

BWI Resolutions

Adopted by BWI World Congress in Durban South Africa
on 01 December 2017



07. No to neoliberal trade agreements in the Asia-Pacific

Submitted by: **FIRST Union New Zealand**

PREAMBLE:

NOTING THAT following the widespread opposition of trade unions to the neoliberal Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) and the withdrawal of the United States from that Agreement, there remain attempts to negotiate similar trade and investment agreements in the Asia-Pacific region that would attack workers' rights, including the 'TPP minus 1' (TPP-1), the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Trade in Services Agreements (TISA);

CONCERNED THAT Agreements like TPP-1, RCEP and TISA are negotiated in secret with little to no meaningful compensation with workers and their unions, and will promote corporate profits over workers' rights, and could lead to deregulation, restrictions on state action, layoffs and contracting out to reduce worker wages and conditions, social dumping, rising medical costs, tax evasion, environmental degradation, and fiscal austerity affecting key Government and social security programmes;

WE CONDEMN the ongoing attempts of Governments in the Asia-Pacific to deny workers and their representatives a constructive role in the negotiation of trade and investment agreements, leaving us with one-sided trade and investment agreements that represents the interest and capital to the detriment of labour;

WE ENCOURAGE all BWI affiliates from countries involved in the RCEP, TPP-1 and TISA to actively engage with their Government on their issue of trade and investment policy, seek confirmation on how workers' rights will be protected in light of ongoing negotiations, and demand stronger express protections for workers' rights in such agreements, as well as the development of an effective labour rights resolution mechanism as a core part of these agreements.

SIGNATURE:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Robert Reid'.

Robert Reid
General Secretary
FIRST Union New Zealand

