



International Trade Union Confederation

**GENERAL COUNCIL**

Brussels, Belgium, 29 November – 1 December 2017

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**Agenda item 2:**

**Report of the 16th meeting of the ITUC General Council  
(Vienna, Austria, 29 November – 1 December 2016)**

The General Council is requested to approve the report of the 16<sup>th</sup> General Council meeting (Vienna, Austria, 29 November – 1 December 2016).

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## **INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION**

### **SUMMARY OF DECISIONS OF THE 16<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL**

**Vienna, Austria, 29 November – 1 December 2016**

#### **ITUC 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, 29 November 2016 from 4 to 6 pm**

ÖGB President Erich Foglar gave a welcome address to open the ceremony.

An introductory speech by ITUC President João Felício was followed by key-note addresses by Austrian Chancellor Christian Kern, Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and ILO Director General Guy Ryder.

The ITUC General Secretary then responded and moderated a panel discussion with João Felício, ITUC Deputy Presidents Maria Fernanda Carvalho and Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson as well as ETUC General Secretary Luca Visentini.

The ceremony was followed by a reception at the Austrian Parliament, hosted by the President of the Austrian Federal Council, Mario Lindner.

#### **Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda**

The President welcomed the General Council members to Vienna and opened the meeting at 09.30.

The draft agenda ([Appendix I](#)) and timetable were introduced.

The General Council **ENDORSED** the draft agenda and timetable.

#### **Agenda Item 2: Report of the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ITUC General Council (São Paulo, Brazil, 10 – 12 October 2015)**

The Chair proposed that the report of the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting be endorsed.

The General Council **ENDORSED** the report.

#### **Agenda Item 3: Obituaries**

The General Council observed a minute of silence to salute the outstanding contribution to trade unionism of departed colleagues: Ernesto Herrera, Joaquín Gamboa Pascoe, Mohd Khalid bin Hj Atan, Manuel Cova, André Jules Mousseni, N'Deye Aissatou Niang, Akira Yamagishi, Laurent Ouedraogo, Boniface Munyao, Dennis Akumu, Nair Maria de Jésus Goulart, Maurice Bossuat, Geerjanan Bhujan, Helen Kelly and Grigor Gradev.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Constitutional Bodies**

ITUC Deputy General Secretary Jaap Wienen introduced the document.

The General Council **ENDORSED** the changes highlighted in document 16GC/E/4 and consequently **RATIFIED** the new composition of the ITUC Constitutional Bodies.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Affiliation Questions**

The document was introduced by Jaap Wienen.

## **1. Applications for affiliation proposed for acceptance**

The General Council **DECIDED** to accept into ITUC affiliation:

Benin	CSPIB
Costa Rica	CSJMP
Côte d'Ivoire	CSH
France – Réunion	CGTR
Kazakhstan	CNTUK (previously CFTUK)
Macedonia	KSS
Togo	UGSL

## **2. Applications for affiliation proposed for on-going consideration**

The General Council **DECIDED** to keep under on-going consideration the following applications:

### **AFRICA:**

Côte d'Ivoire	U.NA.TR-CI
Guinea	COSATREG
Kenya	TUC-KE
Tunisia	CGTT
Uganda	COFTU
Zambia	FFTUZ

### **AMERICAS:**

Costa Rica	CCTD
Jamaica	NWU
Peru	CSP
Peru	CTP

The General Council **DECIDED** to ask the secretariat to organise a mission to Peru at the beginning of 2017.

### **ASIA-PACIFIC:**

Bangladesh	BFWS
Bangladesh	JSF
Israel	Koach La'Ovdim – Democratic Trade Union
Jordan	FITU
Palestine	GFITUP
Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka Plantation Employees Union
Taiwan	TCTU
Vietnam	VLF

### **EUROPE:**

France	FSU
Slovakia	NKOS
Tajikistan	FTuiT
Ukraine	Federation of Trade Unions of Workers of Small and Medium Enterprises of Ukraine

### 3. Long-term pending affiliation requests

The General Council **NOTED** the report of the secretariat concerning the affiliation request of Western Sahara, UGT-SARIO, and decided to keep this request pending.

The General Council **REQUESTED** the secretariat to organise a mission to Tindouf in the near future.

### 4. Applications for which no further consideration is proposed

The General Council **DECIDED** to give no further consideration to:

Barbados	CTUSAB
Cambodia	NACC
Central African Republic	FOC
Central African Republic	SATPC
Colombia	FEDEUSCTRAB
Congo RDC	SYNATRACO
Fiji	FICTU
Gabon	CSTG
India	Christian Democratic Union CDU
Iran	CIWR
Iran	ICWA
Latvia	TUAL
Mexico	CAT Guanajuato
Mexico	FNTSU
Niger	CGSL
Senegal	UNTD
Sri Lanka	NFTU

### 5. Other affiliation issues

Uzbekistan, FPUz

The General Council **DECIDED** to maintain the associated status of FPUz, to send a mission to Uzbekistan at the beginning of 2017 and to report on the progress in the development of the FPUz at the next General Council meeting in 2017.

Algeria, CGATA

The General Council **NOTED** the recommendation to the ITUC-AF to accept CGATA Algeria into affiliation without further delay and **DECIDED** to send a message of solidarity to the CGATA, supporting their fight for justice and demanding the immediate release of Yamina Meghraoui, Chair of the CGATA Women's Committee and coordinator of the ATUC Arab Countries Women's Network.

TUCA

The General Council **AGREED** with the proposal of the Secretariat for a meeting to be held, early in 2017, with the 11 affiliates that have announced their intention to leave TUCA, to see whether there are opportunities for resolving the issues.

### Associated Organisations (AO)

The General Council **DECIDED**

- a. to grant the status of Associated Organisation to  
Libya GFTUL (previously LFTU)

- b. to extend the status of Associated Organisation to  
Slovenia ZSSS

### **Agenda Item 6: Building Workers' Power – Introduction by General Secretary**

The General Secretary thanked the ÖGB for their extraordinary hospitality and the fitting celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ITUC.

#### **6.1 Frontlines and Priorities: Highlights 2016 and 2017 ITUC Work Plans**

#### **6.2 Freedom Report: Peace, Democratic Rights**

The General Secretary reported on:

- Taming Corporate power in supply chains

The global campaign is now active, with ITUC and regional support in 15 countries in 3 regions, campaigning and organising against exploitation by MNEs in workplaces where minimum living wages, insecure or unsafe work is the target.

- The Samsung Campaign

The Samsung campaign is aimed at one of the most notorious anti-union multinationals. The General Secretary urged General Council members to use the report, video and other campaign materials, and to promote the call to sign the petition at <http://act.ituc-csi.org/en/samsung>.

- End Corporate Greed

Building on the 2016 World Day for Decent Work, the General Council was asked to make the “End Corporate Greed” campaign a global rallying call for a set of demands that governments and employers can't ignore.

- Climate Justice

The General Secretary pointed to the real progress that has been made but also to the scale of the remaining challenges. With the commitment to Just Transition in the Paris Agreement, a further decision was made at the Marrakech COP, establishing a UNFCCC technical experts group on economic diversity, transformation and Just Transition, with recognition of the ITUC in this regard.

- Just Transition Centre

A “Just Transition Centre” has been established to support the work of affiliates in national, city and workplace dialogue regarding plans for climate action including jobs and investment in vulnerable communities as well as support for vulnerable workers.

The Dorje Khatri award was given to SEWA India for their practical approach to both climate action and development, in particular their initiative on solar energy for salt-pan workers.

- Eliminating Slavery

The General Secretary thanked the General Council for the support received in the struggle to eliminate the Kafala system in Qatar and to achieve fundamental rights for migrant workers.

2017 will see a new phase of the campaign including the development of a five-year roadmap to the 2022 World Cup. Further action on the UAE will also be undertaken.

- Mega Sports Events and Human Rights Centre

A landmark human rights report by Professor John Ruggie has put greater pressure on FIFA to clean up its act ahead of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, **and** set a clear benchmark for all international sports bodies, including on labour standards.

The ITUC is engaged in building global architecture through the development of an independent centre on mega-sports events and human rights, with union representation from the ITUC, BWI and UNI World Athletes.

- Migration

A Migrant Recruitment Monitor – a monitoring and networking internet platform that migrant workers can use, is under development and will be launched in 2017. The ITUC is working closely with the ETUC on the refugee crisis in Europe, and is continuing its advocacy and policy work on international migration.

- Global Coherence

Within the “End Corporate Greed” campaign, the ITUC is focusing on wage increases and social protection. Wage floor forums in each region in 2017 will be held as part of this. The ITUC will also support the ETUC in its campaign for wage rises in Europe. Work to tackle global inequality and influence global economic policy, in close partnership with TUAC, continues with activities planned in particular for the 2017 G20 in Germany along with ongoing work at the IFIs and other international and regional bodies.

- Sustainable Development Goals

ITUC Deputy General Secretary Wellington Chibembe reported on the SDGs under item 11. Appreciation was expressed to the development networks in each region for their work.

- ILO

Catelene Passchier, FNV Netherlands, has agreed to be the Chair of the ILO Workers Group and we will campaign to see Luc Cortebeeck as Chair of the Governing Body for the following year.

2017 is an ILO election year and the procedures set by the General Council will be applied in the nominations process.

- Care Economy

‘Count Us In!’ is the central campaign for women: in the economy, for jobs and decent work, in unions and in political and economic life. The first ITUC Care Economy Report had a strong impact and a second report will be issued in January 2017. 150 affiliates have now adopted national action plans on women in leadership and the campaign will expand in 2017.

- Violence against Women

The UN high level panel for Women's empowerment has adopted our challenges of promoting the care economy to increase women's participation, reducing inequality through minimum wages and social protection and action on violence against women. The ILC will consider gender-based violence in 2017 and the ITUC will campaign for a Convention on this issue.

- Countries at Risk

The Global Rights Index and our Countries at Risk programme have been strengthened. The Index is widely accepted as an authoritative reference, and the Countries at Risk programme provides the basis for coordinated action to defend rights, with targeted support for countries on the Watch List.

- Organising

The central ITUC objective of Building **Workers’** Power through organising has been strengthened by the training of more than 300 lead organisers and 700 associated organisers through the Global Organising Academy to date.

In 2017, with the support of the CLC, the 1<sup>st</sup> Global Organising Conference will be held in Canada.

The General Council **ENDORSED** the report and plans laid out for 2017.

- Freedom Report

Democracy, freedom and rights are under attack in every region and the rise of the right-wing is troubling.

Frances O'Grady (Great Britain – TUC), Cathy Feingold (USA -AFL CIO), Rikio Kozu (Japan JTUC –Rengo) and Mody Guiro (Senegal – CNTS) led the discussion with country-specific and regional perspectives.

The General Secretary read out a letter to the General Council from AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka following the US election outcome. An ITUC conference on freedom, peace and rights will be held in 2017.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Economic Briefing**

John Evans presented a report on the global economic situation.

The PowerPoint presentation he used is available to affiliates on request.

The General Council **NOTED** the report on this item.

#### **Agenda Item 8: International Labour Organisation**

Workers' Group Chair Luc Cortebeeck and Secretary Raquel Gonzalez presented an oral report, on:

- The re-election of Guy Ryder as Director-General;
- ILO 2019 Centenary and the Future of Work;
- Decent Work in Global Supply Chains;
- Evaluation of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fairer Globalization;
- Decent work and social protection and the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Standards Review Mechanism;
- Joint Statement by the ITUC and IOE;
- ILC Agenda 2017;
- ILC Agenda 2018; and,
- ILC Agenda 2019.

ILO/ACTRAV Director Maria Helena André stressed in her intervention the importance of the cooperation between ACTRAV, the ITUC and its member organisations.

#### **Agenda Item 9: Committee on Workers' Capital**

Coen van der Veer (Netherlands – FNV) presented the report.

The General Council **NOTED** the report.

#### **Agenda Item 10: Global Unions Partnership – Trade**

The General Secretary moderated a panel discussion with Luca Visentini, ETUC General Secretary, Hassan Yussuff, CLC Canada President, and Yorgos Altintzis, ITUC.

The General Council **TOOK NOTE** of the discussion on this item and of the document which was presented.

## **Agenda Item 11:        Agenda 2030 – UN Sustainable Development Goals**

Wellington Chibebe presented an oral report.

Six Goals have been prioritised for trade union action in alignment with ITUC Frontlines and Priorities:

- SDG1:    no poverty**
- SDG5:    gender equality**
- SDG 8:    decent work and economic growth**
- SDG10:    reduced inequalities**
- SDG13:    climate action**
- SDG16:    peace, justice and strong institutions inclusive societies**

### **1.    Pillars of trade union engagement strategy on Agenda 2030**

The involvement of trade unions on Agenda 2030 is shaped on three complementary strategic objectives, which will be accompanied by the TUDCN:

Trade union mobilisation and awareness-raising;  
Advocacy and Implementation; and,  
Monitoring and Reporting.

### **2.    Promoting the role of social dialogue in the implementation of Agenda 2030**

Social dialogue is not explicitly mentioned in the SDGs official framework. Therefore, unions must engage in supporting this priority towards national governments, regional and global institutions.

The General Council **ENDORSED** the report.

## **Agenda Item 12:        The Future of Work**

The General Council **ENDORSED** the approach as set out in the document as the basis for ITUC activities on the future of work, including:

- Active engagement in the ILO Future of Work initiative, including support to affiliates involved in national activities linked to the initiative;
- Support for the Global Deal initiative of the Prime Minister of Sweden; and,
- Facilitating exchange of information between affiliates and Global Union Federations on their activities in this field.

(See also Agenda Item 15.1)

## **Agenda Item 13:        Reports**

The General Secretary informed the General Council that the following reports were tabled for information and endorsement.

### **(a)    Gender Equality**

#### **Report of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ITUC Women's Committee (Brussels, 18 – 19 May 2016)**

Eulogia Familia, Vice-Chair of the Women's Committee presented the report.

The General Council **ENDORSED** the report.



**(b) Youth**

**Report of the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ITUC Youth Committee  
(Accra, Ghana, 30 November – 1 December 2015)**

The ITUC General Secretary presented the report.

The General Council **ENDORSED** the report.

**(c) Report of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ITUC Human and Trade Union Rights  
Committee (Vienna, Austria, 28 November 2016)**

Rudy De Leeuw presented an oral report.

The ITUC General Secretary had opened the meeting with an overview of the challenges workers are facing everywhere and the alarming trend of diminishing democratic space for trade unions.

The HTUR Committee had thanked Union to Union Sweden, LO Norway, FES and CNV Netherlands, for their financial support to the programme and requested other Solidarity Support Organisations to continue coordination with the ITUC to design clear strategies, improve efficiency and complementarity of actions.

The General Council **ENDORSED** the strategy as presented and **COMMITTED** as affiliates of the ITUC to:

- Undertake action at the national level to promote ratification of Conventions 87 and 98;
- Appoint a focal person to the relevant regional HTUR network to actively participate in the campaigns and respond to appeals for solidarity action;
- Support specific country campaigns of particular interest to each organisation and inform the ITUC of any activities in countries at risk;
- Organise solidarity action at national level
- Consider bringing cases of violations in countries at risk by companies headquartered in their country to the relevant OECD national contact point.

The General Council **NOTED** the request of the Committee to:

- Devote more time to the ILO and in particular to the discussions in the Standards Review Mechanism in its forthcoming meetings;
- Recommit to a full day meeting of the HTUR committee.

The General Council **ENDORSED** the report of the Committee.

**Agenda Item 14: The Regions**

**(a) Africa**

The ITUC-AF General Secretary presented the report.

**(b) Americas**

The TUCA General Secretary presented the report.

**(c) Asia and the Pacific**

The ITUC-AP General Secretary presented the report.

**(d) Arab Sub-Region**

The ATUC Executive Secretary presented the report and proposed to organise an International Peace Conference in 2017.

**(e) PERC**

The PERC General Secretary presented the report.

The General Council **APPROVED** the reports.

## **Agenda Item 15: Executive Bureau**

ITUC Deputy President Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson presented the reports.

### **15.1 Constitutional matters**

Executive Bureau Chairperson Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson presented the report of the Bureau, which had been requested to discuss the following two proposals for Constitutional amendments arising from the Berlin Congress with a view to making a recommendation to the General Council:

- Changes to the provisions on gender composition of Congress delegations, and of the General Council, to increase the representation of women; and,
- Changes to the provisions concerning the election of ITUC General Secretary to incorporate the procedure which was applied at the Berlin Congress into the Constitution and Standing Orders, with each delegation's voting rights being equal to the paying membership it has affiliated to the ITUC.

The Executive Bureau **RECOMMENDED** to the General Council that these two amendments to the Constitution be approved at the next Congress in 2018.

The Executive Bureau **RECOMMENDED** to the General Council that the provisions of Article XIV of the Constitution be followed in relation to proposed Constitutional amendments.

Since some organisations had submitted proposals for amendments to other articles of the Constitution, the Bureau **RECOMMENDED** that the General Council have a full and open discussion on these, in preparation for the 2018 Congress.

The General Council was also requested to endorse a proposal from the General Secretary to extend the formal preparation time-frame for Congress from the minimum 6 months to the beginning of the Congress year. This would facilitate the Council's work concerning proposals for amendment to the Constitution, and also provide a longer time-frame for affiliates to consider and respond to a draft Congress policy statement to be circulated to them by the General Secretary at the beginning of 2018. Further to the Council's discussion under Agenda Item 12, The Future of Work, it was also proposed that the General Secretary circulate materials on this topic at the beginning of 2017, to enable affiliates to carry out consultations within their own structures and discussions with other organisations. In-depth discussions on this issue would be placed on the agendas of the ITUC Regional Organisations and Structures in 2017, and the feedback from these would be used as a key contribution to the preparation of the draft Congress policy statement.

The General Council **ENDORSED** the proposals set out under this item.

### **15.2 Financial questions**

#### **(a) Reports of the 19<sup>th</sup> (Brussels, 12 April 2016 – virtual meeting) and 20<sup>th</sup> (Vienna, Austria, 29 November 2016) meeting of the ITUC Executive Bureau**

The General Council **APPROVED** the reports.

#### **(b) ITUC Financial Reports for 2015**

- (i) Financial Report for 2015
- (ii) Internal Auditors' Report for 2015

The General Council **APPROVED** the reports.

#### **(c) ITUC Regional Organisations - Financial Reports for 2015**

- (i) ITUC-AF:
  - (a) Financial Report for 2015
  - (b) Internal Auditors' Report for 2015

The General Council **APPROVED** the ITUC-AF Financial Report for 2015 and Internal Auditors' Report for 2015.

- (ii) ITUC-AP:
  - (a) Financial Report for 2015
  - (b) Internal Auditors' Report for 2015

The General Council **APPROVED** the ITUC-AP Financial Report for 2015 and Internal Auditors' Report for 2015.

- (iii) TUCA:
  - (a) Financial Report for 2015
  - (b) Internal Auditors' Report for 2015

The General Council **APPROVED** the TUCA Financial Report for 2015 and Internal Auditors' Report for 2015.

- (iv) ATUC:
  - (a) Financial Report for 2015
  - (b) Internal Auditor's Report for 2015

The General Council **APPROVED** the ATUC Financial Report for 2015 and Internal Auditors' Report for 2015.

**(d) ITUC Budget and Programmes for 2017**

The General Council **APPROVED** the budget and programmes proposed for 2017.

**(e) Solidarity Fund: Budget and Programmes for 2017**

The General Council **ENDORSED** the Budget and Programmes for 2017 of the Solidarity Fund.

**Agenda Item 16: Date and Place of next Meetings**

The next meeting of the General Council is proposed to take place during the week of 27 November 2017 in Brussels, Belgium. An extra meeting of the General Council in the first half of 2018 is also planned.

**Agenda Item 17: Any Other Business**

A video message from former Brazilian President Lula, congratulating the ITUC and its members on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, was shown at the beginning of the meeting on Thursday 1 December 2016. Affiliates were asked to support the #StandWithLula campaign.

Thursday 1 December being "World Aids Day", the General Council welcomed the work done by the unions fighting against the struggle of this disease.

During the General Council meeting a message of solidarity was sent to the affiliates in Argentina, noting with concern the increasing criminalisation of social protest in the country since the new government took office in December 2015, and the recent attacks by security forces against trade union activists engaged in peaceful and legal activities. It also called on Argentina to comply with the resolutions of the United Nations Group on Arbitrary Detention and the OAS urging the release of the social leader Milagro Sala and her comrades who were illegally detained.

The General Council also agreed to the sending of a solidarity message to the GSEE Greece, in support of their stand against further destructive demands of creditors led by the IMF and EU.

The Chair concluded the meeting at 17.07 on 1 December 2016.



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*Opening at 4 pm on Tuesday 29 November 2016 and  
closing on Thursday 1 December 2016 at 5 pm  
Österreichischer Gewerkschaftsbund  
Johann-Böhm-Platz 1  
1020 Vienna, Austria*

A ceremony to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the ITUC will commence at 4 pm on 29 November. This will be followed by a reception hosted by the President of the Austrian Parliament.

## FINAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Report of the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ITUC General Council  
(São Paulo, Brazil, 10 – 12 October 2015)
3. Obituaries
4. Constitutional Bodies
5. Affiliation Questions
6. **Building Workers' Power** – Introduction by General Secretary
  - 6.1 Frontlines and Priorities: Highlights 2016 and 2017 ITUC Work Plans
  - 6.2 Freedom Report: Peace, Democratic Rights
7. Economic Briefing
8. International Labour Organisation (*no document*)
9. **Committee on Workers' Capital**
10. Global Unions Partnership – Trade
11. Agenda 2030 - UN Sustainable Development Goals
12. The Future of Work
13. Reports
  - (a) Gender Equality  
Report of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ITUC Women's Committee  
(Brussels, 18 – 19 May 2016)
  - (b) Youth  
Report of the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ITUC Youth Committee  
(Accra, Ghana, 30 November – 1 December 2015)
  - (c) Report of the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ITUC Human and Trade Union Rights Committee  
(Vienna, Austria, 28 November 2016) (*oral report*)

14. The Regions
    - (a) Africa
    - (b) Americas
    - (c) Asia and the Pacific
    - (d) Arab Sub-Region
    - (e) PERC
  15. Executive Bureau
    - 15.1 Constitutional matters
    - 15.2 Financial Questions
      - (a) Reports of the 19<sup>th</sup> (Brussels, 12 April 2016 – virtual meeting) and 20<sup>th</sup> (Vienna, Austria, 29 November 2016) meeting of the ITUC Executive Bureau
      - (b) ITUC Financial Reports for 2015
        - (i) Financial Report for 2015
        - (ii) Internal Auditors' Report for 2015
      - (c) ITUC Regional Organisations - Financial Reports for 2015
        - (i) ITUC-AF:
          - (a) Financial Report for 2015
          - (b) Internal Auditors' Report for 2015
        - (ii) ITUC-AP:
          - (a) Financial Report for 2015
          - (b) Internal Auditors' Report for 2015
        - (iii) TUCA:
          - (a) Financial Report for 2015
          - (b) Internal Auditors' Report for 2015
        - (iv) ATUC:
          - (a) Financial Report for 2015
          - (b) Internal Auditors' Report for 2015
      - (d) ITUC Budget and Programmes for 2017
      - (e) Solidarity Fund: Budget and Programmes for 2017
  16. Date and place of next Meetings
  17. Any Other Business
-