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Mr Yannis Panagopoulos
President
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Dear Yannis,

The ITUC and trade union leaders participating at the 2015 ITUC/Global Unions, IMF and World Bank High-level Meetings, express their solidarity with the GSEE as the voice of workers and the people of Greece and urge the international financial institutions and the European authorities to respect the democratic will of the Greek people and to explore every option with the new government so that negotiations replace edicts as the engine to regenerate the Greek economy.

Austerity and structural reforms have manifestly failed to solve the problems of the Greek economy. Mired in deep recession, Greece is facing wartime unemployment and a profound social and humanitarian crisis. The country's debt has soared beyond sustainable levels. Assuming that Greece's economy would grow around 2% per year, it would need 3 years to attain pre-crisis levels.

Clearly, the situation in Greece calls for a new policy paradigm geared towards growth, investment and employment, which convincingly tackles tax and contribution evasion, clientelism and corruption (e.g. in public procurement), and respects fundamental social and labour rights that were taken away at the Troika's insistence. Employers and workers must be allowed to negotiate wages through collective bargaining, to help restore living standards, create domestic demand and set the economy on the path to recovery

Greece should be allowed the time and the space to move ahead on this new path.

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary