions in South Asia revolving around the China/US technological and trade wars, the recent coups in North Africa and the flare up around the Palestinian question all revolve around this US led imperialist camp’s attempts to shape the world to serve their own national interests at the expense of others. The drive of the Western capitalist system seek to maintain the dominant position of the West in the world at the expense of others, driving inequality in and among many countries and even within those same Western countries themselves.

This oppressive system justifies and frames its existence as striving for “human freedom” and “democracy” while in reality it creates and reproduces exploitation, poverty, unemployment and general misery for millions of the working people across different countries. Such a system, built on the basis of greed and hypocrisy is incapable of producing truly “free” and “democratic” societies. It reproduces inequality between rich and poor countries, the working class and the bourgeoisie while also accelerating climate change through the super exploitation of natural resources. Under this system life is not determined by ones contribution to the process of production and sustenance of human life, instead life and success under the system is defined by theft, exploitation and marginalisation of the majority by a minority.

Growing International Tensions and Conflicts

Dialectics teaches us that nothing lasts forever and every force and action we apply in a situation has its equivalent that will apply in the opposite direction resulting into a new reality. The growing tensions and conflicts we are witnessing in Europe, Asia, Africa and the resurgence of left governments in Latin American countries such as Brazil and Colombia indicate the growing opposition toward and contradictions of the post-cold war US dominated unipolar world order. The struggle for a multipolar world order based on the respect of the sovereignty of all nations and their right to choose their own development path and model threatens the
economic interests of Western imperialism.

So, the nascent de-dollarization of the world economy represented by the increase in trade through national currencies, the stockpiling of gold by central banks, the consolidation of regional and continental economic blocks is an attempt by some countries to secure their economic and political independence. This represents the general discontent with the prevailing US led unipolar world order that is characterised by a policy of unilateral sanctions, regime change, containment and destabilisation directed and the competitors and adversaries of the US led globalist agenda.

The multiple recurring cycles of financial crises since 2008 after relative period of stability of neoliberalism, the deindustrialization of the developed economies of the West due to the relocation of manufacturing and their industrial base to cheap labour destinations, and the negative effects of the COVID19 pandemic have all conspired to reveal the weaknesses and contradictions of the neoliberal globalist order. The West inward looking response to the global COVID19 pandemic, its containment politics towards Russia and China, and its weaponization of the US controlled international financial system has hastened the call for alternatives and a multipolar world order. This reality is what explains the ongoing tensions and struggles in different parts of the world.

This life and death struggle is primarily driven by the economic interest of the monopolies in the developed capitalist countries in alliance with the economic elites aligned with Western capitalism in developing and poor nations. Thus, although this struggle might appear at face value as a fight between countries; in essence it’s a geopolitical economic struggle between the economic elites of different power blocks for world influence and control. Both the working class and marginalised countries are used as mere pawns in this geopolitical struggle. Whether it is in the developed countries or the developing countries, the first victims are always the working people - the working class in every country faces the struggle of exploitation, worsening working conditions, diminishing livelihoods and a general deterioration in the quality of their lives in general. Hence, the need for national and international working class organisations to drive their own agenda domestically and internationally.

On the War in Europe (Ukraine)
Historically, the West looked at the Soviet Union (USSR) as a political competitor that posed a threat to the system of capitalism, but also viewed its territories as potential resource from which to extract wealth and create new markets. So, the idea was not just about defeating communism as an end in itself but it was also to grow the space for capitalism by creating or conquering new markets. Thus, it was not enough to merely “defeat” communism in the USSR, but countries of the former USSR had to be brought under the direct control and influence of Western economic interests.

The wars in Kosovo and Yugoslavia in the 1990’s and the subsequent Western interventions were part of the process of shaping and increasing Western influence in Eastern Europe. This process was going well in the face of a weak, corrupt and disoriented Russia dominated by pro-Western oligarchs who had made their wealth through the dubious expropriation of public assets of the former USSR. It is through these lens that the current tensions between the West and Russia, and the outbreak of war in Ukraine needs to be looked at in order to get a proper class perspective of what is unfolding in that part of the world – which is a geopolitical contest over spheres of influence in Eastern Europe.

In reality, NATO expansionism, the Western backed 2014 coup in Ukraine, the anti-Russian actions of subsequent right wing regimes in Kiev in fermenting civil war among its own citizens are all part of the circumstance that led to the war the world is witnessing today. All these are happening in the face of a re-immerging stable Russia that wants to secure the former USSR republics as its own sphere of influence.

Of course, Russia’s actions are also influenced by its security concern stemming from expanding NATO military infrastructure around its borders intended to neutralise it in the event of war with the Western backed imperialist camp.

Unlike pro-Western voices who attribute the war solely to the actions of Russia, we do not believe that the conflict there can be narrowly attributed only to single party or role player. While the instigator of the flare up can be attributed to the West, the roots of the underlying conflict can be traced to geopolitical contestation that is spawned by the system of capitalism and imperialism.

The unilateral US sanctions imposed on Russia are not intended to alleviate the plight of the masses in Russia or Ukraine, they are designed to ensure that the West wins the contest of influence in Eastern Europe over Russia. It has resulted in skyrocketing energy prices, higher inflation and a general cost of living crisis in most parts of a world that were just beginning to emerge from the crisis caused by the Covid19 pandemic shut down regulations.

De-escalation can only be achieved through guaranteeing the security and sovereignty of all countries involved, ceasing NATO’s Eastward expansion, stopping the flow of weapons into Ukraine, ending the civil war among Ukrainians and respecting the territorial integrity of Ukraine by calling for the withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukraine. It is only by meeting all these requirements and not just some that the world can hope to see an end to the unfolding war.

Brothers and sisters

**Situation in Asia & Pacific Region**

Since the end of World War II (WWII), the Asia Pacific region has always been one of the regions at the centre of the US’s geopolitical strategy of world domination. During the Cold War era, the US through its Pacific alliance comprised of Japan, Australia, South Korea, the Philippines and
Thailand, waged a war of influence with the Soviet Union in the Asia Pacific region. In the post-Cold War period the US has maintained its Pacific alliance and sought to grow it in order to be in a better position to challenge and contain China’s growing influence in the region and beyond.

Since Obama’s shift of focus, the US strategy of maintaining its world dominance increasingly away from the Middle East and more towards the Asia Pacific region to more effectively counter the rise of China, the subsequent US administrations led by Trump and Biden, have followed the same path. While the US continue to maintain its status as the strongest imperialist power economically and militarily, its overall contribution to the world economy has been reduced over the years. Meanwhile, China’s overall contribution to the world economy has been rising to the point that it is now the second biggest economy in the world.

There is no doubt that the destruction of jobs in the manufacturing sectors through the relocation of manufacturing industries to China and other Asian markets in search of cheap labour, and how the Chinese government made the most of this shift, played a big role in China’s economic rise.

The US has sought to counter this rise of China by raising tensions around the Taiwan as it did with the Ukraine in relation to Russia, establishing new security pacts in the region such as the AUKUS (Australia, UK and US) and trying to win over countries such as India, Vietnam, Indonesia, Sri Lanka etc. through trade deals and strategic cooperation agreements aimed at pulling them from China’s influence. The competition between China and the US has become real on a global scale that goes beyond the Asia Pacific region.

This is because China has become a major threat to US interests in the world. In this contest between China and the US, the working class and its organisations in the Asia Pacific region must pursue an internationalist agenda that seek to advance the struggles and common interests of all countries in the region against the agenda of the respective bourgeoisies of their own countries.

The imperialist rivalry that spawns military conflicts, trade wars and economic instability only spells more doom and suffering for ordinary working people while it translates into profits for the monopolies.

**Geopolitics in the Middle East**

The Middle East, just like other regions finds itself in the middle of the competition for influence of the powerful countries, and has a long history of anti-colonial and antimperialist struggle. The recent outbreak of war between Palestinians and Israel in the besieged Gaza strip is not an isolated event. This event is directly linked with the efforts of the US to back Israel as its proxy in the Middle East so as to help maintain its influence and military presence.

Palestinian’s freedom and right of self-determination through the two State solution adopted by the UN are thus frustrated through the collaborative efforts of the US, Israel and their friends in EU. Instead of addressing the root cause of the conflict; the Israeli oppression and occupation of Palestine, the West prefers to arm the perpetrator and condemn the victims for daring to exercise their right to resist the illegal occupation of their land and their denial of statehood.

Each time the Palestinians respond to the latent violence directed at them, the West and Israel are quick to blame the victim for disturbing “peace and stability”. While they pay lip service to their commitment to the two state solution, their real solution there are offering is “aid for Palestine” and “security for Israel”. This policy only emboldens Israel’s impunity and worsen the lives of millions of people living in Gaza, West Bank and refugee camps in neighboring
countries. In the latest development of the Palestinian question, the world is witnessing the brutal destruction of Gaza and killing of Palestinians that borders on ethnic cleansing. The crimes being committed in Gaza and the West bank are being committed with the full support of the West and in full view of the world.

This violent disruption of life, destruction of livelihoods and statehoods by the West of people in the Middle East is not an isolated occurrence that plays itself out only in the Israel/Palestine conflict. The US’s policy of regime change and colour revolutions has destroyed countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria, leaving only destruction and suffering in its wake. This policy of destruction and chaos is spread and defended in the name of “protecting democracy” in the Middle East “against autocracies”, however, its real agenda is the narrow imperialist ambitions of the US; its efforts to maintain world dominance for the benefit of its domestic monopolies, bourgeoisie and parasitic political elites.

As the TUI-PS&A, we have a direct interest in opposing this strategy that feeds imperialist greed through the destruction of whole economies and impoverishment of the whole populations – it is always the working class that pays with its blood and sweat for thus economic driven geopolitical adventures.

Comrades and compatriots

**Re-emergence of Left Governments in Latin America**

In Latin America, the return of the progressive Lula government in Brazil and the elections of the pro-working class President Gustavo Petro gives new hope in the fight against Western imperialism. The US as always considered this region as its backyard where it could do as it pleases at the dictate to everyone else in terms of the political path and political system most suitable for them.

Those regimes with most cordial relations with the West who enjoy its sympathies and support tend to be invariably pro-Western anti-working class governments whose elites neglect their own populations and the struggles of oppressed peoples everywhere in the world in exchange for crumbs for themselves from the table of Western imperialism.

This demonstrates that, like in all continents and countries, the working class in Latin America is not only fighting against US imperialism and international capital – it is also fighting against the representatives of capital in their own countries i.e. the local national bourgeoisie and political elites who are in their pockets.

It is for that reason that progressive left leaning leaders and governments in Latin America have historically had to work in the midst of local counter-revolutionary opposition and a hostile international environment controlled by the hegemonic Western imperialist camp.

The violent overthrow of President Salvador Allende’s socialist government in September 11, 1973, the more than sixty year old illegal Cuban blockade at the hands of US imperialist and the hostile action that the left Maduro led Venezuela government is facing, all demonstrate the kind of challenges that any left leaning government in this part of the world is likely to face. These governments rise through the people, in the name of the people and for the people; their strengths and durability does not lie in individuals but in collective organisation and collective work.

So, the formation and work of working class organisations is crucial to the survival, strength and reliability of such progressive governments. Without working class organisation and support
they are prone to defeat or subversion – the people are their best defenders hence the need to root them among the people. The trade union movement is one of the important working class organisational forms whose work must be at the centre of helping build and create such pro-working class government. Such work will not be without mistakes, dead ends or disagreements – but it is vital nevertheless.

**New Scramble for Africa**

Africa is one of the continents with the youngest and fastest growing population, its vast mineral wealth, abundant arable land and youthful population of more than one billion people combined with the AU efforts to create the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) makes it a lucrative prospective market for capitalist expansion by Western capital, which has historically just used the continent as a raw material resource has for themselves since the colonial times. This colonial and post-colonial subjugation of the African continent explains its underdevelopment and lack of industry.

The West goes to great length to maintain this weak state of the African continent so that it does not grow strong enough economically and politically to assert itself in world affairs to claim its rightful place among nations. Too many Western Nations, that formerly colonised the continent, depend on it for their economic prosperity and prestige in the world.

It is for that reason that the likes of the US, France, Britain and their European allies vilify any efforts by their geopolitical rivals such as China and Russia to entrench themselves politically and economically on the African continent. The many corrupt quasi “democracies” beholden to and selling the future of their countries for the benefit of Western imperialism are tolerated for as long their continued existence serves the interests of the West.

Any African country that seek to chart an independent path through challenging the status quo, shifting its economic strategy towards the East or engaging in military cooperation with the rivals of the West in the continents is immediately vilified as lacking in democracy or of violation of human rights. The conflicts raging in countries such as the DRC, the violent regime change in Libya and the colour revolutions that preceded it, are all part of this strategy to maintain control and dominance on the African continent.

While the same cannot be necessarily said about the coup in Gabon, the recent coups in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger etc. cannot just be narrowly viewed as violent takeover of otherwise “stable and democratic” countries, in all these countries, including Gabon, “democracy” was nothing but a fuss conducted under oppressive conditions such as the banning of opposition parties, harassment of the media and imprisonment of journalists and elections rigging.

It is for that reason as the working class we should not blindly follow the West and the African continental organisations in blindly condemning these coups. We must judge these coups in terms of their agenda and how that agenda serves the working class. The continental bodies tend to blindly condemn coups as “undemocratic” while turning a blind eye to the existing undemocratic regimes that ascend through violence and stolen elections.

For the working class, governments that come to power or maintain it through manipulated rigged/stolen elections are as bad for democracy as those that rise through the undemocratic overthrow of a genuinely democratic government through a coup.

**Deteriorating Conditions of Workers and the Working Class**

Brothers and sisters
The destruction of quality paying jobs in the West through the relocation of manufacture in the global-south, the reactionary pension reforms that erodes the value of pensions of most workers, the austerity measures imposed by governments etc. have all combined to undermine not only the quality of jobs and wages that workers receive, but also the quality of public services that the working class can expect to enjoy. Equally, the unending US led and instigated imperialist wars have left a legacy of destroyed jobs, livelihoods and economic ruin in countries such as Iraq, Libya, Syria, Ukraine, etc.

Conditions for workers and their organisations are much harder in times of war and conflict, it is not easy to engage in trade unionism and build working class organisations under such circumstances and that leaves the workers and the working class vulnerable to the whims of the elites and the powerful in such societies.

On the colonial question, the Kurds question in Turkey remains unresolved. The people of Western Sahara remain under the subjugation of Moroccan colonialism. So too, the Palestinian question remains unresolved and Israel’s deadly grip continues to tighten on Palestinians. For as long as all these people remain under colonial subjugation, their organisations are limited in fighting for their rights and livelihoods. It is our responsibility to help them join the community of free nations so that their workers can join their international peers.

In Cuba and Venezuela the people continue to suffer a US blockade and sanctions as punishment for the political path they have chosen. The economic hardships resulting from the US aggression are then used as demonstration of the failure and unviability of the political paths these countries have chosen. Millions of people are deliberately starved and impoverished so that the US can get its way in these countries. All these hardship come on top of every day hardships that people endure normally in their lives and workplaces and make life even harder for those who have always been at the margins of society. Women, children and youth, as are marginalised strata, are particularly negatively affected by the destabilising impact of imperialist aggression and workplace oppression.

**Political Tasks for TUI**

Comrades and compatriots

As a class oriented trade union under WFTU in the Public and Allied sector, our responsibility is not only limited to our members, affiliates and workers in the public service sector. Our responsibilities are to use sectoral struggles and demands to link with and build the broader working class movement that is fighting for the total liberation of workers from capitalist exploitation.

Therefore, it is important to be well appraised of current world developments and the plight of workers in all countries coming to this international congress to enable proper discussion on the full spectrum of political and organisational issues affecting workers, the working class and their organisations in the world today. Our task is not only to be of service to our affiliates and members but to the broader working class and its organisations.

When we speak about united struggle and solidarity work, we do not refer only to trade union struggles but also to anti-colonial struggles, women emancipation, community struggles for justice, environmental struggles etc. i.e. the totality of the working class struggles seeking to secure a fulfilled life for all humanity.
Conclusion

Comrades and friends

Compared to what previous generations of trade unionists had to contend with, the trade union movement today is far from being completely out of resources or facing insurmountable hostile odds. The challenge today is about whether we are capable of mobilising ourselves and our resources and how we go about confronting the odds facing us. As a militant red trade union movement, we must avoid an over-reliance on the protection that labour legislation grants us and rather rely on our own mass power.

We aspire for an alternative society to the one we live in and to achieve that alternative society, we need to be properly armed ideologically and politically – otherwise our struggles will degenerate to narrow bread and butter issues that lead to no fundamental change in society. In this decisive period in which US imperialism is showing signs of weakness, we must move beyond just defending our historical demands but to organise and engage in new struggles to conquer new frontiers in our struggle against capitalist.

Capitalism will not automatically collapse of its own weaknesses, it will only collapse when the working class and its organisations take advantage of its weaknesses to intensify class contradictions and crises in the system to hasten its downfall. Daily militant activities and ideological work will ensure that working class is equipped to diagnose and act on the weaknesses of its class enemies at all times.

Long live WFTU long live!!!
Long live TUI Public Service and Allied long live!!!
Forward with worker’s struggle forward!!!

SUMMARY OF THE ORGANISATIONAL REPORT
Presented by the General Secretary, Cde. Zola Saphetha

The congress document has been circulated at least three months before this international congress and was also distributed to all congress delegates two days before its presentation at the congress plenary. We therefore assume that delegates have read the content of the different books (from book 1 to 5) hence we have prepared to present summary on what is contained in sections of the organisational report.

On introduction, we are highlighting the growth of our TUI compared to the last congress – the XIII International Congress held in Cyprus in 2019 was attended by 97 delegates from 35 affiliates coming in 22 countries and the attendance to the XIV international congress was expected to be 254 and 46 local guests totalling to 300 congress participants.

To make a point, this growth has been realised despite the harsh conditions and difficulties brought about by the capitalist economic crisis, neo-liberal policy of austerity combined with COVID-19 pandemic. Indeed, this has been possible through the commitment of the leadership collective in implementing the four year platform of TUI and the courageous support provided by affiliates and NEHAWU in particular.

We also indicate that, though the XIII international congress was a success and paved a way for the renewal and rebuilding of out TUI but it has been a difficult journey because of the
setbacks suffered and the organisational challenges experienced over time which resulted into a significant organisational lull and decline in years ago.

At worst, the XIII International congress could not produce any tangible outcomes except electing leadership, and in terms of resolutions and declaration there was completely nothing at all.

Indeed, we struggled to develop records of the proceedings of that congress however we managed at least to produce a four program of action together with the program for the WFTU 75th Anniversary in our first Directive Committee held in Johannesburg, South Africa in March 2020.

Going forward, we regard this as a lesson learnt that we do not wish to be repeated again in the history of our TUI hence vigilance is needed more than ever before on the leadership we elect without undermining democracy in the class oriented trade union like ours – the TUI Public Service and Allied. The point is deliberately made to simply clarify that the leadership elected can build or destroy the organisation as it was the case in 1949 when the split occurred in our mother body, the WFTU, resulting into the yellow union trade union, ITUC.

It is precisely these experiences that has thought us as TUI to strictly manage the process of leadership without suffocating the internal democracy but to protect TUI from opportunist elements whom are always available to serve their self-interests as oppose to the interests of the organisation.

We also highlight the key challenges faced by the outgoing leadership collective in the period under review such as: non-existence of our archives; limitations caused by COVID-19 pandemic which restricted the movements of the leadership and the reality of economic challenges.

So, we are gathered here today to receive a detail report on the life of our TUI (its strengths and weaknesses) to day to day tasks of servicing public service and allied workers, contributing to the life of our mother body, the WFTU and the broader struggles of the working class.

Our accounting starts with the limitations brought about COVID-19 pandemic to our organisational operations, its devastation to the plight of our members as frontline workers and to the service the working environment we work in (the system) which should have been responsible and responsive to the improvement of the living conditions of the peoples of the world particularly the working class and the poor.

Further sharing its overall responses to these conditions that members and workers in the public service and allied were subjected to work under by both the capitalist economic crisis and COVID-19 pandemic combined.

The report highlights that the elected leadership collective regarded unity as its strength in whatever it was pursuing organisationally, of course, this pursuit could not have been without minor challenges arising from commitment, availability and characters however, we managed to overcome such as reflected on page 7 and 8.

As highlighted in the introduction, the growth experienced in the period under review shows that 104 affiliates interacted with coming and supposedly attending this international congress compared to 37 affiliates of the previous congress, potentially could have been equal to 69 increase on affiliates. Compare to 254 expected delegates with 97 of the previous congress, at this congress is 159 delegates signed attendance which means 62 more delegates from the last
Arguably, we can safely say if it was not about the difficulties of visa applications, we would have counted 157 more delegates if you compare with the last congress delegates. Whilst celebrating this growth, we should also be concerned about the decline on numbers of countries attending this congress, if you compare with 22 countries of the last congress and current 18 countries present at this congress.

Before experiencing these difficulties on visa applications, 28 countries had expressed intention and whom we interacted with coming to this congress, from which 10 countries could not attend, if they were in attendance, we would have been 6 more countries compared to the last congress in Cyprus.

We also highlight how we have regularised meetings of the constitutional structures despite the challenges faced in the period under review and are on page 9 and 10.

From pages 10 to 19, we account on the implementation of our four year platform which was a strength in achieving the growth spoken about earlier on.

Our program of action was divided into three pillars, namely: campaigns, activities and priorities which covers WFTU activities as well as the functioning of our regions or continent though their implementation were uneven. Before conclusion, the report accounts for each year since 2020, 2021 and 2023 on what was implemented.

The report finally conclude on page 19 by highlighting the following facts:
To build a better society does not mean that the shortfalls of the present day are not important to our imagination of the future, on the contrary the limits of the present time organises new perspective of the future.

For the new perspective to develop, it is necessary that there must be agents of change in society at every historical moment.

The calibre of citizens who have the capacity to see beyond the immediate. The calibre of people whose consciousness and capability pierces through the horizon to observe new possibilities when others only see limitations.

These are ground breakers who carry history as the advance detachment of society whose wisdom reflects a combination of the memory of the past generation, the keen observation of the present condition and the exceptional imagination of the future.

These ground breakers have the bravery to dare to imagine a society different and higher in purpose than the society they live in. The revolutionary tendency of the ground breakers makes them that every generation wishes for in order to understand.

The task for the incoming leadership therefore is to take from the good work achieved thus far to better improve the presence of our TUI in all countries of the world and also build capacity to sustain this great work in continents and regions for better public service we work in.

The newly elected leadership should focus on mobilising resources to fully implement the strategic perspective and priorities as a compass to guide the direction we need to take, accurately complete our history – TUI PS&A to be shared with all public service trade unions across the world as an integral part of celebrating our 75th Anniversary in 2025 through regional chapters and political education by working committees and regional coordinating committees.
supported by the central office.

Indeed, our TUI is proud of its history and confident of its future.

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SUMMARY OF THE STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVE AND PRIORITIES
Presented by the General Secretary, Cde. Zola Saphetha

“Workers of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains”

This battle cry must always be understood by conscious working class instruments as means to an ideological and political call to all members of the working class throughout the world to cooperate in defeating imperialism and the barbaric and inhuman system of capitalism towards achieving victory in the class conflict.

Given the viciousness of imperialism, the unity of the working people as a most organised contingent of the working class remains sacrosanct and a strength to venture into a real revolution for its own class interests.

Never before in history has the need for an alternative system to the current capitalist mode of production and the creation of a more human world been so much needed.

As alluded above, the TUI PS&A undertakes its tasks as dictated by the prevailing material conditions needed to assess its capacity, revisit its ideological and political orientation, assess its presence and relevance in the public service and allied sectors including its capacity to adequately represent the actual interests and aspirations of its members and public service workers in general toward building capable states that are responsive to the needs of the world-wide working class and the poor.

In doing so, our trade union international develops its strategic perspective and priorities as a strategic way forward and also as a vehicle to achieve its set strategic goals towards the total emancipation of its members and the entire working people in public service, an area we regard as a site of struggle.

In line with the Thesis and Priorities of our mother body, the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), our struggles are grounded on concrete material conditions of our sector – Public Service and Allied.

Our TUI consciously and practically develops its Strategic Perspective and Priorities (SPP) as a direct strategy to position itself in the broader struggles of the working people, as well as to advance the interests and aspirations of its members internationally through its central coordination and implementation of the identified tasks supported by its structural establishment such as Continents, Regions, Affiliates and its Associates and Friends.

In summary the perspective covers the present situation and its impact on the working class reflecting the systematic and structural crisis of the capitalism; class struggle and trade unionism which affirms the interconnectedness of class struggle with trade unionism struggles as formations of the most organised contingent of the working class – workers; key contradictions of capitalism in the neoliberal-globalisation- the fundamental contradiction in the capitalist mode of production as one that is based on the social character of the material reproduction of society on the one hand and the private ownership and appropriation of the products of social labour on the other hand; inter and intra-imperialist competition, conflict and its impact
on the working class bringing Lenin’s analysis on the five basic features of imperialism which is capitalism at the stage of development at which the dominance of monopolies and financial capital established in which the export of capital acquired and pronounced importance, in which the division of the world among the international trusts begun, in which the division of all territories of the globe among the biggest capitalist powers has been completed; ever growing of living crisis confronting the working class since the rise of neoliberalism in response to the capitalist financial crisis of the 1970’s, the real wages of workers have been lagging behind inflation, with the gap constantly increasing. This combined with the gradual destruction of the post-World War II (WWII) welfare state that used to augment the meagre wages of workers explains the worsening condition of the working class under the neoliberal globalist agenda; privatisation and its impact on working people which subject social rights, services, land and enterprises owned by the state aims to create new areas of profitability for capital in order to find an outlet for the stagnant accumulated capital.

Such liberalization of markets and the privatization of former state run public institutions is a common policy of all neoliberal states; international labour market in context, the free flow of capital through financial deregulation accompanied by vigorous enforcement of trade liberalisation by the WTO and the likes of IMF that created a relatively free movement of goods and capital across borders on an unprecedented scale and women struggle is class struggle to be pursued by our TUI as a strategy and to monitor the integration of our Marxist-Leninist approach to the struggle against patriarchy, the oppression and exploitation of women and working women in particular in order to coordinate women related issues into the main agenda of our Trade Union International into its building organisational project.

Our Priorities and Tasks

Struggle for Trade Union Rights

This calls upon our TUI, through its affiliates, to;

- Intensify the struggle for the right to form and join trade unions
- Active recruitment and mobilisation of workers in all workplaces
- Defend the right to strike and engage in trade union activity.
- Defending trade union activists against intimidation ad dismissal through collective action and strikes’
- Defend trade union democracy and worker control in unions

Collective Bargaining

Collective bargaining is one of the right that the international trade union movement has won after many years of struggle. Collective bargaining is one of the most effective negotiating and bargain tools of the trade unions that calls for;

- Defending at all costs to the ability of unions to negotiate and bargain effectively without relying on the whims of the employer.
- To fight to defend all historical rights that workers have won in the bargaining process and through the strike.
- Struggle for collective bargaining legislation to be implemented in those countries that does not have such legislation.

Anti-Privatisation Campaign

This reality needs dynamic action that involve both workplace struggles to improve the working conditions and quality free state-provided services. This will require;
• Struggles against privatisation and outsourcing of state provided public services
• Demand decent wages and working conditions
• Oppose austerity and budget cuts in our workplaces
• Demand the filling of all vacant posts in the public service
• Engage actions for affordable quality public transport, free education and healthcare

International Working Class Solidarity

As part of our international anti-imperialist action, our TUI celebrates every 03rd October, which is the date of WFTU anniversary by engaging in coordinated international work to highlights various international campaigns.

For that reason, our solidarity campaigns with Palestinians, the Cubans, the people Western, Venezuela etc. are not seasonal campaigns, but continues struggle that takes place every day in every corner of the world.

These struggles require the following campaigns and activities:
• Respect for the territorial integrity and sovereign rights of all nations
• Opposition to imperialism and imperialist aggression
• An end to all wars
• Call for the universal nuclear disarmament
• Building international solidarity networks among the international working class and its organisations.
• Build the international socialist movement against imperialism.

Women Struggles

In essence, women struggles are about freeing women from the bondage of reproductive work that leads to their double exploitation. We must demand:
• The socialisation of reproductive work
• Equal pay for work of equal value
• The right to parental leave for both men and women
• Higher participation of women in trade union activities and leadership positions
• Challenge stereotypes about women
• Address the women question from a class perspective to unite working class men and women

Advancing Young Workers’ Rights

We therefore need to:
• Fight the scourge of unemployment among youth
• Campaign against the exploitation of young workers
• Recruit and orientate young workers into the trade union movement
• When it comes to international multilateral organisations in the world today it is important to recognise that besides the Bretton Woods institutions like the

Transforming the World through Democratic Transformed Multinational Institutions

As an organisation the TUI need to pay a closer attention to them to formulate a holistic view and the world:
• Support the call for the reform of the UN Security council as part of our anti-imperialist andante-war peace campaign.
• Advance the WFTU demand for ILO to play a more important role in protecting the
economic, social and trade union rights of all workers. Including the demand fair
treatment of all labour organisations in ILO and its democratic operation.

A Just Transition and Green Economy

What lies at the root of the climate crisis is the tendency of capitalism to prioritise profits at the
expense of the people and the environment.
  • Campaign for a just transition that is fair to all workers and all countries and not
    hijacked by corporate interests.
  • Demand a just transition that does not destroy the jobs and livelihoods of workers
    without alternatives.

Building a Strong and Vibrant TUI-PS&A

Our TUI has come a long way from the last congress when the first Directive Committee in
2020 identified a number of organisational challenges that were preventing the TUI-PS&A from
functioning properly.

While the organisational report elaborate in detail on the organisational work that has been
achieved thus far; here we only wish to highlight the important role that the spirit of comradeship
and solidarity among the leadership collective of the TUI and its affiliates has played great deal
in the work and visibility of the TUI-PS&A.

The introduction of new committees such working committees and continent/regional
coordinating committee with elected Secretaries for their functioning including creation of Vice-
Presidents i.e. Information and Publications. International Working Class Solidarity. Women and
Youth will immensely contribute in expanding the presence of TUI in all corners of the world.

Lastly, this strategic perspective and priorities once adopted by this XIV International Congress
will be anchor for the organisational growth through being vibrant and ensure presence in all
continents.

Conclusion

The leadership that will be elected by this congress, like others before it and the outgoing one,
will be tasked to build on the work and contributions of many men and women who came
before them.

We have no doubt that our TUI will only grow from strength to strength as we continue the
work of building the red trade union and progressive movement of workers in pursuit of the
objectives of a socialist future and the defeat of the exploitative system of capitalism.

RESOLUTIONS

The XIV international congress convened as from the 21st to 23rd November 2023 under the
theme: “Defend Collective Bargaining and Fight Privatisation to reinforce International
Solidarity Against Capitalism and Imperialism!!!” bringing the trade unions in the public
service and allied together representing millions of public servants in Bogota, Colombia.

The international congress notes:
  • The world outlook as predominated by capitalism and its highest stage-imperialism.
  • The materialist conception of history that all human societies’ progress through class
struggle.

- The need for conscious working class formations and class oriented trade unions to always understand, know and keep warnings that capitalism feeds into human miseries, pains and exploitation, worsening the plight of the working people at all material time.

**The international congress believes:**

- That class oriented trade unions like ours must time to time engage and/or analyses the nature and stages of capitalism and the features of imperialism so as to strategically position themselves better in the struggle for socialism to overthrow this inhumane and barbaric system of capitalism.

- That to achieve the above point, the class oriented trade unions must venture into battles of the working class against the capitalist system of exploitation by working together with workers and the working class movement and social and popular movements in order to strengthen class struggle against the bourgeois and imperialist plans and for the construction of a world of peace, justice and social equity.

**The international congress therefore resolves:**

1. To accept with high revolutionary spirit the welcoming address made by the President of SINTAEMDESES, Cde. Humberto Polo on behalf of the workers in general and public service in particular of Colombia.

2. To appreciate the revolutionary and inspiring opening address made by the President of TUI, Cde. Artur Sequeira that affirms the need to continue intensifying class consciousness in expanding the presence of TUI all over the world to keep up with its class oriented character as the Trade Union International of public service and allied.

3. To appreciate and welcome the inspiring and revolutionary key note address presented by the Deputy General Secretary, Cde. Swadesh Dev Roy and mandate the incoming leadership to process it through lower structures of our TUI for education and capacity building.

4. To adopt the political overview presented at the congress by the General Secretary, Cde. Zola Saphetha covering the world outlook predominated by imperialism and pointing-out the need to change materially to the benefit of the working people and the working class as a whole – calling for an alternative to this barbaric and inhumane system of capitalism. Affirming that this is a conscious decision and commitment that TUI has taken to heighten the struggles for socialism side by side and shoulder to shoulder with all affiliated trade union of TUI, working with sister unions in the family of WFTU and progressive social and popular movements in order to strengthen the class struggle against the bourgeois and imperialist plans and for the construction of a world of peace, justice and social equity.

5. Unanimously to adopt the organisational report presented on the 22nd November 2023 by the General Secretary, Cde. Zola Saphetha confirming a growing giant TUI as an organisational that is confident of its future and capable of representing the millions of workers through its affiliated trade unions in the Public Service and Allied including driving vigorously public service campaign across the world which must be lifted annually on the 3rd October as part of TUI contribution to the international day of our mother body, the WFTU.

6. To adopt the amendments on the Statute presented at the 14th congress plenary on the scope, bodies of the trade union international, international congress, composition of
the international congress, directive committee, the secretariat, budget and financing, financial controls commission and the policy on functioning of committees as an addendum to the Statute.

7. To expand the work of the finance controls commission by regularising its meetings and also to venture into a dedicated and rigorous fundraising drive in order to improve the capacity of the finances of our trade union international.

8. To heighten the solidarity campaign on Palestine by engaging and convincing many countries of the world to declare Israel as genocidal state and call for the arrest of Benjamin Netanyahu by the International Court for committing genocides.

9. To adopt the Strategic Perspective and Priorities as presented on the 22nd November 2023 by the General Secretary, Cde. Zola Saphetha at plenary. The SPP should be regarded as the consolidation of our revolutionary struggles as the working people and the working class lifting the international working class solidarity as strategic campaign to solicit the unity of workers in the public service and allied and among workers in general for the real battles ahead. Further regards the priorities as fundamental activities towards achieving this strategic perspective in strengthening the presence of TUI in all corners of the world and ensuring an improved capacity to really represent the actual aspirations and interests of its members, public servants and workers in general under the banner of the WFTU and outside its fold in the next five years.

10. That each year should be anchored by a component of our theme: “Defend Collective Bargaining and Fight Privatisation to reinforce International solidarity against capitalism and imperialism”. This means that TUI will implement it tasks and programme anchored and guided by the pillar of its theme for each year so as to enable the elected leadership to provide full account in the next congress on the realisation of its theme which is an overarching guide to its action. In this regard, the congress breaks the pillars/component of the theme as follows:

i. In 2024, the anchor of our work will be to; Defend Collective Bargaining
ii. In 2025, the anchor of our work will be to: Fight Privatisation
iii. In 2026, the anchor of our work will be to purse: International Solidarity against capitalism and imperialism
iv. In 2027, the anchor of our work will be to intensify class consciousness towards the Mid-Term meeting to evaluate work in progress in Preparing the XV International Congress.
v. In 2028, the anchor of our work will be to hold the XV International Congress.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

On Women Struggles (Working Women Struggles are Class Struggle)

Marx's methodology is indispensable for identifying that (a) the capitalist structural conditions and macro-level processes that are the foundation of the inequality between men and women in capitalist societies; and (b) the limits of political and legal changes to end gender inequality. The oppression of women is the visible, observable effect (e.g., in labour market, in socioeconomic situation stratification, the domestic division of labour, bureaucratic authority structures, etc.) of underlying relations between men and women determined by the articulation between the capitalist mode of production, and the organisation of physical and social reproduction among those who must sell their labour power to survive. Abstract on Capitalism and the Oppression of Women.

Feminism, to remain relevant to the majority of women, must therefore acknowledge that most
women are working women whose fate and that if their families, are shaped both by gender oppression and class exploitation. This means that Women struggles are class struggles.

Having discussed the plight of women coming to this congress through widely engagements in structures of TUI and its affiliates and afforded the public to engage, we therefore resolve to accept this abstract as our perspective on women struggles that will always draw strength from and as guide to our work on the struggles for women emancipation at the workplace and in society.

Believing that men and women are not homogeneous social categories or groups, hence we must fight for all the oppressed and marginalised social classes in a unified struggle. Further believe to the vision of building a world society free of sexism, racism, class exploitation and other forms of oppression. That is why our TUI should join hands to other working class instruments and formations including progressive forces striving for a society where women and men live together in dignity, mutual respect, harmony and social justice, in an enabling environment in which they are able to achieve their full potential in enjoyment of their human right.

We note that under capitalism, the burden of reproducing society and the next generation of workers tend to overwhelmingly fall on the shoulders of women. The class structure under capitalism ensures that women from the capitalist class, the working class and peasantry do not experience and enjoy the same quality of life and opportunities in life. We also note the different stages of development in many parts of the world on challenges women still face in varying degrees that they have historically struggled against. In essence, women essentially face problems in the household (family), the social (political) and workplace (economic) spheres. Hence, these makes it impossible to talk about greater women participation in the political and economic spheres without talking about the limitations placed on them by the reproductive roles they are expected to play in the family setting in society. This reality generates the kind of stereotypes and limitations that women face and struggle against in the workplace and the political space.

However, although all women in our societies are confronted by the same kind of stereotypes and limitations on their career prospects; they do not all experience the hardships of life under capitalism in the same way.

It is this reality that informs our belief, as a red trade union movement, that the women and gender questions cannot be solved or analyzed outside the framework of class analysis and class struggle.

Noting as a class oriented trade union movement, we do not deny or downplay the existence and significance of gender, women emancipation and even racial oppression. However, we have always argued that the broader social system that generate and feed off these differences is not only cultural but has a political and economic dimension as well.

In this vein, working class women are not just marginalized as women, they are also oppressed as a class. We therefore reject the notion that seek to suggest that women struggle is merely a struggle against patriarchy – a struggle against masculinity – without taking into consideration the power dynamics and class relations of men and women from different classes.

The life prospects and interests of working class women are improved only when the life prospects and interests of their own class are improved.

At this XIV International Congress of TUI PS&A, we are committing ourselves by resolving on the following:
1. That it is our concrete understanding that the basis we regard the women question as intrinsically linked with the class question and struggle.

2. That as TUI will continue to strive for women and men as equal partners in taking decisions shaping the political, economic, social and cultural development in determining the values that guides and sustains such development and equally enjoy its benefits in the society as a whole.

3. That the TUI as an integral part of the key players in the broad political landscape towards the just and peaceful world, recommits itself in gender struggles not only as a matter of theory but of practice in all decisions and activities it takes.

4. As a result, this XIV International Congress elects the Vice-President for women as a direct member of the Secretariat and the Secretary of the Working Committee on Women as a member of the Directive Committee with responsibilities as outlined in the policy on functioning of committees as addendum to the TUI Status.

5. That the TUI establishes its own women structure in the form of the working committee focusing on issues of women in the public service and allied in order to mainstream youth issues into the work of the TUI.

6. Our TUI Working Committee on Women should work with and within the WFTU Secretariat for Women driving campaigns aimed at improving the plight of women in the workplace and society.

7. As part of the work of the TUI to attract working women in the public sector, its communication strategies, platforms and messaging must also evolve to be responsive to the changing preferences and interests of working women and women in general youth without diluting its political content.

8. Among the issues which needs be enriched or strengthened by the working committee on women are:
   a. Fight against exploitation by collecting gendered demands for collective bargaining to improve their working conditions
   b. Drive vigorous campaign for women emancipation and development in the broader context of gender struggles
   c. Recruit and orientate working women into the trade union movement in decisions-making and its leadership
   d. Organizes social and cultural exchange programs and campaigns among women, young and old men and women from different unions and countries.

9. The working committee on women must adapt the TUI-PS&A programs to their issues and programmes and broaden the work of the TUI to reach women inside and outside our TUI.

10. The TUI-PS&A must develop a political program aimed at empowering women on the tradition and culture of trade unionism and the life the levels of political awareness and class politics in particular.

11. The TUI interacting with the work of the working committee on women must make a determination on convening the international platform where is the form of a conference, seminar or convention to assess progress registered in improving the plight of women for full attention of the TUI mid-term meeting in order to review strategies implored or to strengthen them for better management and coordination of women struggle in TUI and sector.

The international congress is fully aware that at the level of the workplace, working women are experiencing many problems that are directly linked with both their status as women and class status as working class women hence we declare the side and stand with working women and working class women in its entirety as TUI and shall fight side by side, shoulder to shoulder with them for their emancipation from oppression and exploitation bondages.
On Youth

“We stand for the complete independence of the Youth Leagues, but also for complete freedom of comradely criticism of their errors! We must not flatter the youth” – V.I. Lenin

In line with this revolutionary task, in the last Directive Committee of our TUI held in Egypt in July 2023 we deeply discuss the mainstreaming of the plight of the youth, particularly young workers (men and women) in the agenda of TUI as we believe that struggles of young workers are class struggles hence as a component of a class oriented trade union, the WFTU we should pay attention to the struggles of the youth precisely because of the following facts:

i. Youth is the torch bearer of society that needs to be nurtured and molded not only as future leaders but also as potential employers, employees, who out of them can have revolutionaries and trade unionists.

ii. Given the youthfulness of the workplace today, trade unions need to manage and prepare a smooth process of the old exiting the system and youth entering the system for a better orientation on the ideology, character, tradition and culture of trade unionism so as to ensure uninterrupted continuity of one generation to the other, without giving space for a lull.

iii. Youth is also a contested terrain in class terms therefore it needs to be mobilized along with the working class revolutionary theory in order to venture into a real revolution for its class sake. This requires a deliberate programme to intensify consciousness so as to build future trade unionists that are solid and concrete to the struggles of the most organized contingent of the working class – workers and connect their workplace struggles with that of the societal struggles particularly the revolution of the working class.

iv. A world, country or organization that does not value its youth deserves no future hence attention needed to be paid by being patient, tolerant, guide and invest in the energy of the youth for the future.

It is in this context that a progressive trade union movement does not regard itself just a weapon that workers use to advance the struggle to win new rights and defend their historic gains but it regards itself also as a political school that produces organic class conscious working class leaders who, through concrete experience, fully appreciate the class antagonisms in society. Though, its primary role is to fight for the rights and interests of workers in the workplace but as a component of the broader working class movement, progressive trade unions like ours has a responsibility of contributing towards social change in society as a whole.

We believe that the prevailing reality today is a huge percentage of working youth that is not organized nor is it working with trade unions, young people tend to keep a distance from trade unions and trade union struggles - this is despite to the fact that working youth outside the protection of trade unions tend to be the targets of exploitative practices such as low paying jobs, casual work and general job insecurity.

Noting that in recent years many have, on the basis of the changing nature of work, questioned the relevance of trade unions in the current epoch, while the neoliberal onslaught has resulted in the intensified attacks on trade unions and their historic gains. Yet, the deteriorating conditions of the working class as characterized by the rise of precarious forms of work, declining wages, increasing unemployment and the general decline in the quality of life of ordinary people suggests that trade unions are more relevant and needed to today.

Further noting that there is no question that certain groups are more affected than others by this deterioration in the quality of jobs, incomes and life itself, among others, youth increasingly find themselves either unable to find jobs or are employed in insecure low paying jobs.
In this changing environment, it is increasingly becoming more difficult for trade unions to recruit new members to regenerate themselves as employers are hard at work in making trade unions irrelevant to entry level workers by undermining trade union rights.

This has, over time, translated into a changing trade union landscape in terms of prevailing age demographics and stagnant or declining membership numbers which places the issue of youth and young workers at the centre of any discussion about building the trade union movement.

At this XIV International Congress of TUI PS&A we committing ourselves by resolving on the following:

1. That this XIV International Congress elects the Vice-President for Youth as a direct member of the Secretariat and the Secretary of the Working Committee as a Directive meeting with responsibilities as outline in the policy for structures of TUI as addendum to the Status.

2. That the TUI establishes its own youth structure in a form of the working committee focusing on issues of the youth in the public service and allied in order to mainstream youth issues into the work of the TUI. In this regard, this working committee must undertake a feasibility study on the possibilities of establishing an effective and efficient structure of young public servants that will contribute towards the work and campaigns of our TUI.

3. Our TUI Working Committee on Youth should work with and within the WFTU Secretariat for Youth, which was established through the first International Trade Seminar on Youth on the 18th – 20th November 2009 in Peru.

4. As part of the work of the TUI to attract young workers in the public sector, its communication strategies, platforms and messaging must also evolve to be responsive to the changing preferences and interests of young workers and youth without diluting its political content.

5. Among the issues which needs be enriched or strengthened by the working committee on youth are:
   5.1 Fight the scourge of unemployment among youth
   5.2 Campaign against the exploitation of young workers
   5.3 Recruit and orientate young workers into the trade union movement
   5.4 Organizes social and cultural exchange programs and campaigns among young workers from different unions and countries.

6. The youth committee must adapt the TUI-PS&A programs to their issues and broaden the work of the TUI to reach young people and young workers inside and outside our TUI.

7. The TUI-PS&A must develop a political program aimed at its youth component to nurture its understanding of trade unionism and the levels of political awareness and class politics in particular.

8. In two years' time, the working committee on youth working with the General Secretary must convene an international conference to submit the outcomes of the feasibility study, progress made in relation to the implementation of the work for full report in the mid-term meeting of the TUI.

Finally, the TUI-PS&A will only respond effectively to youth related issues if the work related to the needs of young workers is properly conceptualized and organized in a manner that ensures consistent processing and structural responses to the plight of the youth.

**On Palestine**

Our TUI has consistently condemned the illegal and violent Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands that has resulted in the displacement of millions of Palestinians who live as refugees in
Gaza, the West Bank and other parts of the world. This brutal Israeli occupation that denies Palestinians their inherent right to a sovereign statehood is maintained through racist Apartheid laws that are violently enforced by the Israeli occupation regime. Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank live like prisoners in an open air prison with every aspect of their lives subjected to Israeli surveillance and control – they are completely stripped of their dignity, human rights and freedoms. It is important to point out that the US and its Western allies and European Union, in violation of numerous UN resolutions adopted against the Israeli occupation, also play a vital in supporting, arming and shielding the Zionist/Murderous State of Israeli regime from international scrutiny and condemnation.

We note the recent developments, the world is witnessing in the evolution of this violent Zionist occupation from a policy of ethnic displacement into a fully-fledged ethnic cleansing campaign in violation of all human norms of common decency. The indiscriminate bombing of hospitals, schools, and other civilian infrastructure that Israel has unleashed on Gaza is the first step toward the final solution to the Palestinian question that the Israeli regime has embarked on, already the occupation is also intensifying its iron grip in the West Bank in a sign of things to come.

We also note the attempts to delegitimize the internationally recognized right of Palestinians to oppose and resists the illegal and violent occupation of their lands by Israel by whatever means at their disposal. Those who seek to defend and legitimize the Zionist occupation invoke a non-existent “right of self-defense” that supposedly justifies the violent repression of the Palestinian resistance and its organisations.

We believe that; it is disingenuous for the Israeli occupier to invoke “self-defense” as a justification for the violence maintenance of its illegal occupation of Palestine in the face of the legitimate resistance from the occupied people of Palestine. The Palestinian resistance reserves the right to resists the occupation with all means at its disposal within the bounds of international law and the occupying force has an obligation to uphold the internationally recognized human rights of those under its occupation.

Having considered everything in relation to the Palestinian question in its historical context, congress resolves on the following:

• To maintain our support of the UN Resolution 181 that envisage a two state solution with and independent Israel and Palestinian state, based on the 1967 borders (with East Jerusalem as its capital) coexisting side by side and peacefully.
• Maintain and intensify our solidarity campaigns with the people of Palestine through regular actions that highlight the plight of Palestinians and condemn the pro-Zionist occupation regime.
• Work more closely with all pro-Palestinian organisations in collaborative initiatives and campaigns in all countries where it has a presence.
• Campaign for the release of all Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails
• Call for the immediate end to the genocidal war currently being unleashed of the Palestinian population

As the TUI we view the situation in Palestine as part of the broader geopolitical machination to shape the political landscape in the Middle East. The conflict is driven by Western geopolitical considerations meant to preserve the dominance and interests of the US in the region.

On the Illegal US Embargo Imposed on Cuba

For more than six decades, Cuba has had to endure an illegal and unjust commercial and financial embargo imposed upon it by the imperialist United States of America (US) for daring to
free itself from the yoke of American imperialism and pursue the path of socialism. This cynical and immoral embargo has been condemned by almost all countries on the face of the earth except for the US and a few of its vassals.

Congress notes that this blockade is designed to subject the people of Cuba to untold suffering by preventing their country from accessing food, medicine, medical equipment and technology that are all important for improvement of the quality of life of the Cuban people and the development of their country. Rather than respect the calls of the international community for it to drop the illegal sanctions against Cuba, the US has chosen to cynically deepen the plight of the Cuban people by placing Cuba on its “sponsor of terrorism” list not withstanding Cuba’s constructive role on the international stage.

We believe that this attack on Cuba and her people is an ideologically driven attack led by the imperialist US against a small island nation that has chosen the path of socialism as its development model. All the obstacles being thrown at Cuba’s development are meant to punish Cuba and “demonstrate” that socialism is unworkable. The deliberate pauperization of Cuba through economic warfare is also meant to instigate an internal revolt within Cuba – thus far, all these imperialist strategies have failed to effect regime change in Cuba. All progressive left government in Latin America today face one form or another of US attacks for rejecting the path of capitalism.

Having seriously considered the illegal US economic blockade on Cuba, congress resolves on the following:

• For the TUI-PS&A affiliates in all countries to develop solidarity campaigns in support of the people Cuba. Such campaigns must focus on lifting of the illegal sanctions on Cuba and actively popularizing the Cuban struggle.
• The TUI in all regions and countries must establish working relations with solidarity organisations that work in defense of Cuba.
• To do ideological work to educate workers and the public on the history and context of the Cuban struggle and the neo-colonial imperialist agenda behind the attacks Cuba has had to endure over the past six decades.

The struggle of Cuba is in reality a struggle between socialism and American capitalism, the US is doing everything in its power to ensure that the Cuban experiment becomes a failure; for the working class, the defense of the Cuban revolution is a defense of socialism everywhere – socialist dare not give up or fail.

On the 2nd of November, 2023, the UN General Assembly called yet again, for the 31st time, on the US to end its decades-long illegal economic embargo against Cuba. This non-binding resolution was approved by an overwhelming majority of UN members making up 187 countries and only opposed by the US and the Israeli regime, with Ukraine abstaining.

As TUI in the context of current development we therefore resolve as follows:

• We call upon for the immediate lifting of illegal genocidal economic, financial and commercial blockade imposed on Cuba for more than six decades by the imperialist USA.
• We call upon for the immediate removal of Cuba from the list of “State Sponsors of Terrorism”

On Labor exploitation and for better conditions in Colombia

The international congress after interacting with the plight of workers in the public service in the Republic of Colombian:

• Recognizing the work being carried-out by the national union of public service, SINTRAEMSDES, organizing workers in the sector and fighting for better working
conditions and also transcending the population in the defense of public services for the people, against privatization and by the basket of public services that guarantees universal access to public services.

- We support the struggle of outsourced public service workers to achieve job stability and improve their working conditions.

- We demand that labor relations be formalized with indefinite employment contracts with the guarantees of law, in the same sense that the right of trade union association is promoted, respect the right to collective bargaining and respect for labour standards and agreed collective agreements.

- We demand that employers respect the right of association, stop any anti-union policies against workers and improve working conditions through collective bargaining, respect for working women and recognition of diversity and differences in the world of work.

- Support the workers of Colombia in the struggle for social reforms, in particular the labor reform and the pension reform which the government must implement in the interests of the working class and the Colombian people.

The international congress calls the TUI to continue strengthening the international unity of workers and the working class in fighting against the capitalist system and its neoliberal policy models which causes the precarization and misery of the working class, fight labor exploitation, social injustices and work for the growth and strengthening of class-oriented unions as an instrument to confront the system and improve the living conditions of workers.

Support the Colombian Workers in Millicom Company

The international congress in considering that:

1. The policy that the capitalist governments, faithful to what was ordered from the centres of capitalist power among which is OECD, G7 among others, for the public service sector in Latin America, is aimed at selling the State’s participation in public utilities to the private sector.

2. The monopolistic State Capital invested and which acquires the form of public utilities such as Une EPM Telecomunicaciones SA, are at risk of being totally privatized.

3. Telecommunications is a strategic sector for society that involves the electromagnetic spectrum, on which communications are developed, however, the municipal government in the second city of Colombia, Medellin, sold 50% to the Swedish company, Millicom in the year 2014.

4. The radio and electromagnetic spectrum are part of the national security of the country that must be under the control and/or management of the state, as part of the exercise of national sovereignty.

5. The workers of the company UNE, we have advanced in light of national legislation, a labor dispute, without reaching an agreement with the company.

6. The multinational Millicom, with a presence on all continents, denies its more than 5000 workers in Colombia decent working conditions and wages, condemns with its anti-union stance that the crisis is paid by its workers.

7. The workers affiliated to SINTRAEMSDES, which is one of the organizations in Colombia subsidiary of the UIS, denounces internationally the aggressive policy of this multinational in our country.
Therefore resolves to:

1. Reject and oppose the claims of UNE EPM Telecomunicaciones where control and management of the company is exercised by the minority partner in it, MILLICOM that workers pay for the crisis.

2. State that the sale of public assets is the consequence of a chain of errors that began with the splits of the telecommunications component and that the subsequent merger with Millicom has resulted in the dismissal of more than 2000 workers since 2014.

3. Condemn the policy of MILLICON in Colombia, guided by its president in Colombia Marcelo Cataldo, which, in clear identity with international private capital, complies with and guides the recommendations of multilateral organizations, in the neoliberal vision of privatizing.

4. Support and join the struggle of the workers and trade unions that are debating the conservation of state monopoly capital represented in the shares held by EPM Parent company, at UNE EPM Telecomunicaciones and its other telecommunications companies and work to ensure that it is in the future fully public, with a corporate policy based on good business practices, in which social profitability is the guiding criterion.

5. Reject the anti-union policy and the lack of political will of this multinational telecommunications, to resolve the labor dispute that today has with its workers where it has forced the court of arbitration for its solution.

6. Urge the government of Sweden, host country of the multinational to take part in the matter in its parliament, calling on the company Millicom to exit and respect the rights of Colombian workers at its service.

7. Call for a world day of protest and rejection of the anti-union exercise of this company against the multinational Millicom, convened by the TUI.

8. Send communication of protests by all TUI organizations to this multinational and manage ILO statement.
NEWLY ELECTED LEADERSHIP

The XIV International Congress unanimously elected the leadership as follows:

Office Bearers

General Secretary – Zola Saphetha (South Africa); President – Artur Sequeira (Portugal) and Deputy General Secretary – A Sreekumar (India)

Vice Presidents

Africa Arabic – Hesham Fouad (Egypt); Africa English – Marurung Masemola (South Africa); Africa Francophone – Emmanuel Mvembe (Gabon); Asia Pacific – Bholanath Nath Pokhrel (Nepal); Europe – Petropoulos Vasileios (Greece); Latin America – Perpetua Echevarria (Peru); President Finance Controls Committee – Michalis Archontidis (Cyprus); Vice President for Women – Europe; Vice President for Youth – Laboni Islam Moon (Bangladesh); Vice President for Informational and Publications – Cinzia Della Porta (Italy) and Vice President for International Solidarity – Humberto Polo (Colombia)

Working Committees Secretaries

Finance Controls Commission - Jose Prakash (India); Information and Publications – Liuz Andre Ferreira Costa (Brazil); International Solidarity; Women – Martha Monica (Colombia) and Youth - Modestos Argyrou (Cyprus)

Secretaries for Continental/Regional Coordinating Committees

African Arabic & Middle East – Rafaek El-Alouni (Syria); Africa English - Katlhalefile Motsengwa (Botswana); Africa Francophone – Chaubo Tanikari (Niger); Asia Pacific – Gintota Daya Tilakasari (Sri Lanka); Europe and Latin America – Ignacio Campola (Argentina)

Financial Controls Commission

Hari Bahadur Rawal – (Nepal); Diego Carpio – (Mexico) and Kuwait
DECLARATION

The TUI International congress held in Bogota (Colombia) from the 21st to the 23rd of November 2023, attended by the WFTU the representative, members of the Directive Committee and 159 delegates from 71 affiliates representing 18 countries from Arab Speaking Africa, English speaking Africa regions and Asia Pacific regions, Europe and the Latin America Continents.

Congress notes and welcomes the recent election of progressive leftist governments in Colombia and Brazil. This development is a boost for the struggle of workers against right-wing anti-worker neoliberal governments in Latin America and the world.

In the same breath, congress also thank the people of Colombia, particularly the city of Bogota for their generosity in hosting the 14th Congress of the TUI-PS&A.

The delegates from the class oriented trade unions who attended the congress on behalf their members and unions analysed the international situation by looking at the political, social and economic situation in the different parts of the world from which they come.

Particular emphasis was placed on the multi-dimensional negative impact of neoliberal policies under capitalism on the economic, social and political rights of workers and the working class broadly. Congress also noted the ever increasing attacks on trade unions in many countries and the attempts to reverse the historic gains of workers won through brutal struggles. In this regard the congress condemns the political persecution that government of Ricardo Gallardo Cardona of the state of San Luis Potosi Mexico has undertaken with all workers of the independent unions of the state government workers (SITTEGE).

Workers’ representatives at the congress also noted the attacks on their wages, job security and collective bargaining pursued by governments through the austerity driven policy of neoliberalism aimed at preserving capitalism by making workers pays for its multiple repetitive crises.

This policy find expression through the sale and privatization of essential state provided services and entities relating to the provision and access to healthcare, education, transport, water, electricity and energy provision.

This policy of privatization is a direct attack not only on the workers who face retrenchments, deteriorating working conditions, negative pension reforms, loss of leave days and the general loss of job security; it is also an attack on the general public who find it difficult to access these privatized services that are provided on a commercial bases thus increasing the cost of living for them.

Privatization combined with austerity also leads to the deterioration in the quality of those services still provided by the state as funds are directed away from essential public services in the name of “financial prudence”.

Congress reaffirmed the importance of integrating both women and youth issues into the programs and agenda of our TUI by adopting relevant structure and committees in its constitution. This is informed by the many peculiar challenges that women and youth face both in their organizations and the broader society.

Women and youth are particularly affected by the challenges of unemployment, marginalization and exploitation as they dominate the statistics on unemployment, low wages and general social insecurity.
However, we believe that the marginalization of both women and youth does not happen outside of the class paradigm for it is working class youth and women who suffer the most from the marginalizing effects of ageism and patriarchy respectively.

Congress believe that struggles women and youth do not form separate agendas but are intrinsically linked to the broader class struggle waged by the whole working class against all forms of oppression.

Delegates in the congress also noted that the class enemies of the working class know fully well, that for the policy of neoliberalism and austerity to succeed, they need to break the resistance of the working class and its organisations to this brutal neoliberal measures.

Thus, the attacks on collective bargaining and other historic rights of workers, including the attacks on trade unions and the victimization of trade unionist as well as the denial of the right to form trade unions in other parts of the world is a continuation of the neoliberal policy of weakening the working class in order to pauperize it.

This policy is designed to enrich the few at the expense of the many and gives austerity to the working class while giving the rich tax breaks.

Congress also observed the continuing destructive role of US imperialism in different corners that it unleashes through war mongering, regime change, abuse of the international financial system that it controls and other bullying tactics that it employs to maintain its dominance in the world to serve its own monopolies and elites.

The unstable political situation in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria and Ukraine is a direct result of US imperialism. So too, the US is responsible for the brutal blockade of Cuba, Sanctions against Venezuela and Iran on purely ideological grounds to impose its will on these countries as it pursues its narrow self-serving interest.

During the last three days of deliberations the TUI International congress made the following major conclusions among others:

On Palestine, the conference condemns the ongoing killing of women and children in Gaza and the decades old occupation of Palestine by the Zionist Israeli regime, we commit to:

• Intensify our solidarity action for Palestine through practical programs.
• Campaign for the respective governments of our countries to cut diplomatic ties with Israel.
• Call for the economic isolation of Israel through the boycott of its products in our countries.
• Campaign for the two state solution that will create a free and independent Palestine.
• Call on all our affiliate to call upon their respective governments to refer the Israeli government and leaders to the International Criminal Court (ICC) for its war crimes in Gaza.

On Cuba, the conference resolves to continue and intensify the campaign against the US economic blockade of Cuba by calling on all its affiliates in the world to:

• To continue and their Cuba solidarity campaigns in support of the people of Cuba.
• To intensify the action and call for the USA to end its illegal economic blockade of Cuba.
• Campaign for their respective countries to ignore the US economic blockade and establish economic ties with Cuba.
• To fight and campaign for the removal of Cuba from the cynical USA “sponsor of terrorism” list.
Conference also deliberated on the women question in relation to the challenges that women face in society and the organisations they belong to. In that regard conference made the following conclusions among others:

- Women struggles are inseparable from the broader working class struggle and must be pursued with the context of the broader working class struggle.
- Intensify the struggle for women empowerment through the mainstreaming of women issues into the everyday work and campaigns of our affiliates.
- Establish the relevant women structure in our TUI that will ensure the full participation of women in all aspects and levels of our TUI.
- Oppose all forms of discrimination and marginalisation of women inside and outside our trade unions.
- Conference also highlighted the need to fight other forms of discrimination based on the sexual orientation and identity of individuals.

On youth, congress notes the changing demographics of the workforce and the low participation rate of youth in the trade union activities and structures. To encourage more youth participation in the live and structures of the trade union movement, the congress calls for the following:

- Creation of youth committee in the TUI movement to allow for the full participation of youth at levels of our TUI.
- Develop educational campaigns for the induction and political development of young workers into the structures and traditions of the class oriented trade union movement.
- Encourage our TUI and its affiliate to adopt modern tools of communication of reaching out and communicating to the youth in a language they can relate to.
- To emphasize the point that young workers face the same exploitation as all other workers hence their struggles in the workplace are inseparable from the general struggles of other workers.

On privatization, congress notes the destructive impact of the neoliberal policy of privatization and austerity that is defined by attacks on workers’ rights, wages and working conditions. Congress commits itself and its affiliates to campaign for the following:

- Intensify the struggle against capitalism and its neoliberal policies that make workers pay for the failures of the system.
- Oppose the privatization of state entities and services such as transport, water, energy, health and education that are essential to the wellbeing of the working people.
- Campaign for free state provided healthcare and education and call for an affordable state run public transport system as part of the social wage to alleviate the high cost of living crisis confronting the workers.
- Call for the insourcing of all state services and functions and oppose the retrenchments and inferior jobs that result from privatization.

Congress also notes the attacks on collective bargaining aimed at weakening trade unions and marginalizing workers through the unilateral imposition of unfavourable wages and working conditions. In this regard, congress commits itself to:

- Call on all its affiliates to intensify the struggle in defense of collective bargaining and workers’ rights.
- Encourage our TUI and affiliates in relevant countries where trade unions are not allowed to form or join trade unions in the public service to campaign for the right of all workers to form and join trade unions.
- In order to leverage the collective strength of workers, our affiliates are called upon to fight for the establishment of collective bargaining forums in all countries and sectors where collective bargaining forums do not exist.
Congress also expressed itself on the emergence of the progressive pro worker government here in Colombia. It made the following remarks:

• Class oriented trade unions in Colombia must intensify the struggle to define the agenda of the government by defending the progressive reforms on labour legislation, pensions laws and the new proposed healthcare reforms.

• The need for the working class to remain vigilant and mobilize to defend the gains of the left in Colombia by joining forces with the progressive elements in the struggle against the former right-wing anti worker establishment who are attempting to regroup and re-emerge.

This declaration captures only some of the major points discussed and adopted by this congress, the totality of our program as the TUI is informed by the document on Strategic Perspective and Priorities which this congress has adopted in addition to the numerous resolutions passed on a diverse spectrum of issues.

There is consensus among delegates that this congress was a resounding success, historic in character and achieved all its objectives; as delegates and affiliates we commit ourselves to continue building the class oriented trade union movement in our countries and internationally.
“Working People of all countries UNITE”