
1. PEACE, SECURITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Whereas:

- the persistent violation of human rights at political, social, economic and cultural levels, which occurs in most of our countries;
- this violation generates all kinds of violence;
- the international situation jeopardises democracy and peace;
- the profound deficit of decent employment, the injustice of poverty and social exclusion, the lack of opportunities and the difficulty for large groups of workers to be heard and taken into consideration are factors of frustration and violence;
- an unprecedented violence generates more delinquency in the urban and rural areas. Moreover, poverty is criminalised (being poor is classed as being delinquent);
- all forms of terrorism and most diverse forms of mafia practices (trafficking in human beings and drugs, privatisation of security and of armed forces) are on the rise;
- respect for the trade union rights is demolished by the strong pressure on the right to strike and by the penalisation of social struggle, the arbitrary dismissals of trade unionists and, in the most serious cases, the unjust imprisonments, abductions and assassinations, together with the forced deportation of trade union leaders; in this context we note in addition that a real process of annihilation of the trade union movement is going on through outsourcing, subcontracting, privatisation and conversion of companies;
- the violence striking tragically entire peoples all over the world is escalating: preventive wars, genocides, illegal occupation of territories in defiance of the UN resolutions and of the right of people to self-determination;
- our states invest gigantic amounts of money in a war economy whereas the social investments are drastically cut;
- the existence of cruel and degrading circumstances in penitentiary institutions and the use of degrading and arbitrary practices during arrests and interrogations, particularly of people arrested in situations of war and conflict;
- many conflicts have developed on territories that are rich in natural resources, like the invasion in Iraq and other conflicts, for instance;

The 26th Congress of WCL, loyal to its principles and values of pursuit of peace and against each form of non-violence:

- demands and insists that the governments respect, enforce and exercise the basic human rights at political, social, economic and cultural levels;
- condemns the invasion and occupation of Iraq and the non-respect for the resolutions of the UN Security Council;
- supports the process of trade union unification in Iraq at the initiative of ICATU and ICFTU, supported by WCL, in order to raise the militancy of the Iraqi workers in a context of occupation and war;

- demands the immediate close-down of the degrading penitentiary institution the government of the United States has opened on Cuban territory (Guantanamo Bay);
- demands that the international community takes up its responsibility in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in order to guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people and workers as well as the withdrawal from the occupied territories, the foundation of the Palestinian State as an indispensable basis for lasting peace in the Middle East and in the world;
- reiterates the relevant resolutions of its previous Congresses on Cyprus and protests against the continuing Turkish occupation of 37% of the island and calls for the immediate reunification of the island;
- welcomes Cyprus' accession to the European Union on the 1st of May 2004, considering this development a potential and an opportunity for a new perspective toward a just, lasting, and viable solution of the problem that should be acceptable to all the people of Cyprus;
- calls on the political leaders of Cyprus, the United Nations, the European Union and other international organizations, as well as on all parties involved in the effort to facilitate a peaceful solution of the Cyprus problem, to work toward initiating intensive and continuous negotiations with the aim to conclude a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem based on all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions;
- appreciates and supports the continuous efforts made by the island's workers movement through the work of the "All Cyprus Trade Unions Forum" where all Greek and Turkish Cypriot trade unions meet and discuss labour and social issues concerning the present situation, and the future of a reunified common country;
- condemns the violence raging for years in Africa, eg in West Africa and in the Great Lakes region, and urges all the stakeholders to continue decidedly the efforts to ensure lasting peace in the region;
- reminds that peace, multilateralism and democracy are the foundations of a more just society;
- believes in a strengthened, reformed and more democratic UNO;
- reminds that the freedom of association, collective bargaining and the tripartism-based social dialogue as advocated by ILO must be strengthened both nation- and worldwide;
- calls to convert the military and war economies into peace economies that use sustainable means of production;
- demands a reform of international institutions like IMF, World Bank and WTO, by creating advisory bodies in which the workers are represented;
- supports with determination the creation of an Economic and Social Security Council (ESSC) within the United Nations, which would be in charge of the socio-economic regulation of globalisation and in which the trade unions and the non-governmental organisations would be represented. The WCL calls to ratify the programme of the UBUNTU forum, to join in the campaign for the reform of the international institutions and to participate in similar actions;
- reminds that it is impossible to attain peace without social justice, decent employment and disregard of the workers' rights;
- calls in particular on the government, the employers and the other members of the international community to join the workers in the protection of social justice as a basis for peace.