



## **Report of BALANCE and PROPOSALS** **between the Second and Third Congresses**

### **INDEX.-**

Synthesis

Introduction

Context of our struggle

Background

General Thoughts

Positive balance

Difficulties and shortcomings

Perspectives

23 Proposals

Conclusion

### **Synthesis**

The creation of our TUI was decided at the 16th WFTU Congress (April 2011) and was born at our First Congress (February 2014).

In the Second Congress (February 2019) our TUI was consolidated as an organization.

**Now in the Third Congress corresponds its REINFORCEMENT so that it is able to fulfill the foundational objectives and face the class enemy that wishes to suppress the right to public pensions that would allow to live with dignity.**

That is why until now our slogan has been:

<<LONG AND DIGNIFIED LIFE FOR PEOPLE IN THE FINAL STAGE OF LIFE>>

That in this Congress we will complete with the new slogan:

<<PENSIONERS ARE NOT A COST TO SOCIETY>>

Our main objective, in this Third Congress, is **to STRENGTHEN THE FUNCTIONING of the TUI of P&R of the WFTU.**

## **Introduction**

As you know in this Third Congress we have proposed to advance in the improvement of the instrument of struggle, unique worldwide, which is FOR THE WHOLE WORKING CLASS, our TUI, the TUI of P&R of the WFTU.

We have the indispensable help of the whole WFTU (help that sometimes reaches us more, sometimes with insufficiencies) which was the one that founded us, exactly 13 years ago, in this same city of Athens, in its 16th World Congress.

We have come to the Third Congress with the experience of 10 years of struggle since our First Congress.

Today we are aware that we are a trade union force that represents the interests of almost 30% of the world's population with the right to vote, whether in the social or political sphere.

Today, a good part of the active trade union representatives are retired and a large part of them have joined our TUI.

The class unions should take note and rely more on this force of the P&R, always allied to the active working class, to more easily take away from the bourgeois class the rights of active workers, as well as those of pensioners.

The purpose of the current document, which I present, as General Secretary, is to reflect on our functioning as an organization in order to learn from our successes and our mistakes, individual and collective.

## **Context of our struggle**

I will not repeat the report presented to us by Comrade Dimos Koumpouris, President of our TUI. This report clearly contains the framework for our struggle.

## **Background**

Summary of our history as TUI:

- 1) April 2.011, Athens (Greece), 16th WFTU Congress.  
On this date and place our TUI was born.
- 2) Preparation of the First Congress of the TUI of P&R.

In a period of almost 3 years our TUI was born from "top to bottom", since the initiative came from the 16th WFTU World Congress, and not from the grassroots (existing P&R organizations in various countries).

3) Realization of the First Congress.

It was made in Barcelona, Catalonia, Spanish state, in February 2014.

About 100 delegates attended. I copy a sentence from the Minutes of Congress:

<< In this first Founding Congress of the International Union of Trade Unions and Associations of Retirees and Pensioners, delegates of Organizations of Retirees, Trade Unions, Federations, Trade Union Confederations and Associations of Retirees, of Gabon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Nepal, Bahrain, Cyprus, Cuba, Ecuador, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Australia, and Spanish state (Barcelona, Madrid, Aragon, Andalusia, Valencia, and others) plus the accessions received from representatives of countries that could not attend.>>

Congress approved the documents:

a) The Trade Union Document (which explains the objectives of this new TUI of the WFTU: [PROYECTO DE DOCUMENTO \(pensionistas.info\)](http://pensionistas.info))

b) The Statutes of the TUI ([PROPUESTA DE ESTATUTOS \(pensionistas.info\)](http://pensionistas.info))

c) 6 Resolutions ([CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTIONS | Pensioners and Retired \(pensionistas.info\)](http://pensionistas.info))

And the members of the management bodies listed on the website were elected: [ELECTED DIRECTION: | Pensioners and Retired \(pensionistas.info\)](http://pensionistas.info)

4) Tasks carried out between the First and Second Congresses.

It was 5 years of intense work (all reflected in [News | Pensionistas.info](http://pensionistas.info)), in which we basically made known the existence of this new organization, and extended it to many more countries.

To this end, the First Regional Conferences of:

Africa (Senegal, November 2016)

America (Ecuador, September 2.015)

Asia (Nepal, December 2016)

Europe (Denmark, July 2.016)

Arab Countries (Tunisia, November 2.017)

We must highlight the interventions of our TUI, since 2015, every year in the Plenary Conferences of the ILO. On our website (search for ILO) are all our speeches in many languages.

Even more important were the many struggles led by the organizations of our TUI in their respective countries, especially the World Days of Struggle of the P&R, which we began on October 1, 2016. An unprecedented experience that has proven very successful. Until this initiative of our TUI THERE HAD NEVER BEEN GLOBAL ACTIONS OF THE P&R.

Of all these struggles there is an extensive review in the 81 pages of our website: <https://www.pensionistas.info/>

5) Realization of the Second Congress.

It was made in Bogotá, Colombia, in February 2019.

About 200 delegates attended, who debated on the basis of 3 documents, which can be consulted at: [Documents for debate at the Second Congress of our TUI | Pensionistas.info](#)

The agreements reached can be read at: [AGREEMENTS OF THE SECOND CONGRESS | Pensionistas.info](#)

The team of trade unionists elected, as the new leadership, can be seen in: [New collective leadership.xlsx \(live.com\)](#). We highlight that there were 36 people chosen, from 26 countries on 5 continents. This report will be the subject of their collective and individual work.

Of this Second Congress there is a complete information on the website of our TUI, especially in the document: [Work Plan approved ESP-4.pdf \(pensionistas.info\)](#)

6) What was done between the Second and Third Congresses. This is the central theme of this report.

Contacts with new organizations increased.

There was continuity and expansion of what was done (struggles in each country, ILO, World Days of Struggle, etc.) between the First and Second Congresses.

They deserve special mention, in these 5 years, the other as many (exactly 5) World Days of Struggle as P&R. The respective successes and steps forward are reflected in the annual chronicles that have been published on the website of our TUI.

6 Regional Conferences were held (one more than in the previous period):

Africa (Morocco, November 2.023)

America (Cuba, April 2.022)

Asia (India, October 2.023)

Europe (Monaco, June 2.023)

Arab Countries (Lebanon, May 2023)

Former Socialist Countries (virtual, Moscow, May 2023)

## General Thoughts

I now turn to reflect on our collective work, as the leadership elected at the Second Congress. It is a balance both of what has been done by the collective, and of what has been done by each leader (for the latter, the self-evaluation of each comrade was requested in advance, and in writing, but not all of them did it, so - if they did not do it - there is, instead of theirs, a more collective reflection).

Retired former workers cannot, in too many cases, organize into trade unions because legislation and constitutions (drafted by bourgeois legislators) in too many countries do not grant them this right.

It is now up to workers in each affected country and global trade union organizations, and the ILO, to intervene to correct this.

In addition, we have encountered many **difficulties**, both external and internal, accompanied by some advantages. I mention the main ones:

- 1) The existence of few union structures, country by country, that organized the P&R. In most unions (also in those of the WFTU) the contributions that the P&R can make to the trade union struggle have always been valued very little.
- 2) Little collective awareness that P&R have rights to defend and demands to claim.
- 3) Dispersion of organizations born separately at the initiative of the P&R themselves in each country (sometimes in each large company).
- 4) Legal difficulties, which vary according to the laws of each country.
- 5) Class unions must be aware of this and know that many trade union experts are retired for active and wage labour, but can still remain active in the field of struggle.
- 6) Older age and health difficulties create added difficulties.
- 7) It helps, and much, the veteran and long experience of struggle of many union leaders.
- 8) What has not helped us, at all, is the repeated fact (more between the First Congress and the Second, than between this and the Third Congress) of union leaders who have accepted a responsibility in our TUI (even some "demanded it with energy") and who then have only publicly used their "title of responsible in our TUI for this or that task". without having contributed any personal work, or having done anything, to improve the collective functioning.
- 9) Nor has the growth of our TUI been helped by the insufficient, sometimes non-existent propaganda, outside the respective borders, of the activities carried out by our P&R organizations.
- 10) Another insufficiency has been the failure to equip each person in charge with the channels or channels to be well informed.
- 11) The General Secretariat has made up for the deficiencies with a job that did not correspond to it.

Another aspect to note is that class unionism takes advantage of the leadership capacity of the expert syndicalist comrades when they retire, and therefore beyond their stage of active workers, to promote the struggle of active workers.

Look at how many people over 60 or 65 there are in the governing bodies of all the structures linked to the WFTU. All these trade unionists fight and organize active workers, but they do not organize (they cannot do everything) P&R workers.

Even trade unions, too often, have abandoned (in terms of union attention to their problems and demands) their members and leaders as soon as they retire.

In other words, we must strike a balance so that retiring trade unionists can continue to help active workers, while at the same time organising retired workers.

Finally, when a WFTU affiliated union has been able to provide a union leader for the tasks of the P&R TUI, it is usually not helped (from its own union) in this new

responsibility. Sometimes he is not even freed from the union duties he had when he was only defending active workers.

[This makes clear the consideration of subsidiarity of union work towards the P&R, which have too many class unions.](#)

### **THIS REALITY IS BEING EXPLOITED BY OUR CLASS ENEMY.**

As capitalism suffers a structural and permanent crisis (until its final crisis, rightly predicted by Marx), it continues to seek economic resources to overcome it. At the present stage the leaders of the IMF (International Monetary Fund) give orders and pressure (also the EU, European Union) to privatize everything public, including the Public Pension Systems (PPS).

Pinochet initiated this process by passing, aided by yellow trade unionism (the ICFTU, today ITUC), all public pensions to private pensions, being imitated in too many countries. Once this model has failed, they do not abandon their objective, now through what they call "public-private collaboration", a form of gradual privatization of public services and also of pensions.

These proposals, from public pensions to private or private pensions, eliminate the concepts of solidarity, distribution and mutual aid, on which public pensions were based and founded.

I DO NOT DWELL FURTHER ON THESE CONCEPTS, AS THEY ARE WIDELY DEVELOPED AND DOCUMENTED IN THE PUBLICATION THAT OUR TUI DISTRIBUTED IN 4 LANGUAGES (English, Spanish, Arabic and French) at the 18th WFTU Congress (Rome, May 2.022).

To conclude these general reflections, I want to remember that the P&R are not as active as we would like, given our age and health, but we compensate with our long experience and our vital commitment to struggle with and within the working class.

We have been, are, and will be, until the last day of our lives, part of the working class, exploited and plundered by Capitalism. Now, as pensioners, plundering is not carried out with direct capital gains, but with cuts (with a thousand false excuses) to our already earned pensions. That is to say that we insist, our pensions are NOT A COST, we have paid the workers with what they contributed in our stage of active workers.

On the other hand, for the leaders of capitalism, since we are no longer "productive" (as Mrs. Lagarde declared when she was head of the IMF), "we are a burden" to society.

The ideal (real undeclared objective) for capitalism is that we die the day after we finish our stage of active workers. Since they cannot kill us (as Nazism and fascism did with all those who hindered them) they try to hinder our struggle and organization.

Now, when they have realised that the P&R are on our way to being the 30% of people with the right to vote politically, they are inventing (and financing) the Pensioners' Parties, to separate the P&R from the rest of the working class.

That is, dividing the working class remains their motto. And these manoeuvres are aided by the pro-capitalist political parties (including various social democrats), the yellow trade unions (especially those of the ITUC).

## **Positive balance**

We can affirm that the participation of the P&R has increased in the struggles against the proposals for privatization of pensions (and against the actions that cut public pensions) both of the governments of the EU countries, as well as those of the majority of capitalist countries around the planet.

We must highlight the great struggles in India and Greece. The latter we will know closely in the days when we will be in Athens holding our Third Congress.

It is followed in importance by the struggles in Argentina, Peru, Cyprus, France, in Central America, Colombia, Mexico, in the Spanish state, and in many other countries, with specific characteristics in each case. Of all of them we have good information on our website and we must analyze them in more detail to learn from these experiences.

It is not all that would have been possible if we had not had the difficulties (objective and subjective) outlined above, but **I do not think I exaggerate if I say that the P&R TUI is the most active within the WFTU.**

We have made progress in the collective work of management. Video conferences have allowed us to hold 4 to 5 annual meetings of the management team, using 4 languages (English, Spanish, French and Greek).

There have been more than before the Second Congress those responsible for tasks who have carried out their functions, but we have continued with the General Secretary to make up for the absences and deficiencies of several Secretariats.

The Secretariat that has done the most work, apart from the General Secretariat has been that of Propaganda that we are going to reinforce, because our class enemy is in this field, in the field of propaganda and ideological struggle, in which it invests more efforts (to deceive the working class, especially its sectors with less union, political and ideological formation).

On the other hand, the better collective functioning has allowed us to see the need to improve our Statutes.

Also, as an important positive balance, we must say that every year that passes, our World Day of Struggle, which we celebrate every October 1, acquires greater strength and success.

Capitalist governments are increasingly attentive to our struggles and demands. A clear example (and a great victory) is that of the Spanish state, where in 2022 the collective agreements (unfortunately negotiated by the yellow unions CCOO + UGT) had "an average wage increase of 2.69% (when inflation, in official figures, not real,

reached 10.8% in July), while pensions rose in 2023 by 8.5%, which had been the average monthly value of official inflation for the previous year."

That is to say that although pensioners do not have the right to strike (which is the great weapon of active workers, if used by a non-yellow union, a class union), we have used other forms of struggle, we have been in the streets, every week, in front of public administrations, in more than 300 cities throughout the Spanish state.

Likewise, there are more and more demonstrations and actions of the P&R in the streets of more cities and towns on 5 continents.

Another positive fact is the increase in coordination and collaboration between P&R organizations, whether trade unions or associations (according to the possibilities offered by the legislation of each country).

We must also welcome the conversion of P&R Associations into Trade Unions or part of class unions. The case of Peru is the most important of the recent ones we know.

Finally, as a great success of our world struggle we must point out what the bourgeois press has silenced, I refer to the decision of the Parliament of Bolivia to prohibit in this country the existence of private pensions. We must make this victory an example and reference of our struggles in all capitalist countries.

In class syndicalism we have always won many demands by demonstrating that their conquest is possible since they have already conquered them elsewhere.

We must also use the indisputable reality (hidden by the bourgeoisie) of pensions in the countries that built Socialism, and compare it with their current reality when they have returned to Capitalism. We remind capitalist governments and employers' organizations before the 111th Conference of the ILO:

<< Lenin, in the year 1917, already universalized the right to a pension, when the wealth on the Planet was much lower than what is currently achieved with new machines and technologies. For the first time in the former Tsarist Russia (exploitative hereditary monarchy), women who worked at home and people who worked in the fields became entitled to a pension. By the way, pension that allowed to live with dignity.

The same thing happens even today in countries that do not accept capitalism as an economic system, countries that do not obey the International Monetary Fund, countries that try to build a society without labor exploitation, I mean Cuba, China, Vietnam, Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Laos. As you know, but they hide from saying it and spreading it, in these countries you don't see old people removing garbage to find food, nor are they seen sleeping on the street, as you can see in New York, London or Paris>>

## **Difficulties and shortcomings**

The first and main difficulty is that not all class-oriented trade union organizations are aware of the need to continue the struggle against the bourgeoisie in the final stage of our lives, when we pass from active workers to retirees.



In our great WFTU, with more than 330 affiliated unions, the unions that have connected with our TUI do not reach 25% (at the moment). We are going to increase this figure before our Fourth Congress.

I know that some unions fight to defend P&R, even if they do not participate in our TUI. We must ensure that these unions coordinate with our TUI, in order to improve our ability to fight against the common enemy, which wants us divided.

But whatever the reality, if the struggle of the P&R of each country is not united with that of the other countries, it is our class enemy who benefits.

To unite all the struggles of the P&R, all over the Planet, there is our TUI, with a clear class vision of the world reality.

Another difficulty is that not all P&R organizations, including some of our TUI, are aware of the necessary internationalism, of a class internationalism. There are too many cases of important P&R struggles, country by country, that are not enriched by the experiences of other countries and by the solidarity they can and should receive from them.

Another difficulty is the fragmentation of organizations due to problems of personalism and democratic malfunction.

We have also been affected by the severe COVID pandemic for almost three years. The pandemic has shown in no uncertain terms how negative the privatization of health is. The pandemic was successfully combated, and in a very short time, in socialist countries thanks to their strong public health services. But capitalist countries struggled for a long time and are still struggling to overcome the pandemic and its new forms, both medically and economically. On the other hand, the view that the pandemic is the work of the medical pharmaceutical mafia to plunder the world and amass billions of dollars by killing and terrorizing people mercilessly is also gaining ground.

To conclude with our difficulties to overcome, I would like to explain the difficulties in the functioning of our management bodies. I am going to analyse them as they appear, in the Statutes, and in the same order.

- 1) The Congresses .-
- 2) The Executive Council .-
- 3) Presidency and Vice-Presidencies .-
- 4) The Secretariat .-
- 5) Each of the Secretariats .-
- 6) The Technical and Research Commission.-
- 7) The Financial Control Committee .-

**1) Regarding the Congresses.-**

In the Statutes they are referred to as the "World Trade Union Congress". We still have little experience in them, we have only done two, and we are doing the third.

In them the first difficulty is to gather in one place the delegates from all continents: very expensive process (visas, trips and hotels, in addition to meals and other issues), prolonged in time, with the fatigue that at our age is more noticeable, and other difficulties.

But we have managed to increase the number of delegates, present at our congresses, overcoming without subsidies from any government, the enormous difficulties that capitalism will always put us.

**2) Regarding the Executive Council .-**

Thanks to the use of the technique, of the video conferences, we have been able to do, between the Second and Third Congress, an average of 4 annual meetings, with an average of 20 attendees to them, working with 4 languages (Spanish, English, French and Greek).

An increasing part of the comrades of the Executive Council are preparing (the days before each meeting) their interventions at the meetings, sending in writing their contributions to the report that, also in writing, is sent in advance by the General Secretary.

The minutes of the meetings, which are in the 4 languages mentioned, are not always read carefully, nor sufficiently worked.

It is not acceptable to want to be on a management body to only be able to say that you are an international leader of the P&R, and then never intervene in collective work. Let's fix this error.

**3) Regarding the Presidency and Vice Presidencies.-**

In the area of the Presidency and Vice-Presidencies, we must note that only the tandem of President and General Secretariat has worked. Meetings between the two (usually, with a few exceptions, one or two between Executive Board meetings) have always proved very useful in advancing the collective work of the entire management.

There have been no meetings with the Coordinators, except for one that was useful but did not have continuity. Probably due to the fact that the one who should have convened such a meeting was the Secretariat of Organization that did not work.

**4) Regarding the Secretariat.-**

In practice, we have not operated this body provided for in the Statutes.

We will correct this deficiency if we adopt and implement the Proposals with which this report concludes.

**5) Each of the Secretariats .-**

Since the Second Congress, almost all the Secretariats have functioned.

The one that worked the least was that of Training, and the ones that most those of Propaganda and Gender.

Those of Finance and Health have made contributions, but much less than our TUI needs, and much less than possible.

It is evident that without finances no organizational structure, no union, can function. Only about 20 organizations of the almost 80 that our TUI has paid their quota.

6) **The Technical and Research Commission.-**

We already had difficulties in getting it to work between the First and Second Congresses. In the period between the Second and Third Congresses there has been a step forward, as some meetings have been held, concrete studies have been initiated, and a few (but always important and interesting) documents have been produced.

7) **The Financial Control Committee .-**

It has been a Commission with difficulties in meeting, although it has been (late) carrying out its tasks.

We had the misfortune of the death of one of its members, but the comrades of India knew how to propose a veteran trade unionist to replace him.

Its written report, accompanied by the Finance report, will be part of the materials to be evaluated by the delegates at the Third Congress.

## **Perspectives**

There is no doubt that **our TUI has important prospects for growth, REINFORCEMENT, and better functioning.**

We remain the only global organization coordinating the struggles of P&R.

Yellow trade unionism still does not specifically organise this part of its members, except in Europe, where the European Union has financed the activities of a small group of P&R, leaders of trade unions who deny the class struggle, who simply draft a document every year, but who do not call for any action or confront those who finance them. that is, they accept in practice the process of privatization of pensions promoted by the IMF and implemented by the EU.

Our class enemy will continue to attack, in the coming years, the rights acquired and won by the working class for decades. The cyclical crises of capitalism lead him to this, but it will be increasingly difficult to continue deceiving the working class, especially if we continue to improve its trade union organization and reaffirm the ideological struggle.

A fundamental task will continue to be to unmask social democracy, a great ally of capitalism. It would already be buried without the great help that Social Democracy has given it for many decades. It pretends to defend the working class, but never fulfills its electoral promises, always finds excuses "of bad pay". He always asks us for patience, and he wants to give us hope that the future will be better if we don't fight. Social Democracy has always been and will always be on the side of the bourgeoisie.

I want to end this summary of our Perspectives by greeting the comrades of the different TUI of the WFTU who have accepted our invitation to attend this Congress.

We count on your help, proposals and suggestions, for this we will give you the floor during the congressional debates, so that the P&R people from all of them can enrich and strengthen our struggle in defense of the working class, especially in defense of a dignified life in the final stage of our lives.

## **23 Proposals**

**I am going to ask that it is in this chapter of my report that you make more constructive criticism and make more proposals.**

If we succeed in them, surely our TUI will continue to strengthen and we will be able, in 5 years, in the Fourth Congress, to make a new very positive balance of our collective work.

Analyze and reflect carefully on the 23 proposals that follow, they are achievable objectives, although to comply with them will require individual and collective effort.

In order to better apply the proposals that follow, we will, as explained in the document containing the modifications of the Statutes, correct and improve some articles of our Operating Standard as an organization.

### **Here are the 23 proposals that we propose to approve the Third Congress of our TUI:**

**1) We are going to try that the maximum of the unions affiliated to the WFTU have a relationship with our TUI.**

It is the main objective we set ourselves. Actually, it should be ALL WFTU unions that have a relationship with our TUI. A relationship of support and collaboration, always with respect for the independence of each organization, as marked by the WFTU Statutes.

We therefore remain at the disposal of all the WFTU unions to exchange opinions, bilaterally, one by one, on this subject, of which we will have to make lists, by the geographical Regions, and render accounts (the Organization Secretariat, and our Vice-Presidents) in our Fourth Congress.

**2) We will approach new countries to help them organize their P&R.**

We have evaluated in about 60 countries, as the approximate number of those that have P&R organizations linked to our TUI. But pensioners THERE ARE AND THERE SHOULD BE in all the countries of the Planet.

We are going to try that each country present in our TUI sets itself the objective of contacting another country in its territorial environment to help the corresponding working class to organize its P&R.

**3) We are going to make the Secretariat work.**

First we have to choose, as persons responsible for each Secretariat, those who, in addition to demonstrated capacity in each task, can have time to exercise it (leaving, if necessary, other tasks that they have developed to date).

**4) We are going to equip ourselves with a person who carries the responsibility of Deputy General Secretary.**

Perhaps it will not be easy to get the proposal right, but we will give the Executive Council competence to make the necessary modifications (in this and all the responsibilities appointed by Congress) until we get it right.

Whoever presents this report considers that it is not good to continue in the same responsibility more than 3 consecutive Congresses. That is why it is a good measure to have alternates for any responsibility, and especially for the General Secretariat.

**5) We are going to have a fully functioning Secretariat of Organization, surrounded and assisted by the people who assume the so-called Vice Presidencies of our organization, which from now on we will call the Vice Secretariats of Organization.**

In this case, with regard to the Secretariat of Organization, like the General Secretariat, FULL DEDICATION should be a rule to be taken into account to verify that such dedication is possible before choosing a person for that responsibility.

We will also have to count on the good work of the President and the Deputy General Secretariat.

**6) We will reinforce the ideological work by adding and coordinating the tasks of the Secretariats of Training and Propaganda, in an Ideological Secretariat, while we will equip ourselves with a complete team that assures us the fulfillment of all the important tasks.**

There is no doubt that the struggle of ideas is, if the option driven by the working class wins, the main engine of positive changes in any society.

The P&R have improved our perception of reality thanks to the decades of struggle and reflections that we normally accumulate.

The documents that each organization of our TUI disseminates must be at least in Spanish, French and English. This is easily possible today if we learn to use automatic translators.

**7) We are going to resume the work of the Women's Commission.**

The Gender Secretariat is, as has already been said, one of the most hard working.

We are going to launch the new team from this Third Congress taking advantage of the good work of the stage in which comrade Xaro Nomdedeu directed this task.

**8) We are going to strengthen the tasks of the Secretariat of Health. -**

The experience since the Second Congress shows us that it is one of the most important Secretariats for our collective work, given that health is the most appreciated good for all people in the final stage of life.

The comrade who has led this Secretariat from Cuba has not found the help she needed. We are going to give it to her from this Third Congress onward.

A first action of our TUI worldwide on the subject of HEALTH will be **A CAMPAIGN OF DENUNCIATION AGAINST THE MULTINATIONALS OF THE**

**PHARMACY:** we will make a list of fundamental medicines (that is, of greater use in all continents) and we will put next to it the price in each country. We are going to demonstrate the deceptions of CAPITALISM that does not charge what the products are worth, but in each case STEALS EVERYTHING IT CAN according to its possibilities of theft and exploitation (as it does with wages) in each country.

**9) We are going to increase the number of people, whether members or collaborators, of the Studies and Research Commission.**

Our class enemy uses its economic power (achieved by exploiting the working class) to have the best studies and data.

ALWAYS, FOR THE WORKING CLASS, STUDIES MADE WITH CLASS ANALYSIS WILL BE BETTER.

We must find scholarly people and encourage them to make this important help to the world working class, with exchanges of studies and suggestions, as professionals at the service of the working class.

**10) We will help make contributions to the general finances of our TUI one of the regular tasks of all our affiliated, friendly, and observer organizations.**

We know that all our P&R organizations are poor. It is normal, the dues of its affiliates are scarce and of small amount.

But, even if it is only 1% of the total that each organization collects throughout each year, it must be transferred to the TUI to make it possible to operate it.

What is not acceptable is to "forget" to contribute the corresponding quota to the TUI. And this is what most of the 80 organizations that collaborate with our TUI have done so far.

We must also encourage individual contributions (from friends, pensioners or not, or from associations, which sympathize with our necessary global struggle) of financial aid to our TUI. These have given a great result in the Spanish state and have allowed this to be the country that has contributed the most money to our TUI to date.

We will also have to carry out some extraordinary global campaign to collect money, such as the one we started before this Third Congress. Thanks to her, many countries have been able to send a person as a delegate to this Congress.

**11) We are going to create a Technical Commission that will ensure a good collective functioning, both in the field of translations (increasingly necessary, especially oral ones, since we can already solve them in writing with sufficient quality, that is, getting them to be understandable, with machine translations), and in computer science. (increasingly useful, including the new perspectives of virtual presences, anywhere on the Planet, without travel expenses, time, or energy).**

We have to use more the videos that we must record of all our collective activities.

**12) We will follow the example of our comrades from CENAJUPE, in Peru.**

First, by the incorporation of his Association into the general trade union activity. This strengthened the life and struggle of the CGTP union, while

reinforcing the activity of the P&Rs itself. Taking into account its ideological, statutory and political commitment.

Second, for having been the first P&R organization in one of the 60 countries in which our TUI is operating, which has used video conferences to hold meetings of its governing bodies. With this, they have improved their management and decision-making skills, saved money and time on travel, and saved efforts and fatigue.

**13) We will follow the example of our comrades in Panama.**

We will use video conferences to invite leaders of our TUI to meetings with the leadership groups of each country. They began with a meeting, on July 20, 2023, with the General Secretary of the TUI.

Any of the Secretariats of our TUI may do the same with the leaders of our TUI in any country.

**14) We will reinforce the good practice of the President's meetings with the General Secretary, adding to them those of the Deputy-General Secretary and the Secretariat of Organization.**

This new small collective will allow the monthly monitoring of the global activities of our TUI.

The Ideological Secretariat (which includes Propaganda) must articulate the form and method so that the leaders of our TUI have timely information on the tasks that our 80 organizations are carrying out, as a basis for the collective reflection essential to lead an organization.

**15) We will continue to promote the annual Day of Struggle around October 1.**

Our TUI is the only one that has a fixed annual date of global action and struggle.

Our characteristics allow us, and the 8 years of experience show us that it was right to start them in 2016, when our TUI was still almost newborn.

Our class enemy is organized worldwide, and attacks our rights in a coordinated way. That is why we must face it together and in coordination.

**16) We will help the regional teams elected at the respective Regional Conferences to meet regularly and plan their tasks, especially by carrying out protest actions around May 1 of each year.**

In these teams there are valuable leaders, with long experience of struggle, but who in too many cases have their responsibility in the regional team of our TUI, more as an honorary title than as a task to be developed.

In these teams the same responsibilities must be replicated as in the World Secretariat. In this way, each Secretariat will be able to work with 6 collaborators, one for each Region, to better develop its objectives and tasks.

These teams should meet at least quarterly to plan their respective regional leadership work. They must inform the central management of our TUI in writing of their decisions.

In reality, this proposal is nothing more than the implementation at regional level of the global proposal of the previous point, with the will to carry out (as

TUI) two actions each year, one regional around 1 May and another global around 1 October.

**17) We are going to carry out regional acts of struggle, action, study and exchange like those carried out in Central America.**

The three experiences around October 1, carried out in various nearby countries, with important face-to-face meetings, show us the importance of complementing virtual meetings with face-to-face activities.

**18) We are going to create subzones, such as North, South and Central, of America, in all regions, of the 5 continents, where we see the usefulness and possibility.**

In reality, this is already an old objective of our comrades in America, which has only materialized in Central America, with the good work of comrade Leonor Meza.

**19) We will exchange experiences and information that will allow us to win new demands.**

From the successful video conference made with the leaders of the P&R of Panama, we learned that we have to share the great and small victories that the P&R have achieved in each country: prohibition of private pensions, election of representatives before the authorities and administration at various levels, total gratuity of medicines (increase in the % of non-payment of them when appropriate), Discounts on leisure or catering expenses, free local transport (or significant discounts), etc.

The first thing we have to do is the list of these very varied, and sometimes very important, conquests, AND SPREAD THEM THROUGHOUT ALL COUNTRIES.

Well, as we know, it is easier to win a right that others have already conquered, than to acquire it for the first time.

**20) We will continue to say in the annual Plenary Sessions of the ILO what are the demands of the P&R of the whole Planet.**

These Plenary Sessions are not what they should be.

In reality, the problem is that the ILO is not meeting the objectives for which it was founded more than 100 years ago, at the end of the First World War. It does not meet the objectives that defined it at the time of creating it. The battle for it to recover its foundational functions is of the whole WFTU and of all the progressive organizations of the Planet.

For our TUI it is the place or forum in which we remind, every year, the capitalist governments and the organizations of entrepreneurs of the whole Planet, that there are important and very just demands of the P&R.

As a result we have a document and a video in many languages that we must know how to use in our activities, and struggles, country by country.

**21) We will constantly show our solidarity with the struggles of the P&R of any country (remember the need to inform the leadership of our TUI of the planned struggles, with enough time to organize the corresponding support campaigns).**

In class unionism solidarity has been the basis of most victories.



And internationalist solidarity has an additional component, both for our ideological struggle and for achieving better victories.

**22) We will hold public events and debates, in any country, with the virtual presence of the leaders of our TUI who can best help the objectives of each activity.**

Before the existence of new technologies, it was necessary to have time and money so that comrades in the leadership of any world organization could assist and help the success of the struggles and activities of the organizations country by country.

Today, overcoming our difficulties (due in part to age, and partly due to an unjustified apprehension to use new technological possibilities, which in the end we learn more easily than we thought), we can, the world leaders of our TUI, be today in an activity in America and tomorrow in another in Asia, Europe or Africa, without moving from our place of habitual residence.

WE HAVE TO GET USED TO IT.

**23) We will request bilateral meetings with all the TUI to exchange views regarding the organization of the P&R.**

Not because it is the last one this proposal is less important.

All TUI have workers who become pensioners (for various reasons: illness, accident, etc.) or retirees.

It is not our TUI that should define how they organize them.

Nor is it our TUI that must give them orientations, since in the WFTU all organizations have, by the WFTU statutes, total autonomy.

But we have invited to this Third Congress a trade unionist (active or retired) from each TUI, to know our debates, and help us (with his intervention before the plenary of the Congress) to improve the necessary coordination in the struggle of the P&R of the whole Planet.

## **Conclusion**

If we discuss this report well, if we analyze and reflect on it, if we incorporate the right people into our management teams, if we improve, with the congressional debate, the 23 proposals mentioned above, surely our **TUI will take an important leap in the direction of our REINFORCEMENT as an organization.**

The working class, and especially P&R people, will benefit from our good work.

Our responsibility is to do so.

**LONG LIVE THE WORKING CLASS!**

**LONG AND DIGNIFIED LIFE FOR PEOPLE AT THE END OF THEIR LIVES!**

**NO PENSIONER IS A COST!**

**LONG LIVE THE TUI OF P&R!**

**LONG LIVE THE WFTU!**

A classist and internationalist trade union greeting.

Quim Boix

General Secretary of the TUI (Trade Union International) of Pensioners and Retirees (P&R) of the WFTU

Barcelona, October 2023.