



INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION

GENERAL COUNCIL

Washington, 12 - 14 December 2007

Agenda item 15:

Any other business

(a) Towards a Global Trade Union Alliance against Forced Labour and Trafficking

1. The General Council is invited to approve the recommendations set out in paragraphs 4 and 5.
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Agenda item 15:**Any other business****(a) Towards a Global Trade Union Alliance against Forced Labour and Trafficking**

1. The Constitution of the ITUC requires it to “strive for the universal respect of fundamental rights at work, until child labour and forced labour in all their forms are abolished, discrimination at work eliminated and the trade union rights of all workers observed fully and everywhere”. The fight against forced labour and trafficking is an essential component of any trade union strategy aimed at ensuring Decent Work for All.

2. Accordingly, in April 2007 the ITUC initiated a global project aimed at developing and disseminating a strategy to deal with forced labour and trafficking in close cooperation and with the financial support of the ILO. Using this support it held in-depth consultations with affiliated and Regional Organisations, Global Union Federations (GUFs) and the ILO Bureau for Workers’ Activities, from 9 to 11 September 2007 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and from 23 to 25 October 2007 in Turin, Italy. Meanwhile a survey assessed existing trade union capacities, needs and opportunities in this field. This has revealed a general trade union commitment to fight forced labour and trafficking, as well as the existence of significant trade union activities and structures already addressing the issues from different angles. It further showed that there are many common points to be addressed across geographical regions and sectors of activity. The survey, however, also confirmed much remains to be done to ensure that the full extent and nature of forced labour and trafficking, and the wide variety of forms in which they occur, are fully understood and combated by the global trade union movement. Close collaboration with the GUFs, Regional Organisations and affiliates will therefore be essential in the design and implementation of a Global Trade Union Alliance against Forced Labour and Trafficking.

Action Points

3. On the basis of the above, the following action points are proposed as the basis of a Global Trade Union Alliance against Forced Labour and Trafficking:

- the promotion of ratification and effective implementation of ILO Conventions 29 and 105, 81 and 129, 181, 97 and 143¹;
- awareness raising on forced labour and trafficking aimed at trade union members and officials, and the wider public;
- addressing forced labour and trafficking issues in bipartite and tripartite negotiations and agreements;
- promoting political and material support within trade union organisations for the development of policies against forced labour;
- monitoring of employment agencies as well as companies, including their supply chains to detect and combat forced labour and trafficking practices;
- identification, documentation and public exposure of forced labour issues and cases;
- bilateral, sectoral or regional trade union cooperation agreements, and appropriate alliances or coalitions with civil society organisations having recognised expertise and experience in relevant areas;
- cooperation with labour inspection services, law enforcement and other relevant national, regional or international authorities or interagency working groups;
- outreach and direct support to informal, unprotected and migrant workers at risk, to address their specific situation and needs, including through their integration in trade union ranks;
- ensuring that proper attention is paid to all aspects of racism and discrimination, including in particular its gender dimension, as women and girls are especially at risk;
- working closely with GUFs to target sectors where forced labour and trafficking are most likely to occur.

Building the Global Trade Union Alliance against Forced Labour and Trafficking

4. The General Council is invited to:

- approve the action points set out in paragraph 3 of this document as the basis for a Global Trade Union Alliance against Forced Labour and Trafficking and to urge all affiliates to integrate them into their work programmes as appropriate in their national circumstances;
- instruct the General Secretary to promote networking and campaign activities by affiliates, regional organisations, and GUF's through training and advocacy materials.

¹ Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (N°29)

Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (N°105)

Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (N°81), Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention, 1969 (N°129), Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (N°181), Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (N°97), Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (N°143)

5. The General Council is further invited to instruct the General Secretary to develop the work of the Global Trade Union Alliance, in particular through:

- support to affiliates and close cooperation with Regional Organisations;
 - close cooperation with the GUFs in promotion of the sectoral dimension of the Alliance's work, and
 - close cooperation with the ILO Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour.
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HTUR/JB - 7 November 2007