



RESOLUTION ON BURMA

The General Council, meeting in its 3rd session in Washington, DC, on 12-14 December 2007)

- RECALLING** the brutal repression by the Burmese military regime of peaceful demonstrations in September and October 2007, which resulted in the deaths of dozens of people, injuries to several hundred and the detention of thousands of innocent persons;
- CONDEMNING** the Burmese junta's continued and vicious repression of the people of Burma, including through murder, torture, physical assault including rape, massive use of forced labour, imprisonment, and other egregious forms of violence and intimidation, as well as its total denial of freedom of association;
- SALUTING** the courage and commitment of Burma's democracy movement, including the Federation of Trade Unions – Burma (FTUB), which is an ITUC Associated Organisation;
- WELCOMING** the massive international support given to Burma's democracy movement, including the mobilisations and other actions organised by ITUC affiliates and Global Union Federations around the world;
- NOTING** that the junta exerts complete control over Burma's economy, which it uses to enrich itself and perpetuate its rule against the will of the people, millions of whom are now on the brink of famine as a direct result of the junta's policies and actions;
- RECOGNISING** that several countries and the European Union have imposed economic and political sanctions on Burma, in order to put pressure on the regime, but that these do not properly include key economic sectors, in particular finance and banking as well as oil and gas,

which are the mainstay of the junta's ability to continue its repressive rule;

WELCOMING the recent appointment of Dr. Piero Fassino as EU Special Envoy to Burma, as well as the efforts undertaken by UN Secretary General's Special Advisor for Burma, Prof. I. Gambari and UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma, Prof. S. Pinheiro;

DEPLORING the refusal of certain UN Security Council members and other governments to support the implementation of comprehensive multilateral sanctions against the Burmese regime, and

CONDEMNING those countries which support and promote economic ties with Burma, and those companies which continue to do business with or in Burma,

CALLS UPON all governments to fully support the urgent introduction and implementation, through the United Nations and regional organisations, of comprehensive multilateral political, economic and financial sanctions against the Burmese regime;

SUPPORTS the actions taken to-date by the ILO, aiming at forcing Burma's military regime to desist from its massive use of forced labour;

INSISTS that all companies having business links with Burma follow the example of those companies which have responded to the calls upon them from the ITUC and others, and cease all such links forthwith;

EMPHASISES the importance, in this regard, of the ITUC Burma Database of companies have business links with Burma and of the Shareholder Campaign activities of the Global Unions' Committee on Workers' Capital;

EXHORTS all ITUC affiliates and Global Union Federations to maintain the maximum pressure on governments and businesses to achieve the above objectives;

URGES affiliates to support action by pension funds, including through disinvestment, shareholder resolutions and other means to ensure that companies end business links with Burma,

PLEDGES to ensure the continued and fullest support from the international trade union movement to the FTUB and Burma's democracy movement, and

INSTRUCTS the General Secretary to continue ITUC coordination of this support, through urgent consideration and appropriate implementation of all available economic, political and legal levers on the Burmese junta, including its possible referral to the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court, in line with the Final Declaration of the ITUC Conference on Democracy for Burma (Kathmandu, Nepal, April 2007) and positions taken by the Workers' Group of the International Labour Organisation.