

Resolution No. 5

Republic of Korea Fundamental Rights of Workers

The 9th ITUC-AP General Council Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, 25 - 26 November 2013:

- CONDEMNS** the Government of the Republic of Korea for its derecognition of the Korean Teachers and Education Workers Union (KTU)/KCTU on 24 October 2013 on the basis of provisions of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Adjustment Act (TULRAA) which does not observe the core international labour standards;
- EXPRESSES** full support and strong solidarity towards our sisters and brothers of the KTU/KCTU in the all-out struggles and also other workers in Korea having stood against similar challenges;
- REITERATES** that the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association (CFA) has repeatedly criticised those provisions and urged the Korean Government to repeal the provisions prohibiting dismissed and unemployed workers from keeping their union membership and making non-union members ineligible to stand for trade union office;
- REITERATES FURTHER** that the Korean Government made a commitment on its entry to the OECD in 1996 “to reform existing laws on industrial relations in line with internationally accepted standards, including those concerning basic rights such as freedom of association and collective bargaining”;
- DEPLORES** the blatant suppression of trade unions under the Park Guen-Hye Administration in total disregard of the international labour standards and its own international commitments without recognising the international community, especially workers and working families in the globe;
- URGES** the Korean Government:
1. to restore KTU’s legal status immediately and fully guarantee fundamental rights of teachers and educational workers;
 2. to stop all anti-union policies against trade unions including the Korean Government Employees’ Union (KGEU)/KCTU at once; and
 3. to revise without delay the Trade Union and Labour Relations Adjustment Act (TULRAA) so as to comply with the international labour standards as well as to fulfill its international commitments;
- URGES THE ITUC-AP** to report to the ILO for further investigation and appropriate action; and

ALSO URGES

the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to reinstate urgently the monitoring of the labour rights situation, much deteriorated by this and other serious violations, in the country.