

## **Resolution No. 9**

### **INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE**

The Conference recognises that fair taxation system / fiscal policy and Social Safety Nets are important instruments for the re-distribution of national wealth. Social Safety Nets are closely linked to national fiscal and taxation policies.

Among the indicators of social development is the existence of adequate and efficient delivery of Social Safety Nets. The Conference defines Social Safety Nets as a comprehensive mechanism encompassing employment insurance with unemployment benefits, vocational and skills training and retraining for employment and job placement, retrenchment benefits, retirement/old age benefits, occupational safety and health benefits, guaranteed minimum wage, maternity benefits and other benefits specific to women; and general social development covering basic medical care and treatment, education, housing, social assistance programmes for special groups, community development and natural disasters. Governments should ensure that budgetary allocations are adequate for the provisions of Social Safety Nets. There is still so much to be done in the region in terms of institutional reform to address the issue of the lack of efficient provisions of Social Safety Nets.

The Conference should take note of the specific circumstances of provisions for retirement and old age in the light of the following sentiments. Workers who have contributed the best part of their lives to work must not live the remaining part of their later life without any means for a decent living. With the ageing of population in the region, there is thus a greater urgency in making sure that the issue of provisions for retirement and old age are effectively put in place.

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

- continue to campaign for the provisions of adequate Social Safety Nets;
- insist on open, transparent and accountable governance arrangements with active participation by trade unions in the management and investment of workers capital wherever workers contributions, wholly or partly, fund social safety nets;
- continue the campaign for tax and fiscal policy reform leading to a fair taxation system and fiscal policy that will contribute to equitable income re-distribution and better social infrastructure;
- collect good practices in the region and disseminate the information to affiliates including through electronic means;
- campaign for fair and adequate taxation and fiscal policies supporting effective social nets to underpin sustainable growth of living standards and the equitable distribution of national wealth; and
- prepare and articulate the case for comprehensive social safety nets encompassing universal access to affordable basic medical care and treatment; education, including free and compulsory primary and secondary education for all children, adequate and affordable housing, guaranteed minimum wage, employment insurance with unemployed benefits, vocational and skills training and retraining for employment and job placement, paid

maternity leave, retrenchment benefits, retirement/old age benefits, occupational safety and health, and social assistance programmes for special groups, community development and natural disasters; and

- pressurize governments to establish adequate mechanism for institutional reforms.