

## **Resolution No. 16**

### **BURMA**

The Conference notes that the so-called election in November last year was only a ploy to divert the national and international attention from the economic and social crisis within the country and in the military.

The Conference denounces the sham elections which was in no way legitimate. Democratic forces were excluded and the junta sponsored constitution ensured continued control of the military over the government. The installation of the new government proved this apprehension.

The Conference welcomes the release of Daw Aung Suu Kyi. Her great sacrifice, commitment and leadership despite long years of reclusion need to be appreciated.

The Conference demands the release of all political prisoners and labour activists and calls on the international community, the UN, ILO and the governments to stand by the struggle of the people of Burma for freedom and democracy.

The Conference deplores the continuing reign of repression, ruthless exploitation of people, denying political freedom and trade union rights.

The Conference condemns the unabated resort to forced labour with impunity in spite of ILO Commission of Inquiry and the Supplementary Understanding. People reporting cases of forced labour continue to be prosecuted and many remain in prison. There is no let up in cases of reprisals against complainants.

The international community should be cautioned not to be misled by promises of labour law reforms to allow more freedom to workers.

There are increasing incidence of direct action including strikes by discontented workers in Burma.

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

- campaign extensively for restoration of genuine democracy in Burma;
- extend solidarity support to the democratic trade union movement in Burma; FTUB is the legitimate organisation of workers in Burma;
- campaign for lifting immediately of ban on FTUB and restoration of trade union rights in the country; and
- campaign for introduction of labour laws which will ensure full workers rights.