

Resolution No. 3

CONDEMNATION OF THE FAIR WORK (REGISTERED ORGANISATIONS) AMENDMENT (ENSURING INTEGRITY) BILL 2019 AUSTRALIA

The 4th ITUC-AP Regional Conference, 7 - 9 October 2019, Tokyo, Japan:

CONDEMNS the Morrison Government's extreme, anti-democratic so-called 'Ensuring Integrity' bill, currently before the Australian Parliament. The bill is an attack on the basic rights of all working people in Australia to join, run and be represented by the union of their choice. If passed, this legislation will make Australia unique in industrialised liberal democracies globally in the draconian measures that it imposes. This legislation will undermine workplace safety, increase wage and superannuation theft, and make it harder for workers to get pay increases and be represented in the workplace;

NOTES WITH CONCERN that this legislation will restrict freedom of association, the right to organise, and the right to collectively bargain, in violation of ILO's Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention (No. 87) and the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention (No. 98). This legislation will introduce harsher and more rigorous standards than on any other organisation in society, including corporations. This legislation will criminalise unions and union leaders by treating minor technical and civil breaches as serious crimes that could result in union leaders facing criminal penalties. This legislation will allow a 'person with a sufficient interest' - which could include employers, employer associations and industry lobby groups - to hinder and attack trade unions by applying for a wide range of orders including disqualifying an elected leader of a union, or even deregistering a union. There is no equivalent to this in corporate law, and indeed there is no precedent for this type of state interference in the functioning of trade unions anywhere in the world; and

CALLS UPON the Australian Senate to respect international labour law and reject the 'Ensuring Integrity' bill.