



POSITIONINGS OF THE TUCA LEADING TO THE 5th ITUC CONGRESS

The points herein were discussed at our International Seminar "The Challenges of International Trade Unionism and Socio-political Trade Unionism in the Post-pandemic Period", held on April 19-20, 2022 in Panama City, and at the 31st meeting of the Continental Executive Council held on April 21, 2022, also in Panama City.

The consolidation of the role of international trade unionism, whose last important event was the creation of the ITUC 15 years ago, is facing crucial times. We must take our trade union internationalism a step further.

The attack on the working class and on trade unionism across the world requires an articulated response to build programmatic unity and to mobilize an agenda that brings together workers and their organizations, as well as society as a whole.

Socio-political trade unionism is our commitment to reinforce an agenda that transcends actions limited to labor aspects and places us as a relevant and lead actor in the political, social, economic and environmental disputes of the world today.

Democracy is an indispensable value, which our trade union structure must prioritize at all levels: national, regional and global. We need to expand our definitions of democracy to ensure the effective participation of trade union representatives of the different regions in the ITUC leadership (secretariat, governing bodies, committees, directorates and internal departments of the ITUC).

In this regard we reaffirm:

1. The trade union movement must give visibility and organize workers of the world.

1.1 The strengthening and transformation of trade unions must become a reality. We champion building a global roadmap to strengthen our trade union movement together with the effective participation of Global Unions.

1.2 Our challenge is to update the trade union structure to represent the working class in all its diversity, regardless of contractual relationship, working conditions, type of activity, gender, national origin, territorial location.

1.3 Organizing youth is a challenge that requires the transformation of trade union structures. We must not only democratize and generate a multigenerational structure, we must also include the demands of the youth.

2. Radical commitment to peace

2.1 The war in Ukraine and geopolitical polarization also affect labor relations, with workers bearing the greatest cost of the conflicts. Trade unionism must oppose war in all circumstances, more so when it is about powers imposing their interests on territories and countries. Therefore, trade unionism clearly positions itself against all wars and military interventions and aggression.



- 2.2 Trade unionism must prioritize global solidarity and the defense of the working class, without following the determinations and actions of governments and their geopolitical interests, much less those of the corporations that make a big business out of war, driving an economic model that generates crises in the world.
- 2.3 The recovery of multilateralism and international law as the basis of stability and security for all the nations of the world is urgent.

3. At the level of the ILO

- 3.1 It is necessary to reinforce the tripartite mechanisms of social dialogue and the regulatory function of the ILO, to take a firm position against the excessive dependence on the positions of the group of employers that have operated to weaken the control instruments that question the application of international standards.
- 3.2 Employers question collective rights, especially the right to strike, which has been systematically denied since 2012, constituting a serious attack on freedom of association and collective bargaining.
- 3.3 We cannot compromise with the cases that sanction progressive governments, that fight for workers' rights, and that accept and relativize authoritarian governments which attack freedom of association, collective bargaining, and criminalize and kill workers.
- 3.4 The ITUC should make an emphatic case, together with the ILO, for ACTRAV to more fully incorporate the regional representation in all of its decisions and activities.
- 3.5 Fighting for the definitions of ACTRAV representatives in the global, regional and subregional structure, in dialogue and consultation with the most representative trade union organizations.

4. At the level of the ITUC

- 4.1 We fight for the presence of Latin America in the ITUC secretariat. The Assistant Secretary General is a world leader and with all due respect we say, is not an employee of the General Secretariat.
- 4.2 We fight for discussions on the financing of our structure. Membership dues cannot be determined by bureaucratic criteria. Membership dues are a political commitment, not just a financial one. For the next 4 years we face the challenge of building a fair, supportive and progressive financing system.
- 4.3 External financing has to operate under programmatic criteria. International cooperation must be solidary, without generating the risk of changing or questioning our policy.
- 4.4 The ITUC Secretary General is the lead, voice and visible representation of international trade unionism, representing all of us, and whose main role is to coordinate, direct, set the pace, and most importantly, ensure internal balance, and be the most important guarantor of internal unity.
- 4.5 We need an ITUC that is Latin, African, Asian, European, of the North and South, East and West, that represents the working class in all its ethnic, gender and generational diversity.



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- 4.6 We fight for an ITUC with more mobilization and organizing, and less lobbying. That builds our strengths for all negotiations, relying on and supporting organized and mobilized grassroots. We need an international trade unionism that makes visible and organizes based on the recognition of organized grassroots.
- 4.7 It is urgent for the ITUC recognize the points of view of all its affiliated federations, and in particular of the different regions, when adopting positions and definitions.
- 4.8 The work of the ITUC on the various issues must be articulated based on the priorities of its affiliated federations. Trade union unity is built based on the recognition of the needs, priorities and demands of the different regions, with workers at the center.
- 4.9 We do not accept borders for the international working class. We propose a structure that does not create the risk of another division of the trade union movement. An ITUC that prioritizes the defense of a world with social justice, with civilizing values.

We reaffirm our commitment to work for the unity of the Americas at the 5th ITUC Congress, we are fully aware that unity is not necessarily unanimity. We will respect the autonomy of our affiliates to decide on candidacies, programmatic and action points, but we will all we can to represent the positions that increase unitary synthesis in the Americas.

We look forward to support for a candidacy in the ITUC based on our programmatic and management points, and for this candidacy to be the best one to address these challenges.

We, the Americas, will continue contributing to a strong and united ITUC.

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