11. Proposed Resolution on BWI Commitment to Internationalism and Political Action

Submitted by: UFES, Malaysia STIEU, TEUPM, INBCWF and MANWU

Recalling that the 3rd BWI World Congress adopted Resolution 1 which paved the way to the creation of the Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG) to review all BWI activities as well as its global and regional structures to ensure, among others, that trade union development cooperation projects are coherent with BWI’s political agenda and decisions reflected in the Global Strategic Plan and Statutory Bodies adopted policy guidelines.

Recognising that the World Board has mandated the SPWG to conduct a series of consultations with all Regions to gather broad perspectives and opinions as well as to debate on recommendations. The SPWG has submitted its comprehensive report which has been commended and approved by both the World Board and the World Council in 2015.

Considering that the World Board and World Council has decided to transform the SPWG Report as the cornerstone of BWI’s 4th Global Strategic Plan which was developed through a process that was participatory as evidenced by the four Regional Conferences and Working Papers.

Committing to the imperatives of common but differentiated responsibilities, the BWI affiliates must be cognizant and respectful of varying degrees of organizational state and development of the affiliated trade unions relative to its peculiar regional and national settings and dynamics. Global Solidarity should always be viewed through collaborative partnership based on mutual respect and equality devoid of any patronage. Within the current conjunctures, BWI’s Global Solidarity and Programs should be solely determined on the basis of the BWI Global Strategic Plan and mutual consent of the concerned organizations and not by an organization or region’s financial contributions.

Acknowledging the political, economic, and socio-cultural conditions in the global south have been shaped by history of imperialism and current neoliberalist policies propelled by Multilateral Development Banks and supported by multinational companies, trade unions in the global south face enormous challenges to organize and even to the extent that union leaders are jailed or killed. International Trade Union Movement and Global Solidarity must always be within multitude frame never parochial.
Aspiring to attain organizational, political and financial sustainability of BWI must always be the central agenda of all affiliates to be realised not only based on BWI Statutory Documents but also Congress-approved Global Strategic Plan as implemented by Region Structures reflective of their priorities.

Reaffirming that the affiliation fees should be used prudently for BWI activities due consideration must be taken into account that external funding sources for trade union development cooperation is equally vital to extend Global Solidarity and trade union development. Both precious internal and external resources are essential to BWI work and must be allocated and used based on well-defined guidelines and regulations. Both funds should be treated as complimentary towards financial sustainability.

Trade union development cooperation must always adhere to participatory processes from designing, staffing requirement, implementing, monitoring and evaluating

With the foregoing considerations, be it resolved to:

1. Enjoin all BWI affiliates to provide unconditional support for the successful implementation of the outcome of Resolution 1 as embodied in the Report of the SPWG and reflected Global Strategic Plan.

2. Call upon all affiliates and solidarity support organisations directly implementing projects in the regions that they must respect the Region’s right to its own internal process and discretion in defining its priorities anchored in the Global Strategic Plan.

3. Direct all affiliates to vehemently adhere to the principle of global solidarity that is extending support – political action as well as financial and human resources – to unions that are in dire situation.

4. Urge all affiliates to make sustained investment on organising activities and political action through all means possible.

PROPOSED BY:

Fatimah Mohammad
Chair of BWI International Women Committee
UFES, Malaysia

This resolution has been seconded by BWI affiliates: STIEU, TEUPM, INBCWF and MANWU