

COMPOSITE RESOLUTION: ON MIGRANT AND IMMIGRANT WORKERS

The 24th IUF Congress, meeting in Geneva, May 14-17, 2002

RECOGNISES that migrant and immigrant workers make up a large percentage of the work force in many IUF jurisdictions, in particular plantations, meatpacking, domestic work, hotel, restaurants and tourism.

NOTES that in many cases their work is precarious, seasonal, temporary and clandestine;

FURTHER NOTES that in many cases, workers have been transported across borders by traffickers who exploit the economic inequalities between countries and the aspirations of workers for a better life for themselves and their families;

NOTES that migrant and immigrant workers in particular often suffer from inferior working conditions and possess few or no legal rights to organize to improve their situation.

NOTES that some employers in IUF sectors resort to irregular and even clandestine recruitment of migrant and immigrant workers under inferior conditions and with no legal rights, in order to avoid providing decent wages and conditions to all workers.

NOTES that women are a particularly vulnerable group among migrant and immigrant workers, often abused by unscrupulous job agencies and even forced into prostitution.

FURTHER NOTES the suggestion made at the women's seminar preceding the Congress in 1997 that closer links should be established between unions in emigrant and immigrant countries, in order to provide adequate information about labour and social conditions as well as to provide information about relevant unions in the receiving country.

ACKNOWLEDGES that for many reasons, including language and cultural differences, many IUF affiliates have had difficulty in organizing migrant and immigrant workers on an on-going basis.

This 24th IUF Congress therefore:

- **CALLS UPON** affiliates to demand that in both law and in practice migrant and immigrant workers enjoy equal rights and conditions as other workers, as set forth in ILO Convention 143 and Recommendation No. 151 on Equality of Opportunity and Treatment for Migrant and Immigrant Workers.
- **CALLS UPON** national governments and supra-national authorities to develop a comprehensive approach to the phenomenon of migration based on the protection of social and labour rights and the social integration of the immigrant workers, and comprising the management of migratory flows, including recruitment, repatriation assistance and guarantees for further employment in the case of seasonal workers.
- **CALLS UPON** national governments and supra-national authorities to eradicate the trafficking in human beings.

- **CALLS UPON** national governments and supra-national authorities which benefit from the labour force in developing countries to integrate policies on migrant labour into their development policies based on principles of solidarity and reciprocity.
- **CALLS UPON** employers to play a positive role in the social integration of immigrant workers by providing employment guarantees, e.g. through permanent contracts for seasonal work, suitable housing, health care and education opportunities, in particular when seasonal displacement involves families.
- **CALLS UPON** affiliates to take affirmative and concrete steps to organize and recruit migrant, immigrant and ethnic minority workers into IUF affiliates and to ensure their proportionate voice within union structures.
- **REQUESTS** affiliates, with the aid of the IUF's general and regional secretariats, to exchange information on best practices in organizing and representing migrant and immigrant workers and to assist each other with appropriate contacts and language skills to help organize migrant and immigrant workers.
- **ENCOURAGES** affiliates to note the IUF Reciprocity Agreement (Appendix 1 of the IUF Rules) and to give it practical effect in ensuring the full rights of migrant and immigrant workers in the receiving country.

Composited from draft resolutions submitted by Federación Agroalimentaria CC.OO. and the IUF secretariat