

PRIOR NOTE: The text in Spanish is always the reference in case of doubt in interpretation due to defects in translation.



DOCUMENT

1ST WORLD CONGRESS
OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF TRADE UNIONS
OF PENSIONERS AND RETIREES (P&R)
OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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1. **PRESENTATION OF THE CONGRESS: THE GENERAL
FRAMEWORK OF THE TRADE UNION AND THE
POLITICAL SITUATION**

We are going to celebrate the 1st constitutive and founding World Congress of the International Union of Trade Unions of Pensioners and Retirees, of the World Federation

of Trade Unions. We are going to celebrate such within a framework of systemic and structural crisis of capitalism, as a dominant model, that, in its' economic, political and social aspects shows all its' cruelty and barbarism, in this terminal historical phase in which, as an economic system still dominating, has submitted and submits in odd living conditions the immense majority of humanity.

The agricultural, industrial, environmental and financial crisis of this murdering and dying capitalism is being expressed and complemented in a natural way with neo-fascist, authoritarian political ways, profoundly conservative or social-democrat-liberals, all aiming to achieve one and only objective: to control the power and to maintain capitalist exploitation at any cost. All those instruments are being constituted in forms based in two-party systems or in electoral alliances of the same color and objectives, forms based principally to the alternation of power and to repression of any type, that have as central aim of obtaining of gains for any price, even for the most cruel and the attack to the world classist workers' movement and revolutionary organizations.

Judicial instruments and propaganda media, complete and describe a panorama based in all types of repression to a different opinion, of the type such they can be (an attack always giving priority to the sectors with class conscience), as a determinant element for the continuation of all forms of labor, economic and social exploitation, that are instruments of a real class struggle of the capital, in order to achieve the diminish of the salary price, in a direct or indirect way, or even a different one, giving impulse in order to achieve a bigger and bigger benefit rate.

The forms and manners used by the capitalist model in order to govern, in a general way, as a class that possesses and exploits, even the most particular aspects, as people from the oligarchy cast, are different, according to the economic, social and political structure of the countries over which such governs, and in which it orders in the same way (for example, the situation is different in a country of the European Union, than in an African country, despite the fact that the result are, fundamentally, the same or similar).

This model is being characterized by its' ultra-liberal conception, by its' planetary or regional framework and by its' violent instruments, with an only aim to guarantee gains to national or international oligarchies, either agricultural, or industrial and financial. Its' instruments are, on the one hand the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and international institutions, and on the other one, the regional ones, as the European Union, which complement themselves as organisms, either military as the NATO and others as judicial, as the International Courts. All this is being added to the complicity participation of the UN itself, which, today, is not at all useful to the reivindications of the peoples (the only exception could be the acceptance of Palestine, as an observer).

All those mechanisms and organisms are revealing every day, again and again the lies of capitalism, as a model that covers, or that can cover, the basic needs of the national and international habitants, in their economic, social, cultural and political aspects.

If, as active workers, that we have been, we have passed through exploitation, repression, stealing of our work, salary and labor, political and social conditions, by capitalism, either managed by liberal-conservatives, or by social-democracy, in its' different forms, all members of this new International Union of Trade Unions of Pensioners and Retirees, member of the WFTU, we understand that the only and general aim of capitalism, worldwide, is to obtain the maximum benefit, at cost of everything, stealing us when we worked and now that we are retired.

In order to achieve such high rate of benefit that exploiter, bellicist and criminal capitalism that has created thousands of war conflicts and hunger, and exploiting without limits all richness created by nature or by the peoples, has decided that it needs, in such terminal phase that it is found, to increase exploitation to the maximum possible number of workers and the most broad popular sectors. In order to do so, in this way forward, it does not calculate means or aims. All its' productive sectors are in maximum tension, in order to obtain the maximum benefit. In addition, capitalism must amplify its' exploiting framework, introducing new sectors that until now were only partly colonized or exploited, as pensions, health, education, social services (sectors that, apart from giving such big economic benefits, can also provide benefits for ideology of the bourgeoisie).

Science improvement in all its' aspects and, of course, health itself, has as a result, generally, that people live more and in better conditions than the previous generations. This implies that pensions and complementary social services, in spite of being clearly insufficient, are received by more people and for more time. However, there are still too many people that have not the possibility to receive those fair measures of social protection.

The amplification of the quantity of retired workers worldwide, that absorbs a big part of the public budget and immobilizes big quantities of money, could not be a property reserved to the voracity of capitalists in this phase of the crisis. For that reason, the privatization of this enormous quantity of money, is a strategic aim of first priority for capitalists, and, there sources the strategic tendency of capitalism, either in form of not extending social rights, or diminishing existing public pensions via: 1) increases of direct or indirect taxes, 2) non- negotiated or consented modifications of the criteria of calculation of the Price Index, 3) freezing of all pensions or simply elaborating new laws that lead to its' disappearance.

Those measures have shown their result in countries as Greece, Spain or Portugal, with suicides of pensioners before their impossibility to support the expenses of their subsistence, with pensioners that cannot buy their medicines any more (that before were given for free), with more people expelled from their residences, with dependent people (that need help by others for their basic daily needs), that have seen the state help being eliminated etc. However, this does not happen only in the countries mentioned above, as also in "rich" Germany, where its' pensioners are obliged to emigrate to countries with lower living cost, in order to maintain a minimum market capacity. The same happens in England, were, in addition, government have proposed pensioners to work.

The measures mentioned above increase the percentage of people that live under the so called poverty limit (in Spain they have overcome 21%), increasing the numbers of people that live due to charity (either of the Red Cross or the religious organizations, or simply given by their neighbors and close relatives).

All this is promoted by international capitalism and its' managers in order to advance its' steps to fundamental sectors of such, to increase more capital in less hands. They want to move over to a principal direction of privatizations now and in the future, of the maximum possible amount of this enormous monetary mass of pensions. Actual conditions create fear to people that, still are paid a salary more or less considerable, it stimulates them to search the individualist way out of subscribing to a Private Pension Fund.

The privatizing will of the capital and its' agents is not limited to the issue of pensions. It covers every public thing that can be transformed in business for less people. Health, education, transports, telecommunications, audiovisual means, culture, energy etc, everything that permits the enrichment at cost of sacrifices of the majority of the people.

Public pensions for which we have been struggling and we will continue struggling in any moment and manner, if we do not decelerate with our struggle the actual tendency, will be totally auxiliary and life insurance policies that will annually increase under the Price of Consumption Index and to which the vast majority of people will not be able to subscribe (which is already happening). This could lead to a very critical general situation in which, before of the right to live with a considerable pension, charity society will appear.

But, if we don't organize ourselves and struggle, not only pensions will be affected in a determining way, but also the whole the sector social (special attention to workers or persons with physical or psychical problems, constant increase of prices of food, services, transports, communications and medicines), as pensions, the rest of services associated to pensioners will be an object of "preferential attention", i.e. will be submitted to the will of being exploited by capitalist companies. The people called "elderly adults", whose resources are scarce and whose number is increasing, deserve special care. Our special solidarity goes toward them.

To all this important situation, it is necessary to add that, technologic revolution, as well as unemployment, especially between young people, with very high rates (that in some countries touch a 60% or even more), pensioners are seen by capitalism as a non-serving sector, given the small or zero possibility of ours to be directly exploited, despite the fact that we can be indirectly exploited, through pensions or social services.

Naturally, this situation is not irreversible.

If capitalism has prepared for us a future with very little possibilities of living in decency, our response should be at the level of this challenge. If they have decided that we, rebels, irritate them, we should decide and act in consequence, popularizing that, what is excessive is them, their system and its' managers and, as a consequence, to mobilize ourselves in an organized and permanent way, by ourselves or with the rest social and labour sectors, until achieving to end up with capitalism and to construct a model of society, where, the principal issue will be the human being in all its' dimension and not the personal benefit of a minority.

This model of fair and equal society is possible, it is called socialism, and it should be our central strategic aim. Nowadays, the motto "Socialism or Barbary" is more vindicated than ever. It could even be extended to "Socialism or extinction". In order to achieve such, we should convert our enormous numerical and political potential (there are studies of the world bank that show that, until 2050, pensioners will be more than 30% of the world population, a population that may be culturally more formed and should know to take advantage of their own struggle experiences), in an organized force that claims constantly improvements and that exerce its' political influence in a permanent way, until achieving its' aims.

For that reason, we are going to celebrate this 1st Congress of trade unions and associations of pensioners and retirees, with classist positions and with such, we are going to create the organizational and political bases of the struggle of this broad collective for our fair clams as persons.

In order for humanity to have future, for the young generations to have a decent life's perspective, for the pensioners of the world to have all necessary elements for a happy existence, we think that this Congress has to be the leading motor of a whole process concluding in this wanted social change and,

for that reason, this 1st Congress, or Funding Congress of the International Union of Trade Unions of Pensioners and Retirees has to be an important success for syndicalism and for the world working class.

2. GENERAL OBJECTIVES

2.1. Brief resume of the world actual reality

World reality of Pensioners and Retirees varies in all aspects, either cultural, or political, historical and/or geographic, as a consequence of the distinct historical, economic, political, cultural and social processes given, either globally or regionally or nationally.

Dialectically comprehending diversity, it is needed to highlight clearly that unification of political and syndical criteria, at the time of determining pensions, social aids etc, either direct or not, is based and will be based (if we don't leave capitalism, as a destructed reality of humanity, as slavery was abolished), in to big political concepts, sourcing from the existence of two big political, social and economic cosmo-visions: on the one hand socialism, and on the other capitalism.

At this point, between the two conceptions of the world, capitalism uses all types or forms of struggle, including state terrorism, international terrorism, imperialist wars, support to genocide governments as Israel, embargo to countries with popular and democratic governments as Cuba. The TUI of Pensioners and Retirees also denounces those facts, as constantly the WFTU does.

Private property over the means of production in capitalism has lead, and leads to the exploitation of man by man, with low salaries, low pensions, bad social conditions and deplorable situations of persons or families, more or less harsh, in relation to the working class and popular struggles, or of the political, historical and regional situations of each country. Those realities in general are defined by one and only patron, which is generalizing, criminal, slaughter, depredator of prime material, destructor of the environment and blind before any human situation that can mean injustice or misery. They only have one objective, to obtain the maximum benefit in the less time possible, in spite of costing many lives and much richness, or representing material and human exploitation.

On the other side, there are socialist countries, or in non-capitalist direction, where, workers, men and women are a central object of its' political and social duties. In those countries, with more or less economic possibilities and with more or less social structure, the non existence of capitalism and its' incidence, guarantee the rights of workers, pensions of all types, and social

rights are a universal right, a right recognized in practice. Where there is not capitalism of any type or the oligarchy governing, peoples do so and the natural classist tendency leads them to recognize and implement, each time more broadly, social and labor policies that are quantitatively and qualitatively positive.

As an example of such diversity mentioned before, we will mention three cases, corresponding to three capitalist countries (Brasil, France, and Algeria) of different continents and with different grades of evolution, and we will invite you to compare them with the historical experience of the former socialist countries, and with a small socialist country like Cuba, that, in spite of all difficulties that imperialism has introduced in its' development and in order to make such disappear as a socialist country, it is still there, in front of capitalism world, giving examples in all aspects, and orientating a big part of its' national and international activity, aiding solidarity with doctors, teachers, social assistants, artists etc all countries of the world that ask it to do so. We can resume it with the phrase mentioned constantly by Cuban people and by its' leaders, that "nothing human is foreign".

It would be convenient to highlight that the data used for the comparative analysis are different, according to the sources used (partly the investigations distributed at the beginning of the preparative processed of this Congress, and have only been responded by very few countries. We take advantage of this point, in order to keep on asking for those data to be sent, as they are going to help us, if they arrive before the Funding Congress of the TUI, to improve our thoughts, collective debates and Congress conclusions).

We should also take into consideration the history of the conquer of the right to a pension, the legally used concepts, the casuistic method taken into account, etc. is very different, according to the history of the workers' movement in each country. For that reason, it is also difficult to understand the data or the repercussion of such to the real life of Pensioners. The data included herein, show it.

All that was mentioned above, does not invalidate the global analysis and the thoughts derived by such, in order to permit us make the most accurate proposals, either in general or in particular terms, and to articulate such with the proposals for the trade union action.

Subcontinent: South America

Country: Brazil

Number of habitants: 191 millions (2010):

- Of more than 60years old: 21,7 millions (2009), increase of 8,7 millions since 1995.
- Elderly, as "person of reference of the house": 64,1%
- Elderly, with less than 4 years of study: 50,2%
- Family income of 1 minimum salary or less: 43,2%

- Men: 44,2%
- Elderly people working in 2005: 5,6 millions (30,2% of the total labor power)
- Elderly living on their own: 15%

Life expectancy: 68.5 (1995) – 73,1 years (2009):

- Women: 72,3 -77 years
- Men: 64,8- 69,4 years.

Total percentage of retired people (between pensioners): 57,9% (2009)

Percentage of elderly people that voted at the last presidential elections (2010):

- 60-69 years: 7%
- 70-79 years: 4%
- Elder than 79 years old: 1%

Legal age of retirement, in order to have right to the maximum pension:

There is not a minimum age, but a “minimum contribution period” of 35 and 30 years for men and women respectively. In case of activities dangerous for the health, there is a “special retirement” (25, 20 or 15 years, depending on the duties executed. There is also a retirement without pension decrease for men (65 years old) and women (60 years old), if they have completed 30 years of contribution.

Minimum age in order to receive a pension of retirement:

For the assured workers inscribed until 16/12/1998, there is a proportional retirement permitted from 53 years and after 30 years of contribution (men), 48 years of age and 25 years of contributions (women).

Minor age in order to receive a pension for retirement in the history of the country:

It is difficult to determine, as there are benefits for the poorest families responding to certain requirements.

Minimum number (actually) of years of work and contributions, in order to have rights to take a pension:

65 (men) and 60 (women) with 15 years of minimum contribution required. In special cases (rural workers, fishermen and others), 60 and 55 years respectively.

Number of years of salary received and declared, officially calculated of the calculation of the pension.

It is used to calculate the average of 80% of the highest salaries in the “basic calculation period”.

Number of years of salary perceived and declared officially when the number of those years was the smallest:

In order to calculate the time of contributions or of retirement according to the age, the minimum divider cannot be less than the 60% of the fiscal period.

Number of years of salary perceived and declared officially when the number of those years was the biggest:

If the assured person has a number of years superior to the necessary contribution, in order to get a pension with 100% of efficiency, this period of time is being reflected in the calculation of the factor of insurance, which could increase the quantity of benefits.

Are there different regimes or types of contribution?

In general, private sector and public sector, but there are also different regimes for the industry.

Monthly amount of the lowest pension:

Equivalent to a minimum salary: US \$: 311 (Sept 2012)

Percentage of pensioners receiving a minimum pension:

68,2%

Monthly actual income of the highest legal pension:

US \$ 2.000

Comparative table of the income of pensions and number of citizens receiving such(parts of them private):

Monthly income- US \$. Quantity of pensioners

311: 18,9 millions

311-500: 3,6 millions

500-2.500: 4,5 millions

2.500-5.000: 3.314

5.000-15.000: 732

25.000: 2

Average monthly income by the pensions paid actually:

R \$ 757,11 (US \$ 350).

Number of times a year that a pension is paid.

In general, 12 times. However, there are different cases for benefits as the one of the social support to the disabled and elderly, that are not beneficiaries of indemnity.

Is pension being revalorized or actualized every year?

Yes. With a minimum increase in the base of the inflation of the previous period.

Number of income under which here is officially the level of poverty:

Monthly income per person: US \$ 35

Number of monthly income considered syndically minimum, in order to have a decent life:

US \$ 1.150

Are there complementary pensions for retired and pensioners in case, for example, of death, transport, judicial support etc?

There would be more correct to say "retirement" or "benefit" and not "pension", in case of disability, for example, given that it does not require a minimum time and the value of benefit has a tension to be bigger, given that there is not concurring any reducing factor (security factor). There are plans of pensions in which a person can contribute simultaneously as the official system and obtain a supplementary value of 25% in case that the insured person needs permanent assistance of another person.

Continent: Africa

Country: Algiers

Number of habitants: 34,8 millions:

- 2.088.441 millions of retired persons and pensioners.

Life expectancy: 76,3 years:

Percentage of pensioners and retired on a total of electors: 9,2%

Legal age of retirement, in order to have right to the maximum pension: 60 years (men) and 55 years (women)

Minimum age in order to receive a pension of retirement: 50 years for men and 45 for women, with a minimum contribution of 20 years.

Minimum number (actually) of years of work and contributions, in order to have rights to take a pension, in the age of 60 years: 15 years.

Number of years of salary received and declared, officially calculated of the calculation of the pension: the 60 last months.

Number of years of salary perceived and declared officially when the number of those years was the biggest: 32 years.

Are there different regimes or types of contribution? Yes, there are different regimes.

Monthly import of the lowest pension: 150 euros.

Continent: Europe

Country: France

Number of habitants: 65 millions (2010):

14.6 millions of retired and pensioners.

Life expectancy: 81 years:

- Women: 84 years
- Men: 78 years.

Legal age of retirement, in order to have right to a pension:

62 years. Women that have had three children can retire at 60 years, if worked for 15 years. Disabled persons can do so with 55 years.

Minimum age in order to receive a pension of retirement: 60 years.

Minor age in order to receive a pension for retirement in the history of the country: 60 years.

Minimum number (actually) of years of work and contributions, in order to have rights to receive a pension: 35.75 years.

Number of years of salary received and declared, officially calculated of the calculation of the pension: the 6 last months for public employees and 25 years for private sector.

Number of years of salary perceived and declared officially when the number of those years was the smallest:

The 6 last months minus a 1.25% per term living.

Number of years of salary perceived and declared officially when the number of those years was the biggest:

The 6 last months plus 0.75% per supplementary term (only for public employees).

Are there different regimes or types of contribution? There are various types and categories.

Monthly amount of the lowest pension:

Number of times a year that a pension is paid: generally, 12 times.

Is pension is being revalorized or actualized every year?

Yes. With a minimum increase in the base of the inflation of the previous period.

Number of income under which is officially the level of poverty:

Monthly income per person: 900 euros.

Continent: America

Country: Cuba

3. Total number of habitant in the country	11 247 925 (cierre diciembre 2011 by ONEI)
4. Total number of pensioners and retirees	1663551
5. Percentage of voters in political elections in country which they are pensioners and retirees	
6. Age of average life expectancy	77,7 years

7. Age of legal retiring to obtain the right maximum pension	60 years for women and 65 for men
8. Minimum age for to have the right of ha pension (although with reduction)	There exists a scale gradual of increasing months for women born from 1954 and me from 1949 until they reach the age establish the law so they can enjoy all the benefit scale has been annexed. Furthermore the two categories of workers with distinct re the I and the II, the second is for those who special conditions an=d are reduced by 5 ye
The age of retiring most low that has ever exist	For the workers which are found in the cate 55 years for women and 60 years for men. I category II , 50 years for women and 55 ye men, until the gradual augmentation from th of the law No 105"of the social security" of th of April 2009
10. The minimum of actual numbers of v years and quoted in order to have the rig pension	For e a pension for ordinary age: 30 ye services For the pension by extraordinary age (or re 20 years of services
11. Minimum number of actual necessary worked and quoted in order to have the maximum pension	To obtain a pension coming to the ma possible permitted this is 90 % of the a salary of each worker.
12. Number of years of salaries receive declared officially computed in order to calcul pension.	It is computed all the time until it has reach limit established which is 90% of the a annual salary of the worker.
13. Number of years of salary received and d officially computed when numbers of those were smaller	20 years
14. Number of years of salary received and d officially computed when numbers of those were higher	45 years
15. The lowest legal age of retiring whi existed in the history of the country (indicate	55(m) 60(H) until 1963 until April 2009

and age)	
16. The highest legal age of retiring which existed in the history of the country (indicate and age)	60(m) and 65(H) from April 2009
17. Is there difference between the age of between men and women, or for laborious (please indicate details)	Yes, there is five years of difference between men and women and for laborious works, it is in the so-called category II
18. Is there different types of quotes (functionaries, army, agrarian...) or all workers and quotes to the same public fund their pensions?	There exists various of special types: authors, artistic creators, members of the ministry of interior, fighters of the minister of revolution, special forces, members of the production of autonomous workers, members of cooperatives non farming.
19. Monthly import of the lowest pension	The lowest pension is established at 200 do
20. Average of retirees which have this minimum quantity.	

21. Monthly Important of the highest legal pension	Until 90% of the average monthly salary worker.
22. percentage of retirees which obtain maximum quantity monthly	1.1%
23. Monthly import of the average pension are received actually	254.34
24. Number of times which pension is received	Monthly
25. The Import of the pension is revalorized year?	

26. In case of affirmation. Which are the criteria?	
27. Number of income monthly below of which is considered officially level of poverty.	
28. Number of income monthly which is considered having worthy life.	

Is there complementary benefits (from the government, the state, or other public organisms) for the pensioners and retirees (indicate details)

29. Transport	No
30. Health	The services of health are totally free for population.
31. Medicines	In general medicines are offered in low subsidized by the state, and in cases of being determined by the social assistant, determined medicine is offered to pregnant or if illness or injury of professional illness is given for free.

As one can observe, the situation of different groups of Pensioners and Retired, in different countries and in different levels, varies, with big differences according to the economic and political situation, which renders difficult the elaboration of a hypothetical unitary claim table, in global level. In any case, examples are useful for us, in order to approach the theorization of models and pensions, in relation to if it has to do with developed countries, countries under development or emerging countries, or developing countries and are valuable as regional models.

Cuba, for us to know, is the only country in the world as a State, which is preoccupied for further than the "six fundamental aspects" in order for men and women to be able to live for 120 years with a minimum health and environment quality. In order to achieve such, it has a program (elaborated time ago), which stimulates those "six fundamental aspects": motivation, alimentation, health and in such genetics, physical activity, culture and environment. In such direction, all countries of the world should have a tendency and this experience should be learned.

2.2- Need to construct an TUI for Pensioners and Retirees, as an important syndical and ideological instrument.

There has already been highlighted that we face a real structural and systemic capitalism crisis. An economic and political crisis with enormous dimensions and an irreversible character, despite the fact that there could appear some brief improvements. For that reason, trade union and political dimensions of our struggles will be determinant in order to finish with this system.

In such world reality, there are many countries in which workers have not even a minimum of labor rights and, of course, have not any public pensions (as the case of various countries of Africa), in other (even though they are called “developed”) are violated rights which were obtained with big battles and working blood or free and public social services, or these are insignificant.

Preserve what has been conquest and promoting those rights is a fundamental and priority duty of the TUI of Pensioners and Retired, in every country, but, in a coordinated way, in an international level. In addition, one should take into consideration that, also in countries that pensioners and retired have recognized rights, those are not sufficiently defended. Taking into consideration that pensioners and retired are considered as executors of a labor activity directly productive, as well taking into consideration their limitation (due to the age, the difficulties in mobility, health conditions), there are often margined in syndical life more than one of the existing organizations.

This is how is being explained that in many countries that really defend the interests of retired and pensioners, there are not any trade unions, but associations of any type, many of which with class orientated criteria (despite the fact that there are created by social-democracy or the right wing in order to manipulate the pensioners and retired).

It is sadly common the tendency to consider, in many trade unions (class orientated including trade unions), the retirees and pensioners as syndical auxiliaries, of which they take advantage of their experience or free time, without organizing such, specifically as retired and pensioners, in order to be able to better defend their specific rights of any type. Furthermore the affiliated trade unions, P&R can bring back consciousness, “anchor” history and bring experience to the activities to the trade unions where workers battle although they are exploited.

Conquers obtained in some countries due to the struggles of workers and peoples, especially those affecting pensioners, the ones instituted by the advance of socialism during the 20th century, or have been eliminated or are on the way of being eliminated, if we do not organize the pensioners.

For that reason, and, given that each time, numerical and political importance of pensioners and retired is bigger, we are obliged, due to our solidarity and coherence to our principles and class interests, to create a global organization, that does not really exist nowadays, and that will serve for the radical defense of the principles and class interests as regards pensioners and retired. In that way, the class organizations of pensioners and retired that already exist in

many countries, either in form of trade union or of association, will be able to coordinate their various and important experiences of struggle (some of them are in function for decades).

We have already defined the numerical, syndical, political and social importance that have or can have the trade union organizations of pensioners and retirees. For that reason, there can seem obvious to say that it is absolutely urgent and potent, powerful, that can be an instrument of defense of the interests of pensioners and retirees in a global level, before the real scale of capitalist aggression against the rights of pensioners and retired.

The TUI of pensioners and retired does not source from nothing. It will be the ultimate expression of the accumulation of experiences of trade union struggles and social conflicts within the trade union camp of veteran strugglers in order to end up with exploitation of man by man in all the world. It will be formed by the most combative and experimented trade-unionists of many countries and continents and we understand that this struggle experience should be transmitted to the new generations and be used in order to set such in service of trade union struggle in all the world and in all aspects and realities, including recompilation of history and experiences of the class orientated workers' movement.

The same experience should serve, as it has already served, for the formation of trade union cadres and for the organization and participation to thousands of conflicts all over the world which will continue existing, until socialism, which is so needed and wanted. For that reason, the TUI of pensioners and retirees is constructed with the will to contribute with the accumulated experience of its' syndical cadres in an already varied activity of the WFTU.

The TUI that we are going to constitute will form part of the structure of the WFTU (see the statutes: exposition of motives and arts 2,21,23,26-6, 27, 34 and 49), will have its' own statutes, despite the fact of always being in accordance to those of the WFTU and the orientations of the UIS of pensioners and retired will always include ,as general orientations, the ones of the WFTU. In that way, it will aid to the reinforcement of the efficacy of such class orientated and internationalist world organization, already counting sixty years of existence.

The TUI of pensioners and retired, as an organization- branch of the WFTU, will also have the right to move theirs' reflections and proposals to the direction of the WFTU, in order for such to use them in all its' structures.

The actual and initial reality of our trade union and organizational situation has as a result that the organizational proposals, as well as those of syndical action, have to obligatorily include an important flexibility, at least in a relatively large period, in accordance to the difficulties of all types that we are going to have, in order to develop such.

The model proposed is based on the project of statutes, that, moreover is being proposed and will be separately debated, but it has to be fully understood that we should be satisfied with the possibility of developing in our first period the basic aspects as coordination in country level and regional coordination. This have to assure the link with the representations of regionals of the WFTU in their territories.

Times are disputing and are going to dispute our ideology and our struggling capacity. We should understand that today, more than ever, struggles are going to have a more broad regional framework and, for that reason, regional struggles will overcome national ones in some important aspects, In all forms the struggles within the framework of national states will continue to be fundamental.

For those struggles we have to have the minimum basic organization. This will only be achieved if we are able to integrate into the organization or into the area of its' influence a multitude of pensioners and retirees, without gender, race or religion and discrimination, without forgetting those that, in their labor life have been autonomous (the majority being expelled by big enterprises), making our needs their needs, in order to orientate or reorient such in a classist direction. All this, on the basis of the most authentic democracy, constant critic and autocritic, as well as the total absence of sectarianism. Our principles and aims have to be defended firmly, but in the best way, i.e. with a didactic rigor that helps those who receive our message, in order to assume the class struggle and incorporate themselves to such actively.

Almost always, the first steps of a new organizational structure are difficult in all camps, but, especially in those of function and of propaganda (we will have to continue afterwards). For that reason, we propose that, in this period of birth of the UIS of pensioners and retired, we should know how to collect all proposals and study them, in order to increase our influence within the framework in which federal organizations in our UIS are developing themselves.

We should also support ourselves to friends or citizens that, probably, due to their origin or ideology, will never pass to form part of ours (we refer to take the step of organizing themselves with ours), but, that, in certain circumstances, they can make interesting contributions of all types. We would like to reflect in that point a very important experience of Greek retired and pensioners, affiliated to PAME that, last October, had their 20th Congress (working syndically for 65 years as retirees and pensioners). They participate and intervene in the Popular Councils existing in the territories, in order to reinforce struggle against measures imposed by the Troika to the Greek people.

It is necessary to remember the general aims approved in Athens, in the 16th Congress of WFTU, in order to, starting from such and adapting such to our reality of pensioners and retirees, make a proposal of objectives of trade union work, modest but thorough, basic but fundamental and, most of all, adapted to every reality. A trade union work that will permit the organization of the vast majority of trade unions and class orientated associations around the political, trade union and organizational thoughts of our UIS of pensioners and retired.

To organize the major possible part of pensioners and retired around a class orientate, united, democratic, modern, independent, fighting organization, is an aim, a possibility, a work orientation, of strategic basic character of great importance.

We consider that, representing all experiences and specifications, it will be more efficient, if we can organize the pensioners and retirees in their residence places, as an operational criterion of practical character that, based on the minor mobility of pensioners and retired, will facilitate the meeting and active organization of them, able to publically intervene and, most of all, able to be each time more able for the progressive conquer of the fair claims of pensioners and retired.

The objectives fixed by the 16th Congress of the WFTU in a global level were (it is very useful to have it as a reference for our new TUI):

- The struggle for the unity of the working class
- The incorporation of new members to the trade union class orientated organization and struggles. For that reason the TUI of pensioners and retirees, in the leader frameworks should incorporate syndical cadres, independently from the sector they belong, if

reaching the retirement age. Also we will be working so that no worker will stay unorganized when they go on pension.

- Internationalism as a constant and indestructible essence of our syndical health.
- The permanent and actualized formation, in order to give the ideological battle against the class enemy in all camps.
- The need to use all forms of struggle, adapted to each reality
- To organize struggles around the actual needs and situations.
- To massively use all means of communication possible and in our reach.
- To try to achieve that all struggles will end up in victories, despite the fact of being small.
- To try to integrate in our influence area those who have been working on their own.
- Immigrants, within the framework of globalization, constitute an important group to integrate.

Struggles and their consequences should be understood not only as immediate victories or losses, but also, on the contrary, the evaluation of such should contain reflections around concepts like “force accumulation”, “political and/or organizational advances”, “class conscience advances”, etc.

All these aims should be ours, as TUI of pensioners and retirees, and accompanied by specific ones, corresponding to ours and, without closing the list, should be:

- The right to an economic monthly, public pension, sufficient for a decent life. To this purpose, we claim the creation at a national, regional or international level, of permanent funds which, under strict control, would have as sole objective to fulfill the needs of world wide pensioners.
- The right to a sufficient quantity of food and to the quality of such.
- Free water of quality
- The right to a decent residence
- The right to free public services, in a whole
- The right to full health, attended publicly and for free.
- The right to free and enriching free time
- The right to personal and social dignity
- The right to be educated and informed.
- The right to residences with specialized personnel, public and free, with a maximum cost of 20% of the pension paid.

All those aims, either general or particular, should constitute the base of our syndical and ideological activity. Trade unionist work should be organized for the achievement of those aims.

3. PROPOSAL FOR SYNDICAL WORK

Actually, we are assisting to an accelerated process of deterioration of the conditions of life and work in general, fundamentally in Europe and in some countries of Latin America, while in other countries of the same continent there are important advances (see: Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador). In addition, we are present to an increasing loss of rights and liberties for all workers (especially in countries where big class orientated trade unions are transformed in collaborationist ones) despite the fact of the existence of countries of Latin America, that are taking steps for the increment of rights of workers (see the Organic Law on Labor of Venezuela).

For their aims, international capitalism and imperialism are using any type of instruments, starting from the legal ones (within the lying bourgeois legality) and reaching the illegal ones, passing from the para-legal ones and, if necessary the totally illegal ones (as the murders of trade unionists, an issue about which Colombia maintains the first position as regards syndical violence, but there are many more affected countries by fascism that capitalists are interested in perpetuate).

They have decided, as always did, to try to pass the burden of the crisis which was provoked by their economic, social and political model, which is capitalism, to the workers and popular sectors, in order to save a minuscule fraction of capitalism, which is international financial oligarchy (related to the big multinationals) and their national branches.

The policies implemented by the governments of international oligarchy and their associates, have lead us to a situation of social emergency.

For that reason, by the side of class orientated syndicalism, we are not going to permit the improvement of capitalist system with partial measures. On the contrary, we struggle and mobilize as fundamental elements of social transformation, before the impositions of the capital.

We continue opposing ourselves to the syndical policies of social concertation, represented by trade unions organized to the International Trade Union Confederation, which, in Europe, is called European Trade Union Confederation, which is financed by the European Union and, in similar organizations that, for years, have produced disastrous consequences for the majority of the working class and the people, with their horrible social pacts (of class conciliation).

We are opposed to the increase of taxes in popular sectors, which, especially punishes people in general and Pensioners and Retirees more precisely. The majority of the people destines

its' revenue to the consumption of basic aliments and other subsistence fees, and, at the same time, are those who pay the largest absolute amount in taxes. At the same time, rich people (which each time are less but richer), are submitted to tax reductions, lux articles included. The most affected by the decrease of taxes are big businessmen that, always find ways to evade.

We claim the derogation of all anti workers' laws (labor reforms and salary cuts, cuts in health, education, social services, fiscal measures, immigrant rights...) as they attempt against the rights and liberties of the working class and of the society in a whole, and exclusively beneficiate the economic powers. Those are measures that want us to retrocede to exploiting situations of the XIX century.

We think that only the defense of the public services is a guarantee of the maintaining of quality services and of the respect of the rights of the citizens.

We claim not to pay the debt nor the interests of such. It is a debt generated by financial speculation and has not beneficiated the peoples. We want an audition for such (controlled by representatives of the working class) and we ask for penitentiary measures for the culpables. We claim the nationalization of the bank and the strategic sectors of any type.

We ask for the fixation of the maximum (the triple of the minimum) of the amount of salaries and pensions, in order to end up with exaggerating salaries and scandalous pensions of the directors of multinational or transnational companies that exploit companies and countries.

We ask for total and radical separation between churches/religions and States, in order for the amounts dedicated to the financing of all the aspects of such to be destined to social services and public pensions.

We reject repressive measures that, in an increasing manner, are being taken against social and syndical activists that are opposed to the measures of the government. It is the reappearance of fascism, dressed- democracy, false bourgeois democracy.

For all those reasons, our daily syndical and political struggle and, consequently, our priority syndical work, should be centered to the following concrete points:

- A social insurance law, with full sufficient and quality guarantees of pensions and public social benefits for a decent life. Only in that way we are going to finish with the reality faced by millions of Pensioners and Retirees that live in poverty.
- Decent and sufficient pensions, with a salary difference of 1-3 maximum.
- To prohibit in any case the cuts of pensions to orphans and widows.
- To guarantee the actualization of pensions each year according to the Prices of Consumption Index, starting from the principle that the immense majority of pensions are insufficient or inexistent. We speak about a Price of Consumption Index controlled by class orientated trade unions.
- To struggle with all types of measures against the idea which has been developed by capitalism, i.e. that public pensions are in danger. Such policy aims only to the privatization of the existent pensions and the ones of the future. In this sense, we should massively inform people that, in pensions contracted by a Private Fund, in many

cases, those funds have lost all their market power, if not disappeared. As a consequence, they are a true inversion ruin. Definitely, private pensions (apart from boosting egoism and insolidarity), end up less secure than the public ones. In such battle, we will have to oppose to collaborationists trade unions of capitalism, that potentiate private persons, in order to receive benefits from their participation in rector councils of those pensions funds.

- A Dependence law, that guarantees the full cover of all needs of the people with problems of any class (psychological, economic, mobility etc).
- Right to a residence. To guarantee, with our struggle, that all the population, and, specially Pensioners and Retirees, have a residence with the minimum conditions for a decent life, with special attention to persons with mobility problems that live in houses without heat or lift, to have decent houses.
- To claim our presence, if not conquering such, in all organisms where it is being decided over the issues regarding pensioners and retirees.
- To create the necessary and possible organs of information and propaganda aiming to give the ideological battle and to extend our proposals.
- For the gender equality, apart from the cases of women oppression in accordance with their contribution to the society (number of children etc).
- For the equality of rights of the immigrants. In all aspects of their lives.
- Struggle against social exclusion and poverty. Popular classes have to have access to: food, drinkable waters, medicines, books, culture etc.
- Nationalization of the bank and of strategic sectors of the economy, including big meadows, as a guarantee of the fact that the resources generated by the society, will be equally distributed.

All these aims and the relative struggles cannot be achieved if Pensioners and Retirees are not clearly, strongly linked, ideologically and organizationally, to class orientated syndicalism, either in national states, or internationally. Such syndicalism is today represented exclusively by the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU).

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