Resolution No. 5

SOLIDARITY WITH THE INDIAN WORKERS’ STRUGGLE AGAINST
THE ANTI-LABOUR POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT

The 22nd ITUC-Asia Pacific Regional General Council Meeting, 13-14 October 2022, Singapore

EXPRESSES serious concern over the increasing incidence of violations of fundamental rights of workers in India;

CONDEMNS the Government of India for failing to fulfil its duty to protect its people and for attacking workers’ rights;

RECALLS the previous resolution condemning the decision of the Government to prohibit the participation of Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), the largest trade union center in the country and ITUC-AP’s affiliate, in various tripartite bodies, including international fora like the International Labour Organization (ILO) on grounds of frivolous charges and imaginary court cases;

NOTES the continuing countrywide campaigns, including the nationwide strikes by Indian trade unions, in the past few years to protest against the violation of hard-won labour rights and the anti-labour and pro-employer codification of labour laws that violate existing labour laws and ILO Conventions;

EXPRESSES deep concern over the amalgamation of 44 central labour legislations into four labour codes: (i) wage code; (ii) industrial code, (iii) social security code; and (iv) health and safety code. Such amalgamation and the framing of the rules of the four codes were done without proper consultation with the stakeholders;

COMMENDS the unity and the struggle of the trade unions to restore the fundamental freedoms for workers in India;

SUPPORTS the united movement of the trade unions and farmers on their joint actions on common demands against anti- workers, anti-people and anti-nation policies of the government;

URGES the ITUC and the ITUC-AP to take the following actions:

- send a mission to India in support of the workers’ struggle for the protection of labour rights in compliance with the ILO Core Labour Conventions;
- call for a Global Day of Action in solidarity with the Indian working class – to mobilise affiliates, allies, and supporters from different countries to express solidarity in various means, including, but not limited to, holding demonstrations outside Indian embassies/missions, sending protest letters to key Indian government officials, and organising social media campaigns that amplify the demand of the Indian unions to include them in the process of amending the labour laws;
• lend support in reporting cases of trade union rights violations to the ILO;
• develop a plan of action aimed at pressuring multinational enterprises (MNEs) and their Indian trading partners to adhere to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for MNEs and the United Nations (UN) Global Compact; and respect core labour standards in bilateral or multilateral free trade agreements (FTAs);
• continue to monitor the developments in the labour situation in India and periodically report to their governing bodies;
• develop an action plan to combat the climate crisis by establishing closer cooperation between the international climate movement and the trade union movement; and
• apply gender-lens policies including working together for the ratification of Convention 190.