

**3rd ITUC Asia Pacific Conference
Resolution No. 17**

REALISING YOUTH MAINSTREAMING IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Albeit the continuing complex and difficult employment situations faced by youth in Asia and the Pacific, the Conference welcomes that the youth trade union movement in the region showed a steady and substantial progress for the past four years. This is, as a result of the strenuous efforts made by affiliates and their youth movement under the enhanced political commitments by trade union leadership in response to the young people's demands set out in the ITUC-AP Youth Charter 2011 - 2015.

The Conference reaffirms the fact that youth are keys to the further advancement of the trade union movement, promotion of just development, and realisation of stable and inclusive society. In the world, some 120 million young people reach working age every year and regarding Asia and the Pacific region in particular, people aged 20 to 34 comprise some 35% of the total working-age population. These figures lay out a great potential for trade unions to grow. Further, ensuring engagement of youth leads to better policy formation, implementation and evaluation, as interventions will have greater ownership and legitimacy amongst youth.¹

Likewise, the Conference reaffirms its determination to support youth truly in need of trade unions as they are one of the most vulnerable groups in society. High youth unemployment is alarming – the regional average ratio of youth to total unemployment rates stands at 2.3 in 2012² and what official statistics tell could be the tip of the iceberg. Casualisation hits young workers – the available data reveal that in the region, more than 30% of youth are under non-regular work in several countries. Youth are facing a deficit of decent jobs - despite a multitude of mistreatments, young people tend not to raise their voices due to their vulnerable employment status and lack of knowledge on available supports, workers' rights and their entitlements. Youth are unable to find their places in society and world of work - persisting unemployment and underemployment and also worsening working conditions take away self-esteem, drives for work and hope for future from young people.

Building on the progress made and in order to address a multitude of cross-cutting issues faced by young people in a timely manner, the Conference recognises that the establishment of functioning youth structures with the following overarching strategies is essential to maximise young people's power and potential: implementing youth oriented organising; including youth in the main stream of decision - making processes; empowering youth; guaranteeing young people's ownership of actions for youth; and conducting youth-focused survey and data analysis.

The Conference endorses the ITUC-AP Youth Charter 2015-2019 and commits the ITUC-AP, working with affiliates and the GUFs to promote actions around the four thematic areas:

- Area 1: Increase Young People's Access to Quality Jobs
- Area 2: Promote Decent Working Conditions for Young Working Men and Women
- Area 3: Raise Special Attention to Social Isolation of Youth at Risk
- Area 4: More Youth in the Mainstream of Trade Union Movement

Detailed trade union actions are contained in the ITUC-AP Youth Charter 2015-2019.

¹ Joining forces with young people: A practical guide to collaboration for youth employment, (2009: Geneva, ILO).

² Findings from the *ITUC-Asia Pacific Survey on Youth Employment in Asia and the Pacific 2012*, (Singapore: ITUC-AP)