10. Struggle for Nature is a constant part of Workers’ Struggle

Submitted by: Civil Servants Union of Agriculture, Forestry, Husbandry and Environment Sectors (TARIM ORMAN-IS), Trade Union of Civil Engineering, Industry and Planning of Republic of Macedonia (SGIP)

WHEREAS trade unions’ major role is representing workers’ interests to break the domination of employers. We struggle to defend workers’ rights and conditions for decent work. We, as BWI affiliates, are the unions fighting for better standards of the workers in construction, forestry, wood, cement and allied sectors. Therefore, as the unions in wood and forestry sectors, we have been giving a fight to protect our forests for a long time. The struggle for the protection of natural resources has always been an intimate friend of our struggle.

WHEREAS the capitalism has born a vast grasping greed for profit and started to attack on natural resources more violent than ever, we are in a certain need of building our own alliances to protect our right to life in a livable environment. Centuries-long capitalist exploitation of natural resources has marked significant constraints on the nature and labor and one of the brand new reality of this exploitation is named as climate change. Today, since the climate change has become a vital issue of our daily lives and begun to affect our daily lives negatively, we all have become aware the necessity of the struggle against the climate change to maintain our livings.

WHEREAS the neoliberal policies of the governments has paved the way for the privatization of forest areas. Privatization has explicitly been deteriorating the working standards and condemning workers to precarious work relations. Moreover, by this way, the protection of forest areas has been deprioritizing over the lust for profit. Therefore, the struggle against privatization of forest areas should be named as a crucial part of the struggle for nature preservation.

BELEIVING THAT our struggle for workers’ rights have no end without embracing itself the struggle for the protection of nature which is still the key element to stop climate change. We shall not ignore the fact that we must fight against the deforestation policies first to protect our workplaces in order to continue our fight for labor.
VERY PROUD OF the BWI perspective on the climate change encouraging its affiliates to include the principal of struggle for nature into their agendas.

CALLING FOR the identification of struggle for nature as a constant part of workers’ struggle. We strongly believe that we must fight for the protection of our natural resources and environment in parallel with our fight for the decent work and living standards. We must always remember that we are all living on the same planet and our common struggle for the nature is our common responsibility for humanity, which at the end has the same interest of survival.

SIGNATURE: