



International Trade Union Confederation

GENERAL COUNCIL

London, United Kingdom, 25 May 2018

Agenda item 3:

**Report of the 17th meeting of the ITUC General Council
(Brussels, Belgium, 29 November – 1 December 2017)**

The General Council is requested to approve the report of the 17th General Council meeting (Brussels, Belgium, 29 November – 1 December 2017).

INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS OF THE
17TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Brussels, Belgium, 29 November – 1 December 2017

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

The President welcomed the General Council members and opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

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

**Agenda Item 2: Report of the 16th Meeting of the ITUC General Council
(Vienna, Austria, 29 November – 1 December 2016)**

The President proposed the report of the 16th meeting.

The General Council **AGREED** to take up discussions on Constitutional Matters (Page 9, item 15.1 of the report) during the proceedings of this General Council and the General Council scheduled to take place in May 2018.

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: Gilbert Amolo; Manou Bague; François Chérèque; Mathias Hinterscheid; Takashi Izumi; Marième Ba Konate; Edmond Maire; Emmanuel Ndjock; Jean Okala; Krastyo Petkov; C. Alfred Thomas; Louis Viannet; and Bob White.

Agenda Item 4: Constitutional Bodies

The President introduced the document.

The General Council **ENDORSED** the changes highlighted in document 17GC/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:

Iraq	GFITU
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2. Applications for affiliation proposed for ongoing consideration

The General Council **NOTED** the following applications for affiliation that are under ongoing consideration.

AFRICA:

Central African Republic	SATPC
Côte d'Ivoire	U.NA.TR-CI
Guinea	COSATREG
Kenya	TUC-KE
Mauritius	AEC
South Africa	SAFTU
Tunisia	CGTT
Zambia	FFTUZ

AMERICAS:

Jamaica	NWU
Peru	CSP

ASIA-PACIFIC:

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

EUROPE:

France	FSU
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 long-term pending request of:

Western Sahara	UGT-SARIO
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4. Applications for which no further consideration is proposed

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

Costa Rica	CCTD
Peru	CTP
Taiwan	TCTU
Uganda	COFTU

5. Other affiliation issues

V.I TUCA/Alternativa Democrática Sindical

The General Council concluded that the following ten organisations acted against the interests of the ITUC and **DECIDED** to suspend them from ITUC membership with immediate effect.

- FTA Aruba
- Força Sindical Brazil
- CAT Chile
- CGT Colombia
- CGTC Curacao
- CSE Ecuador
- CROC Mexico
- CTM Mexico
- CGTP Panama
- CNT Paraguay

Congress has the mandate to expel suspended organisations. The General Council concluded that each of the suspended organisations should be given the opportunity to review their position in such a way that they would no longer be acting against the interests of the ITUC.

The General Council advised the secretariat to seek a senior trade unionist from outside the secretariat to facilitate such a reconciliation process.

The General Council asked the secretariat to report the outcome of this process to the next General Council meeting in May 2018.

V.II Uzbekistan, FTUU

The General Council **DECIDED** to monitor developments and to extend their status of Associated Organisation.

V.III Organising and registering workers in the informal economy, including ITUC membership

The General Council **ACCEPTED** the inclusion into the declared, but not paying, membership in the ITUC, of workers from the informal sector who are members of the INTUC and HMS, India.

6. Associated Organisations (AO)

The General Council **DECIDED**

- a. to grant the status of Associated Organisation to

Turkey	Kamu-Sen
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- b. to extend the status of Associated Organisation to

Bolivia	CRISOL
Croatia	HUS
East Timor	TLTUC
Guinea	UDTG
Iraq	GFWUI
Iraq Kurdistan	KUWU
Kyrgyzstan	FPKg
Lesotho	LECODU
Papua New Guinea	PNGTUC
Slovakia	NKOS
Uzbekistan	FTUU

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

The General Secretary presented the 2017 report and plans for 2018.

TUC General Secretary Frances O'Grady invited the General Council to London in May 2018. The TUC will also be preparing to celebrate its 150th Anniversary in 2018.

6.1 Frontlines and Priorities: Highlights 2017 and 2018 ITUC Work Plans

The General Secretary reported on the outcomes of the 3rd year of the ITUC's 4-year strategic plan with three Frontlines and five Priorities and presented for endorsement the plans for 2018.

ITUC Frontlines:

- **Eliminating Modern Slavery** is now being recognised as a global priority and our goals are:
 - ✓ 50 ratifications of the ILO Forced Labour Protocol by the end of 2018;
 - ✓ Eliminate forced labour in global hotspots;
 - ✓ Achieve effective state and corporate remediation and compensation for workers who have been in forced labour in supply chains; and
 - ✓ Implement the agreement with Qatar to eliminate the kafala system and target Saudi Arabia and the UAE.
- **Taming Corporate Power in Supply Chains** targets the failed economic model that is based on corporate greed and denying workers fundamental rights and freedoms. With a hidden workforce

of up to 94 per cent in the supply chains – locking people into low-wage, insecure, and often unsafe work – the 2018 targets are:

- ✓ Expanding the global wages campaign;
- ✓ Building the demand for universal social protection;
- ✓ Deepening corporate campaign targets in partnership with GUFs; and
- ✓ Increasing the number of legal clinics.

- **Climate Justice and Industrial Transformation**

The ITUC has established the Just Transition Centre in partnership with the ETUC and other allies to support the social dialogue and the research necessary to negotiate national and industrial plans. For 2018, this work will be expanded to:

- ✓ Assist union involvement in community, city, government and industry discussions and negotiations;
- ✓ Target investors, with the CWC, to demand rights and Just Transition plans from companies;
- ✓ And the ITUC will implement an organising curriculum to assist union activists to coordinate Just Transition activities in their workplaces – “workers right to know”.

The ITUC General Secretary presented the 2017 Dorje Khatri Award for climate activism to the CNV and the FNV Netherlands and to the Alberta Federation of Labour, affiliate of the CLC Canada, for securing exit plans from coal with Just Transition guarantees.

ITUC Priorities:

- **Countries at Risk**

The Countries at Risk activities within the ITUC work plan were included in the oral report of the 9th meeting of the ITUC Human and Trade Union Rights Committee, presented by the Chair, Rudy De Leeuw.

The General Council **ADOPTED** the report.

- **Global Coherence**

Along with the Paris Agreement, Global Leaders, with the SDGs, have delivered the promise of a zero-poverty, zero-carbon world.

Following the 2015 ITUC General Council Resolution “**Trade Union Priorities for Development**”, the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (TUDCN) is supporting union involvement in the promotion of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and looks to expand the work of affiliates in lobbying and reporting for 2018.

The commitments by the G20 to ensure that “labour rights violations cannot be part of the competition” and the strengthening of minimum living wages and collective bargaining must become a priority for government implementation along with mandated due diligence .

The IFI must also continue to be an area of focus such that they look to their own research and desist from conditionality that weakens collective bargaining, attacks social protection and increases inequality.

- **Global Governance of Migration**

The world is facing the greatest displacement of people ever, and the right to resettlement, the right to work and the guarantee of equal treatment is a priority. With many national affiliate leaders and those of the ETUC, the ITUC has positioned the union movement with a clear voice that “refugees are welcome”. Our very humanity demands we never waver from this position. The UN Compact will be a focus area of work for 2018.

- **Count Us In!**

Counting women into trade unions, into leadership and into the economy is vital to addressing many of the challenges that face us within the movement, in the community and at work. The Count Us In! programme is the key ITUC mechanism for advancing this agenda.

Beyond leadership and growth, the demand for investment in the care economy is central, and the elimination of violence against women will be a priority for 2018 with the centrepiece of the negotiations for a Convention to eliminate violence against women and men in the world of work.

- **Organising**

The Global Organising Academy has trained 742 lead organisers from 54 countries in all regions, including in cooperation with GUFs, and we are seeing the benefits in both union growth and campaign victories.

The General Council **ENDORSED** the 2018 plans for the Frontlines and the ongoing ITUC Priorities.

6.2 Global Wages Campaign

The ETUC General Secretary Luca Visentini spoke about the ETUC Wages Campaign and the EU Social pillar, which had just recently been signed.

6.3 Freedom Report: Peace, Democratic Rights

The ITUC's work on peace and democracy continues to build. With conflict increasing, democratic space shrinking and right-wing populism, fascism and neo-Nazism growing in many countries, unions must organise for peace and democracy. An intergenerational conversation between leaders and young activists will take place in an ITUC Freedom Summit in December, to be followed by activities in the regions. The purpose of this is to build on the recent and historical experiences of unions in promoting peace and in post-conflict reconciliation and reconstruction, while engaging with younger activists to ensure that trade unions can work together to build a future that young people want.

The General Council **NOTED** the report.

Agenda Item 7: Economic Briefing

Pierre Habbard (TUAC) gave an oral report (the PowerPoint presentation of this report is available upon request, in English).

The General Council **NOTED** the report.

Agenda Item 8: International Labour Organization

ILO Workers' Group Chairperson Catelene Passchier and Secretary Raquel Gonzalez presented an oral report on:

- The Standards Initiative;
- The Standards Review Mechanism; and
- ILC Agenda 2018 and 2019.

(A copy of the written presentation is available upon request, in English.)

The General Council **NOTED** the report.

Agenda Item 9: Committee on Workers' Capital

Thérèse Scherts, FNV Netherlands, presented the report.

The PowerPoint presentation is available upon request, in English.

The General Council **NOTED** the report.

Agenda Item 10: Global Unions

Philip Jennings, UNI General Secretary, briefed the General Council on the ILO Future of Work Commission. He also emphasised the Global Union Federations, TUAC, ITUC and ETUC cooperation on the Frontlines and reiterated the commitment to ensure unity and support in all global ambitions. The UNI World Congress is to take place from 18 – 20 June 2018, in Liverpool, United Kingdom.

Maria Helena André, ACTRAV Director, briefed the Council on the ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work, and also on the series of activities organised by ACTRAV on this topic.

Agenda Item 11: The Future of Work

Tim Noonan, ITUC, presented the report on this agenda item.

The Council welcomed the report, and placed a strong emphasis on the need for trade unions to understand and influence the development and use of data, including algorithms, in order to ensure organising and collective bargaining rights as digitalisation expands. The Council also agreed that the ITUC should serve as a clearing house for interesting and innovative trade union initiatives on dealing with the emerging opportunities and challenges, and that the ITUC Future of Work Reference Group should ensure support for the involvement of the worker representatives on the ILO Commission, and for the development of proposals for policy and for concrete activities during the lead-up to the ITUC World Congress in Copenhagen.

The General Council **ADOPTED** the report (See document).

Agenda Item 12: 4th ITUC World Congress (Copenhagen, Denmark, 2 – 7 December 2018)**(a) Logistics and Timeline**

As host of the 4th ITUC World Congress, 2 – 7 December 2018, LO Denmark President Lizette Risgaard welcomed the General Council to Copenhagen for the Congress.

Tim Noonan presented the proposals for logistics and timelines for the preparation of Congress, and the proposed overall structure of the event, involving plenary and sub-plenary sessions similar to the previous Congress in Berlin, were presented to the Council. The Congress will include a visit to the neighbouring city of Malmö, at the invitation of LO and TCO Sweden.

The General Council **ENDORSED** the proposed timeline for Congress preparations and the overall structure of the Congress. This includes bringing forward the time frame for the submission of proposals to amend the Constitution, and the preparatory process for the main Congress Statement, from the statutory minimum of six months prior to Congress, to the beginning of 2018. Special ITUC web pages will be set up to facilitate this process.

The Council also **SINCERELY THANKED** LO Denmark for undertaking to host the event.

The Council further **DECIDED** – in relation to invitations to other organisations to observe the Congress, where a General Council member expressed reservations about a particular organisation – that no invitation would be extended to that organisation without further consultation.

(b) Framework for Policy Statement

The General Secretary introduced the theme of the Congress and the proposed framework for the draft of the main Congress Statement along with the sub-plenary areas of focus. These proposals were **ENDORSED** by the Council, with some Council members putting forward proposals for inclusion in the draft of the Statement to be circulated to all affiliates for comment at the beginning of 2018.

Following considerable discussion about the process for considering amendments to the draft statement and constitutional issues to be submitted to the Executive Bureau and General Council meetings in London in May, the Council **DECIDED** to call an extraordinary meeting of the Executive Bureau in Brussels during the first quarter of 2018, and that in addition to the titular members of the Bureau, a further two representatives from affiliates on the Bureau **substitutes'** list in each region should be invited to take part in that meeting.

Agenda Item 13: Reports

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

(a) Gender Equality

Gladys Branche, Chair of the Women's Committee, presented the reports.

(i) Report of the 11th meeting of the ITUC Women's Committee (San José, Costa Rica, 9 October 2017)**(ii) Report of the 3rd ITUC World Women's Conference (San José, Costa Rica, 11 – 13 October 2017)**

The 11th meeting of the ITUC Women's Committee requested that the secretariat consult affiliates on potential amendments to the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Women's Committee and to present the results of the consultation to the next Women's Committee Meeting scheduled to take place in April 2018. Any recommendation to the ToR resulting from the discussion would be presented to the next meeting of the General Council in May 2018.

The General Council **ENDORSED** the reports.

(b) Youth**Report of the 10th meeting of the ITUC Youth Committee (Washington, D.C., U.S.A., 12 – 15 December 2016)**

Nana Kooman Brown-Orleans, Chair of the Youth Committee, presented the report.

The General Council **ENDORSED** the report.

(c) Report of the 9th meeting of the ITUC Human and Trade Union Rights Committee (Brussels, Belgium, 28 November 2017)

Rudy De Leeuw, Chair of the ITUC Human and Trade Union Rights Committee, presented an oral report.

Following interventions from the General Council, the Chair recognised the ongoing violations of trade union rights in Ukraine, India, Colombia and Mauritania and shared the concern of the ongoing struggle in these countries.

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

Agenda Item 14: The Regions**(a) Africa**

The ITUC-AF General Secretary presented the report.

The General Council **ENDORSED** the report.

(b) Americas

The TUCA General Secretary presented the report.

The General Council **ENDORSED** the report.

(c) Asia and the Pacific

The General Council welcomed and **ENDORSED** the appointment of Shoya Yoshida as General Secretary of the ITUC-AP.

The ITUC-AP General Secretary presented the report.

The General Council **ENDORSED** the report.

(d) Arab Sub-Region

The ATUC Executive Secretary presented the report.

The General Council **ENDORSED** the report.

(e) PERC

In the absence of both the PERC General Secretary Luca Visentini and PERC President Irakli Petriashvili, Anton Leppik presented the report.

The General Council **ENDORSED** the report.

Agenda Item 15: Financial Questions

Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson introduced the financial reports.

(a) Report of the 21st meeting of the ITUC Executive Bureau (Brussels, Belgium, 26 April 2017 – virtual meeting)

The General Council **APPROVED** the report.

(b) Report of the 22nd meeting of the ITUC Executive Bureau (Brussels, Belgium, 29 November 2017)

The General Council **APPROVED** the report.

(c) ITUC Financial Reports for 2016

- (i) Financial Report for 2016
- (ii) Internal Auditors' Report for 2016

The General Council **APPROVED** the ITUC Financial Report for 2016 and Internal Auditors' Report for 2016.

(d) ITUC Regional Organisations – Financial Reports for 2016

- (i) ITUC-AF:
 - (a) Financial Report for 2016
 - (b) Internal Auditors' Report for 2016

The General Council **APPROVED** the ITUC-AF Financial Report for 2016 and Internal Auditors' Report for 2016.

- (ii) ITUC-AP:
 - (a) Financial Report for 2016
 - (b) Internal Auditors' Report for 2016

The General Council **APPROVED** the ITUC-AP Financial Report for 2016 and Internal Auditors' Report for 2016.

- (iii) TUCA:
 - (a) Financial Report for 2016
 - (b) Internal Auditors' Report for 2016

The General Council **APPROVED** the TUCA Financial Report for 2016 and Internal Auditors' Report for 2016.

- (iv) ATUC:
 - (a) Financial Report for 2016
 - (b) Internal Auditor's Report for 2016

The General Council **APPROVED** the ATUC Financial Report for 2016 and Internal Auditors' Report for 2016.

(e) ITUC Budget and Programmes for 2018

The General Council **APPROVED** the budget and programmes proposed for 2018.

(f) Solidarity Fund: Budget and Programmes for 2018

The General Council **APPROVED** the Budget and Programmes for 2018 of the Solidarity Fund.

Agenda Item 16: Date and Place of Next Meetings

The next meetings of the Executive Bureau and the General Council will take place on 24 – 25 May 2018 in London, United Kingdom.

Agenda Item 17: Any Other Business

The General Council paid tribute to Luc Cortebeeck, John Evans, Wellington Chibebe and Noriyuki Suzuki.

(a) Draft Resolution on North Korea

Due to the complex and evolving situation concerning North Korea, it was **DECIDED** not to adopt a resolution. The General Secretary made it a statement to the General Council reiterating the ITUC's concern.

(b) Deputy General Secretary

The General Council **ENDORSED** the appointment of Brother Mamadou Diallo as Acting Deputy General Secretary of the ITUC.

(c) Resolution on Venezuela

The General Council **ENDORSED** the draft resolution on Venezuela.

(d) Resolution on Argentina

The General Council **ENDORSED** the draft resolution on Argentina.

(e) Resolution on Côte d'Ivoire

The General Council **ENDORSED** the draft resolution on Côte d'Ivoire.

The President concluded the meeting at 13:00 on 1 December 2017.