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| REPORTING TEMPLATE FOR PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS FOR THE**TUDCN GENERAL MEETING** |

*This reporting template is conceived to support reporting modalities for the TUDCN General Meetings. It is supposed to be used by the organisations willing to give their contributions, so as to allow for structured and documented information.*

*Please fill in the grid below and send it back to* *marion.levillain@ituc-csi.org* *by May 3rd 2013.*

*Reported by: Atef Saed , PGFTU, Palestine. May 30, 2013.*

1. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE **LATEST DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION** **UPDATES/CHANGES** IN YOUR COUNTRY/REGION/SECTOR

Rebuilding PGFTU Gaza Trade Unions:

* + - 1. On 27 November, 2012 an ITUC humanitarian solidarity mission into Gaza, headed by Sharon Barrow, General Secretary of ITUC has taken place. The visit was organized with the help of International Transport Workers Federation, and the PGFTU with appearance of trade unionists from Tunisia and Jordan. The visit was the first time in 10 years that PGFTU General Secretary Shaher Sae'd and other PGFTU officials from the West Bank had been able to enter Gaza. On last March, the PGFTU, follow up rebuilding of the Gaza trade unions in wide meeting in Cairo, Egypt with high contributions and appearance of Gaza trade unionists. In the past year, CGT delegation visited Gaza and announces its full solidarity with Trade Unions Gaza, its readiness to rebuild the PGFTU House. All of these initiatives bringing hope again to reactivate the work of trade unions in Gaza. Thirteen PGFTU affiliated trade unions, representing industrial and service sectors in the West Bank, are participating in the campaign.[[1]](#footnote-1) In the Petrochemical Sector, a 25 members committee was formed to follow up the rebuild Trade Unions process in Gaza.

Minimum Wages Advocacy Campaign:

* + - 1. PGFTU is launching a wide advocacy campaign to practice an agreement on minimum wages, in West bank, signed on October 2012. The agreement was reached between representatives of, Palestinian Authority, PA and private sector and Trade Unions. The minimum wages agreement came in the walk of several rounds of negotiations, talks and bargaining between social parties, lasted more than five years. The parties agreed on the calculation of the minimum wage to 1,450 shekels, or the equivalent of 310 euros or $ 402. In spite of the reservation of PGFTU on the low amount, PGFTU insists on that signatories should implement the agreement. PGFTU asked to calculate the minimum wage as NIS 1800 ($500), but the request was refused by the other two parties refused. The PGFTU campaign comes in the wake of the evading of many employers to pay the agreed limit. The amount of NIS1450 will immediately serve the interests of 66000 workers (men and women) work in the kindergarten and other informal sectors.

→ In terms of policies and policy debates

1. PGFTU is preparing to conduct in-depth discussion about re-review of some of the terms of the Palestinian labour law after nearly 13 years to start its implementation in the occupied lands in West Bank and Gaza Strip since 1967. At a time in which the PA Ministry of Labour tries to determine certain items, such as child labour and domestic workers, PGFTU is planning to widen the debate to include, as well as, the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health. Records of work-related accidents indicated a rise in work-related injuries, especially among construction workers and petrochemicals. More than 1463 workers injured in the past year 2012, 18 of them were died. The PA Labor Ministry should tighten controls on work installations, but, the ministry complaining about the lack of resources to employ hundreds of inspectors. Only 43 OHS inspectors work in the ministry, however the installations counted dozens of thousands. The ILO is the sponsoring organisation.

On the other side, PGFTU reached a cooperation protocol with the Palestinian Authority for Civil Defense (a quasi-governmental organization) to improve the safety conditions for workers. Both organizations agreed to cooperate for joint monitoring activities at work sites, and to train trade unions activists on prevention methods in hazardous industries.

2. Social Dialogue: the PGFTU is involve in three important programs funded by ILO

-Trio Wages Committee to state wages policies.

- Social Security for Palestinian workers and their families

- to improve ( to reinforce) the Labor Market Management through reform the Labor Law.

→ in terms of dialogues with TUs and financial support systems

I am afraid that, I don’t know how to answer this

1. WHAT WOULD BE the **RELEVANT ISSUES FROM YOUR EXPERIENCE THAT COULD/SHOULD BE TAKEN UP BY THE TUDCN** AND HOW WAS THE TUDCN BACKGROUND RELEVANT TO YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE?

I attend the last meeting of TUDCN in Slangerup, Denmark (17-19 April) as representative of PGFTU. In fact, it was the first time my organization involves in deliberations of TUDCN. After I receive the invitation, I read dozens of papers and documents related to the General Meeting Agenda and on the background of TUDCN, from ITUC on line website. In the meeting another papers appear and I read all of them. I follow up the important discussions during the Meeting. All of these "homework's" and practices help me to understand better the work of TUDCN. I think it enriches very well my own experience. After I come back home to Palestine, I wrote an article (in Arabic) entitled Development Cooperation in the Trade Unions. I addressed the rich experience I got in Slangerup, also, I addressed the role of the trade unions cooperatives in Palestine, in the thirties of the last century, in strengthening the workers organization. The main lesson I have learnt in TUDCN , that Development Cooperation in Trade Unions comes first from inside the Union itself: it should be independent first in order to be trusted by workers and members should pay membership dues regularly, nevertheless of low- high level of income. Paying fees is the key of organization independence. In this respect, I think that TUDCN should pay more attention to the educational, training and solidarity issues for my organization, PGFTU and other Unions who struggle in complicated situations.

→ Advocacy (International/European policy work)

→ TU effectiveness (Principles & Guidelines, TUDEP etc.)

1. **ANY OTHER REMARKS/SUGGESTIONS**

I don’t know the composition of the FSG, however, if there is no representation of Unions from the South, ( If I understood well the South expression) I suggest to nominate one Rep. in the FSG.

1. The PGFTU in Gaza Strip was affected serious difficulties in the past six years because of the rift between Fatah and Hamas, and the repeated Israeli siege. While Hamas militants control the PGFTU House in 2006, the Israeli Occupation Forces damaged the House totally during Israeli "Cast Lead" military operation on December 2008. As a result, the Trade Unions activities freeze, causing the heaviest damage to the rights and interests of working men and women. As an example, hundreds of workers died during work in illegal tunnels, thousands of them were injured. Besides, Hamas Governments pay no attention to Trade Unions work and responsibilities. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)