

MAIN PLENARY RESOLUTION

PART I

FROM THE CRISIS...

Congress deplores the enormous damage inflicted on working people by the gravity of the current crisis which comes after decades of the operation of a model of globalisation that has been anti-worker, anti-poor, and anti-development. The current direction of government policies threatens to lead to a fundamental and reactionary change in the nature of our societies, dismantling hard-won achievements of union struggle and collective bargaining. Congress calls on the ITUC and its affiliates to redouble their resistance to this deeply regressive trend. The widespread violation of fundamental workers' rights is an impediment to that resistance and a denial of democracy. In the same way, the inability or unreadiness of governments to subject finance to effective regulation would mean an intolerable subjugation of the democratic process to the powers of finance.

Now the people must benefit from globalisation. It is time now to move forward from the crisis to global justice.

Congress recognises that, notwithstanding the massive suffering it has caused, the crisis also offers new opportunity to realise the objective set out in the ITUC's founding programme of changing globalisation fundamentally to make it fair and sustainable. Yet, ill-conceived exit strategies from the crisis can equally lead to the perpetuation and intensification of the injustices and inequalities of the past.

Congress therefore commits the ITUC to intensify its work in the next four years to bring about the transformation of the globalised economy to make it fair, inclusive and sustainable. It recognises that achieving each of the constitutional aims of the ITUC depends on that transformation and calls on all affiliates to bring their strength and solidarity to the shared task of its realisation.

Congress identifies the following seven priorities in the ITUC's strategy for global social justice.

- ***Decent Work for All:*** Starting with the promotion of the vigorous implementation of the ILO Global Jobs Pact as the centre-piece of jobs-intensive anti crisis strategies, the ITUC is instructed to work for the provision of decent work opportunities for all as the central objective of economic and social policy.
- ***Labour Market Justice and Equity:*** Reversing the accumulated inequalities of the past requires the restoration of justice and balance in labour markets. The ITUC is therefore instructed: to work for universal observance of fundamental workers' rights; to promote higher levels of trade union organisation and collective bargaining coverage; to combat precarious and informal work; and to campaign to close the gender pay gap and to eliminate all other types of gender inequality at work.
- ***Quality Public Services, Education and Health for All:*** all people have a right to universally accessible public services that are fundamental to the equitable and sustainable development of democratic societies. Investments in

education and health are essential for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The ITUC is instructed to work closely with Global Unions on a joint campaign to defend public services against austerity policies aimed at satisfying financial markets rather than the needs of people in the real economy, to work with the ILO on a skills strategy for decent work and to reaffirm the movement's historic commitment to quality public education and health for all.

- **Regulated Finance:** Putting the financial economy at the service of the real economy is essential for a global economy which meets real human needs. The ITUC is therefore instructed to campaign for effective and adequate regulation of financial markets and actors and for an international tax on financial transactions.
- **A Sustainable Low Carbon Future:** Placing the global economy on a trajectory which prevents catastrophic climate change is essential to the jobs and welfare of workers everywhere and to the long term future of the planet. The ITUC is instructed to work for a “just transition” to that sustainable future which protects workers' interests and promotes decent work.
- **A New Development Model:** The current model of globalisation has failed to distribute its benefits fairly. It has failed to provide opportunities for balanced development for all countries and it has failed to make decisive inroads into world poverty and deeply-entrenched inequalities. The ITUC is therefore instructed to work for the establishment of a new development model in which developed and developing countries alike would meet their respective and shared responsibilities in ensuring that all benefit fairly from the fruits of social and economic progress.
- **Governance of Globalisation:** The global crisis is a direct consequence of the failure of the international community to impose adequate governance on a process of globalisation driven solely by the dynamics of deregulation, liberalisation and privatisation. Correcting its defects and averting further crises means meeting the evident need for governance now and advancing the fight against destructive speculative practices and corruption. Welcoming the ITUC's interventions to orient the G20 process towards jobs and development as part of a move towards more effective and inclusive global governance, the ITUC is therefore instructed to promote and support initiatives in favour of governance which replace today's market fundamentalism with a commitment to policy coherence for a social dimension in globalisation, with decent work as the overriding policy objective based on the ratification and full implementation of international labour standards.

Congress underlines the particular responsibilities of the ITUC to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in the workforce, many of them young or women, and calls on it to give specific attention to the needs of migrant workers and those in informal activities. This must be part of a reinforced and pro-active commitment to build stronger and truly inclusive trade unions that can respond to the unfulfilled needs of a massive and growing number of workers in a range of different circumstances who need representation in the trade union movement.

Congress recognises that the ITUC's constitutional commitment to the maintenance and strengthening of peace is closely related to the achievement of social justice. It deplores the existence of conflicts that continue to take the lives of many and to blight those of many more and the high and growing levels of military spending

which divert resources from meeting pressing human needs. It recommitments the ITUC to the cause of peace and disarmament and calls on all affiliates to take every opportunity to advance them.

PART II

...TO GLOBAL JUSTICE

Congress recognises that the practical value of the ITUC's vision of a forward path to global justice depends upon its own performance as a strong, high profile and effective instrument for the representation of workers' interests in the global economy. It considers it crucial that the international trade union movement make the attainment of global justice a common cause and keep all of its structures, methods and relations under permanent review with a view to their further improvement where that proves necessary.

It therefore welcomes the achievements of the ITUC in its first years of existence. Acknowledging the progress made, it insists that much remains to be done to continue the building of the new trade union internationalism and calls on all affiliates to contribute actively to that process.

Congress welcomes the establishment of ITUC Regional Organisations and Structures since the Vienna Congress as well as that of the Council of Global Unions. With structural unification complete it stresses the need for the ITUC and its Regional Organisations to be attentive to the need to be in constant contact with affiliates and to be responsive to their views and needs so that internationalism can be a permanent part of their activities. Congress recognises the need to strengthen the ITUC's political presence and capacities to promote dialogue and cooperation in the Arab region and to reinforce its Amman office.

Congress welcomes the record of cooperation between the ITUC and its Global Unions partners, as well as with the ETUC. It emphasises the pressing need to further strengthen the activities of the Council of Global Unions particularly in respect of the practical implementation of an international strategy on organising and bargaining.

Congress calls on the ITUC to be uncompromising in its attachment to the principles of democratic and independent trade unionism, and to make them the key reference point of relations with other international, regional and national trade union organisations as well as in decisions in respect of affiliation and associated organisations.

Recalling the unitary and pluralist character of the ITUC as defined in its Constitution, Congress underlines the responsibility of all affiliates to act in a spirit of solidarity towards each other and of respect for their diverse inspirations and organisational forms.

Congress recognises that the ITUC's fundamental commitment to international trade union solidarity must find concrete and practical expression in its work. It calls for further strengthening and development of actions in support of affiliates under threat and for affiliates to participate in them, and for continued publication of the ITUC's Annual Survey of Trade Union Rights Violations.

Congress believes that the Solidarity Fund remains a critically important instrument for the ITUC's capacity to deliver assistance to those in need, expresses warm appreciation to affiliates which contribute to it, and urges others to do likewise. Nevertheless, despite the efforts deployed, it recognises that the Fund has not yet realised its full potential. It therefore instructs the Secretariat to renew and intensify its efforts to revitalise the Fund's operation so that it becomes the truly dynamic vehicle for solidarity that it can and must be.

Congress welcomes the progress made in the elaboration and implementation of a global ITUC strategy on development cooperation, particularly through the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network. It calls again on all affiliates to contribute to the strategy in conditions of cooperation and openness, and for the continued cooperation of the Regional Organisations to ensure that it serves to meet the ITUC's constitutional mandate to strengthen union membership and capacities.

Congress reiterates that the success of the new internationalism depends crucially on the success of the ITUC in involving affiliates closely and permanently in its work and in bringing their strength to bear in the attainment of the goals it pursues. It calls on the ITUC to consolidate further the involvement of affiliates in its work through:

- Communicating relevant information on ITUC work in appropriate forms with a view to engaging the widest possible interest and participation of their members. To this end the encouraging start made in the use of innovative web-based media should be built upon and expanded;
- Mobilisation of affiliates on key international issues. Following the positive experience of the first two World Days for Decent Work, Congress instructs the General Council to build on this so as to make the World Day on 7 October a strengthened, expanded and truly global event and calls on all affiliates, without exception to contribute to its success;
- Campaigns on high profile issues with a potential for significant media and public impact and wide involvement of trade unionists at all levels.

Congress recognises that successful cooperation with civil society and political organisations in conformity with the conditions set out in the Constitution is of major importance in advancing ITUC values and objectives. It welcomes the progress that such cooperation has brought in raising the ITUC's profile and influence beyond the trade union movement and calls for its continuation.

Four years after its founding, Congress expresses its unconditional endorsement of the principles and ambitions of the ITUC, and its firm conviction that the unification of the democratic and independent forces of world trade unionism has shown both its benefits and its potential. The conditions of global crisis prevailing as Congress meets, confirm it in its attachment to the new trade union internationalism. It calls on all affiliates and all other democratic and independent trade union organisations to join in the common ITUC-led struggle for a better, fairer future for all the workers of the world.
