

Resolution No. 12

ENSURING BETTER OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY AND FIGHTING HIV/AIDS

The Conference is appalled that around 2.3 million men and women die from work related accidents and diseases every year and an estimated 1.95 million workers die of fatal work related diseases. Hazardous substances cause an estimated 651,000 deaths and asbestos alone about 100,000 deaths every year. Furthermore, over 50,000 children under 14 are estimated to die annually from work-related accidents and illnesses. In economic term, it is estimated that around 4% of GDP is lost globally owing to the direct and indirect cost of such accidents and illness.

Rapid spread of HIV/AIDS is another threat. Estimated 33.4 million people are living with HIV or AIDS, with over 7,000 people infected with HIV each day and 2 million deaths annually in recent years. HIV/AIDS can cause or increase poverty, inequality in society and social injustice faced by workers and poor people. Many of them are subjected to discrimination at workplace and society. Activities that will increase awareness and knowledge on the diseases and supports for education for HIV/AIDS prevention, through school, community and union based programmes should be carried out to tackle the spread of HIV/AIDS and its possible pandemic in the region.

The Conference commits the ITUC-AP, working with affiliates and the GUFs to:

- provide fora to exchange good work practices including training materials and methods;
- organise campaigns on OHS standards and implementation and monitor violations;
- promote ratification and enforcement of relevant ILO Conventions including ILO Convention No. 155, Occupational Safety and Health and ILO Convention No. 187, Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health;
- promote the world-wide recognition of 28 April as the International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers;
- stresses the need for government to ratify ILO Convention No. 81, Labour Inspection and to strengthen the level and quality of public inspection systems in order to prevent violations of workers' rights and of occupational health and safety, provisions particularly unprotected irregular jobs;
- undertake campaign to prevent workers death, injury and illness from the effect of chemical or hazardous substance such as asbestos;
- encourages affiliates to promote the inclusion of health clauses in the collective bargaining;
- undertake campaign to ban hazardous substance and to achieve a total ban of the use and commercialisation of asbestos; and
- carry out campaign for combating the discrimination suffered by HIV-positive persons, HIV testing only with consent and mobilise supports to broader technical assistance and programme to affiliates including HIV education for migrant workers.