

2nd ITUC-AP Regional Conference

Resolution No. 6

FOR BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS

The Conference recognises that decent work is the battle cry of trade unions in efforts to improve the lives of workers and the society through full respect for core labour standards, decent employment and income, social protection, and social dialogue.

Decent work can be achieved only when work is carried out in conditions of freedom, equity, security, and human dignity. This implies that workers should work under working conditions that can enable them to live decently as human beings with sufficient income to meet a decent standard of living and having time for families and leisure as well. All workers should be paid at least a guaranteed minimum wage that should meet at least their basic needs, or a living wage that will ensure minimum standards of living.

Low level wages are one of the reasons for longer working hours. 40 hours work week and adequate levels of premium and restriction on hours of overtime should be established in the region. Wage rate, premium and hours of work should be fixed to secure Work-Life Balance for all workers. Work-Life Balance should include protection of women and youth in terms of working hours and night work.

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

- commence preparations for campaigns for higher income, shorter working hours and other working conditions on the basis of a regional comparative survey on wages and working conditions in terms of legislation and actual levels;
- work with affiliates to eliminate discrimination in working conditions at work place in the light of ILO Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value;
- continue to campaign for the introduction of a guaranteed minimum wage and for the ratification of the ILO Convention No. 131 concerning Minimum Wage Fixing, Convention No. 95 concerning Protection of Wages and Convention No. 94 concerning Labour Clauses;
- work with the ILO to produce statistical data on wages trends and to undertake research with the aim to develop a concept of a living wage; conduct survey on protection of women and youth in terms of working hours including night work; and
- assist affiliates in working towards a strong system of labour inspection, enforcement in their respective countries and intensify labour inspection in precarious work.