



Agenda item 12

4th ITUC World Congress (Copenhagen, Denmark, 2 – 7 December 2018)

(a) Logistics and Timeline

1. The 2018 Congress will set the priorities and action frame for the ITUC for the following four years, based on an assessment of the political and organisational challenges facing working people and the impact of the ITUC in meeting these challenges. It is also an opportunity to showcase the work of the international trade union movement, its diversity and its unity, to our membership and the public. Following the successful format of the 3rd ITUC World Congress in Berlin, a number of elements in the structure of Congress are therefore proposed, to deepen the quality of the debate and thus the engagement of national and international trade union forces in the struggle to change the balance of power in the global economy.

2. The 19th Executive Bureau meeting decided to accept the invitation of LO and FTF Denmark to host the Congress in Copenhagen from 2 to 7 December 2018, at the Bella Center Copenhagen, with the Opening Ceremony in the afternoon of Sunday 2 December and the Closing Ceremony on Friday 7 December in the early afternoon.

3. The theme of the 3rd ITUC World Congress, “Building Workers’ Power”, has proven successful as a rallying call for the international trade union movement, and it is proposed to retain that theme for the next Congress. To reflect the ITUC’s central objective of transforming the world economy and ensuring that the rule of law applies universally, the following theme and title of the main Congress Statement is proposed for the Congress in Copenhagen:

“Building Workers’ Power: Change the Rules”

Maximising productive and interactive debates

4. As for the previous Congress, it is proposed that the sessions be structured to ensure interactive debate.

5. This would be achieved by holding full plenary sessions, and when the plenary is not in session, three parallel sub-plenary sessions, with interpretation.

6. The full plenary sessions would be allocated to the formal business of Congress, as well as debate on amendments to the draft Congress Statement.

7. Three discussion topics are proposed for the sub-plenary sessions:

- The Future of Work
- Organising
- Wages and Inequality

8. Delegations would be able to choose to send delegates to the sub-plenary (or plenaries) of greatest interest to them, and where they would be able to make the most effective contribution to the Congress deliberations.

9. The Standing Orders and Credentials Committees would operate according to the requirements of the Constitution as in past Congresses and would report to full plenary sessions which would adopt decisions based on their reports.

10. The overall programme would therefore be structured along the following lines:

Sunday December 2	Opening ceremony (late afternoon)
Monday December 3	Full plenary (morning) Three parallel subject plenaries (afternoon)
Tuesday December 4	Full plenary (morning) Three parallel subject plenaries (afternoon)
Wednesday December 5	Full plenary (morning) Special event in Malmö at the invitation of LO and TCO Sweden (afternoon)
Thursday December 6	Full plenary (morning) Three parallel subject plenaries (afternoon)
Friday December 7	Full plenary for adoption of decisions, elections (morning) Short closing ceremony (mid-day)

11. The ITUC Executive Bureau and General Council would meet on Sunday 2 December prior to the opening of Congress, and the newly-elected General Council would meet on Friday 7 December after the closing of Congress.

12. As decided by the 15th meeting of the General Council (Sao Paulo, 10-12 October 2015), proposals from the General Council for amendment of the ITUC Constitution would be put to the plenary for decision early in the Congress week, and once adopted would have immediate effect.

13. The 16th meeting of the General Council (Vienna, 29 November – 1 December 2016) endorsed amendments to the ITUC Constitution on two matters:

- Changes to the provisions on gender composition of Congress delegations, and of the General Council, to increase the representation of women; and,
- Changes to the provisions concerning the election of ITUC General Secretary to incorporate the procedure which was applied at the Berlin Congress into the Constitution and Standing Orders, with each delegation's voting rights being equal to the paying membership it has affiliated to the ITUC.

14. The 16th General Council meeting also decided that the time-frame for submitting proposals for amendments to the Constitution be brought forward to the beginning of 2018 to enable the Council to give full consideration to them prior to Congress, and that the provision of Article XIV of the Constitution be followed in relation to proposed constitutional amendments. It also decided that a draft Congress Statement be prepared by the ITUC General Secretary and circulated to affiliates at the beginning of 2018, to enable them to propose amendments for consideration by the General Council in preparation for Congress (see document 17GC/12/(b)).

15. It is proposed to accept an invitation from the TUC-GB to hold additional meetings of the Executive Bureau and General Council on 24-25 May 2018 in Great Britain, to facilitate preparations for Congress.

16. A draft framework for the main Congress Statement is included under agenda item 12(b). It sets **out clear goals and objectives for the ITUC's work** following the Congress. It is based on the foundation of organising with four pillars of thematic objectives and the overarching ambition of creating a future of work which delivers economic and social justice. The General Council is requested to discuss this framework, to enable a first draft of the Congress Statement to be prepared at the beginning of 2018. This would be circulated to affiliates with a request for them to submit proposals for amendments. A revised draft would then be submitted to the General Council meeting in May. Following the General Council discussion, a final draft would be prepared for circulation to affiliates in preparation for Congress.

17. Background documents would also be prepared to provide a basis for discussions in the sub-plenary sessions, on the topics Future of Work, Organising and Wages and Inequality. The outcomes of those discussions would be reported for adoption in the Congress plenary, adding analysis and depth on key topics within the Congress Statement.

18. As indicated under agenda item 11 (report on the Future of Work), processes around the Future of Work are already underway with the ILO Commission, discussions on policy and action within and between trade union organisations around the world and in a number of other fora. This topic is high on the international agenda and will remain so during the lead-up to the Congress. Following the General Council discussion on item 11, a new version of the report will be circulated at the beginning of 2018 as a resource for affiliates and GUFs to use. The issue will be placed on the agenda of the May General Council, and the result of that discussion will provide the basis for the Congress sub-plenary debate on this topic as well as feeding in to the main Congress Statement.

Showcasing the Congress

19. In order to increase the public visibility, including in their home countries, of the main messages delegations are bringing to the Congress, delegates would be:

- Invited to use a dedicated video facility to record their speech for broadcast and inclusion in the official Congress website as part of the official record of Congress; and,
- Offered support by a media team to assist in reaching the widest possible audience in their home country, through social media, press releases etc.

20. This approach would allow the time in the main Congress sessions to be dedicated primarily to interactive debate with sufficient time in the debates for focused, substantive interventions.

21. Online segments of specific moments during the Congress debates would be organised to allow people who are not attending Congress to observe proceedings and even to enable them to interact with delegates during the debates.

Invitations to other organisations

22. As in previous Congresses, a range of other organisations and special guests should be invited to attend Congress as observers. The proposed list of invitations is attached (Appendix I).

Congress Budget

23. A Congress provision of Euros 250,000 is set aside in the ITUC budget each year, making a total of Euros 1,000,000 available to finance the costs of Congress at the end of the four-year cycle. Along with the provision in the ITUC budget, the LO Denmark will meet a substantial part of the overall costs of Congress. Detailed budgetary planning is continuing, and will enable the presentation of a proposed Congress Budget to the next meetings of the Executive Bureau and General Council in May 2018.

24. In order to help ensure the maximum number of participants from developing and emerging countries at Congress, as for previous Congresses the support of SSOs is being sought to contribute to travel and accommodation costs. SSOs have been advised that in light of budgetary constraints and

based on local cost estimates, a target has been established of a total amount of Euros 700,000. As for past Congresses, to ensure the most equitable distribution of the funds raised, SSOs have been requested to send their contributions to the ITUC or where their rules require that their assistance be provided directly to the recipient organisations, to select those organisations in agreement with the ITUC secretariat.

25. The General Council is requested to:

- Confirm the above arrangements for the 4th ITUC World Congress at the Bella Center, Copenhagen, opening on 2 December and closing on 7 December 2018;
- Accept the invitation of the TUC-GB to hold a meeting of the General Council in Great Britain on 24-25 May 2018 to facilitate preparations for the Congress;
- Authorise the General Secretary to prepare a draft Congress Programme on the lines set out above, for decision by the General Council at its next meeting, as well as a report on the statutory obligations concerning participation in Congress and other relevant issues;
- Take note of the timeline for Congress preparations (appendix II);
- Endorse the fund raising target of Euros 700,000 to support the participation of delegates from developing and emerging economies and the procedure set out in paragraph 24 above;
- Request all SSOs to make the maximum effort to help meet the fundraising target; and,
- Endorse the proposed list of invitees to Congress (Appendix I).

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