

# BWI Resolutions

Adopted by BWI World Congress in Durban South Africa  
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## 27. Engagement with Forest Stewardship Council

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Cognizant that forest and industrial workers employed by FSC-certified companies critically need elaborate protection of their basic workers' and trade union rights the BWI has proactively called upon affiliates to organise these companies; to participate in FSC National Standards Development Group and to become international members.

Mindful that the current Chain of Custody (CoC) Standards has inadequate auditable social and labour provisions with direct reference to ILO Core unlike the International Generic Indicators for Forest Management Unit, the BWI participated in the FSC Working Group on ILO which intended outcome is the "delivery of a report containing a set of generic criteria and suggested indicators that define the basis for developing auditable requirements at the level of FSC certificate holders".

Aware that the FSC International Board September 2017 approval of the FSC Working Group Report on Generic Criteria and Indicators based on ILO Core Conventions Principles is positive move to strengthen the CoC but which completion process will require creation of another Working Group to develop the auditable requirement and make take at least three more years to be approved and eventually incorporated in the CoC Standards.

Concern that there must be consistency of FSC Standards for forest workers and industrial workers in terms of social and labour provisions based on ILO Core Conventions the BWI submitted Motion 50 in the FSC General Assembly held last October in Vancouver, Canada with the aim to strengthen the social dimension within the CoC.

Alarmed that during the FSC GA the Economic Chamber blatant disregard of principle of social dialogue to discuss with BWI delegation Motion 50; its half-hearted discussion with BWI delegation after being pressurised by the entire delegation of Social Chamber and supporters from Environmental Chamber and yet eventually voted down Motion 50 on the argument that it is implausible to implement Motion 50 not to mention the huge it will entail for enterprises, certification bodies and auditors.

Startled that Motion 50 was subjected technical scrutiny during the deliberation and resulted in intense debate whether the General Assembly is being asked to vote on the Motion 50 title only or the entire text. The question has been after several motions have already been voted upon and apparently the first time ever to be raised in a GA. At the middle of the confusion, FSC staff provided diverse opinions. What saved the session to disintegration was the FSC lawyer public declaration that GA delegates are being asked to vote on the entire text. The Economic Chamber machinations against Motion 50 combined with mixed signals from FSC



staff and some members of the International Board led to the defeat of Motion 50 despite being adopted by the entire Social Chamber as its topmost Motion.

Appreciated the valiant support of the BWI affiliates in lobbying and depending Motion 50 and unwavering backing of the entire members of Social Chamber and its decision to warn FSC by giving it a Yellow Card during the GA for allowing the Economic Chamber to block voting against Motions without meaningful debate.

Calls on the BWI Congress to launch a concerted campaign on FSC by:

1. Demanding the FSC to submit concrete recommendations on how it can ensure that workers' rights to self-organisation and collective bargaining are guaranteed by the CoC certificate holders including but not limited to observing neutrality in the course of union organising of their business operations as the principal rights are explicitly expressed in the Core Conventions of the ILO. As trade unions we cannot and will not accept rights at a lesser level. We will not renegotiate these fundamental rights.
2. Enjoining affiliates to organise and orchestrate direct industrial actions on CoC and Controlled Wood certificate holders in all industries. Especially in all countries where noncompliance with ILO Core Conventions is rampant and wide spread. This is because we cannot accept that anywhere in the supply chain there are workers that are exposed to inferior working conditions and are denied access to fundamental rights. Along these lines, develop a joint organising strategy with international or Global Union Federations that cover the workers in the supply chain.
3. Requiring the FSC to provide priority and immediate resolution of resolving BWI complaints. This is in consideration of the long and tedious process of imposing Disassociation against certificate holders as illustrated in the case of Sabah Timber Industry Employees Union, Malaysia.

Finally calls on the BWI Congress to support the Creation of Adhoc Working Group that will steer the development and implementation of this campaign and submit comprehensive report in the World Council indicating recommendations on the future of engagement with FSC.

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