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NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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REGION'S UNIONS MARK WDDW-2019

On or around 7 October 2019, trade unions of the region took part in the 12th World Day for Decent Work (WDDW). While underpinning the common international slogan proposed by the ITUC "Increase investment in the Care Sector!", the GCTU invited its affiliates to observe the WDDW-19 focusing on the specific circumstances or topical problems prevailing in each of the countries or industries

In a statement entitled "Decent Work the Path to a Socially Just Economy", the Confederation called on its member organisations to insist that "any economic measures affecting workers' situation should be developed and taken on the basis of respect for decent work principles, in the spirit of constructive social dialogue, and coordination of efforts with social partners and all public forces that care for the well-being of workers in their countries"

Hundreds of thousands of workers took part in the activities held that day by the GCTU affiliates. In Russia alone, their number reached almost two million. Participants drew the attention of the authorities and employers to the need for a top priority solution to a number of burning socio-economic problems.

In Russia, the unions chose the issue of real wage raises as the main topic, whereas in Georgia and Moldova, the requirement to increase investment in the care sector. In Belarus the major focus was placed on ensuring productive employment, creating safe working environments, and fulfilling collective agreements; in Armenia on developing social partnership and dialogue, while in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on promoting decent work principles, compliance with international labour standards and labour laws.

The cross-cutting theme of all events was the call to build political, economic and legislative conditions that would help the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda in the region's countries.

The results of the WDDW were summarised at the meeting of the GCTU Executive Committee held in November 2019.

GCTU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS IN MOSCOW

The Executive Committee of the General Confederation of Trade Unions met in Moscow 19 November 2019 to consider several topical issues, such as protection of the workers' wages in the event of the employer's insolvency, the

progress of the joint regional campaign "Minimum Wage Not Lower than the Subsistence Minimum!", the conditions of occupational safety and health and how to improve them; and the participation of GCTU affiliates in the World Day for Decent Work.

The Committee considered it expedient, along with the current system of first priority payment of salaries during the liquidation of enterprises, to seek the creation of a guaranteed salary fund at the national level as a tool to protect the interests of workers of insolvent enterprises.

The session reviewed the progress made by affiliates in promoting the joint solidarity campaign "Minimum Wage Not Lower than the Subsistence Minimum!". Since the launch of the campaign in 2004, the minimum wages in the countries of the region have risen manifold, from 4.2 times in Armenia to 57 (!) times in Tajikistan. This has contributed towards the bridging of the gap between the minimum pay and the subsistence minimum. However, the goal has not yet been achieved: in several countries of the region, the minimum wage remains extremely low, and is not even sufficient to ensure the reproduction of labour.

Participants noted that the impact of the region's trade unions on the development of legislative frameworks and national policies in the sphere of occupational safety and health had grown significantly stronger. The opportunities for exercising social partnership and public control are used more widely, and the trade union technical inspectorates have become more proactive. In spite of this, the rates of occupational injuries are still high. The

Executive Committee recommended that GCTU affiliates should press harder for the universal ratification of ILO safety and health conventions (Nos. 121, 161, 155, 187).

The resolution summing up the results of the participation in the World Day for Decent Work urges the affiliates to give a stiff rebuff to the frontal attacks by capital on the rights of employees and their trade unions, and not to reduce the level of their engagement in the international trade union struggle for decent work, a fair world order, and an economy taking fuller account of workers' interests.

The GCTU has made a comparative analysis of the machinery for protecting the requirements of workers, including migrants, in the event of employer insolvency, used in the countries of the region and elsewhere in the world or provided for by international labour standards.

The analysis has revealed that, during the liquidation of bankrupt enterprises, the member-states of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) use privileges (super privileges) as the only mechanism for protecting workers' claims when settling accounts with creditors. The national guaranteed salary funds, the second protection mechanism widespread in the world, have not yet been created in any of the region's countries.

In this context, GCTU General Secretary Vladimir Shcherbakov sent a letter to Timur Zhaksylykov, EAEU Minister for Economic Affairs and Financial Policy, pointing to the fact that the current existence of huge wage arrears in the members-states of the

Union is mostly associated with insolvency (bankruptcy) of enterprises.

The GCTU suggested that the EAEU countries consider a possibility of adopting a decision to introduce machinery for protecting workers' claims in the event of employer insolvency as provided for in ILO Convention No. 173.

The GCTU leader said the Confederation would be ready to develop the draft of a relevant document.

GCTU ATTENDS CIS IPA EVENTS

A GCTU delegation headed by its General Secretary Vladimir Shcherbakov, participated in the meeting of the Council of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (CIS IPA) and the 50th Plenary Session the CIS IPA, both held in the Tauride Palace of St. Petersburg from 21-22 November 2019.

Attending the event were parliamentary delegations from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, representatives of the CIS Executive Committee, partner international organisations and the diplomatic corps, and leaders of the St. Petersburg executive and legislative authorities.

The Assembly summed up the organisation's activity over the preceding six months and highlighted the major documents considered by the IPA CIS Council and submitted for the plenary approval. Participants noted that over the past year the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly adopted 23 legislative acts, including an Action Plan on the 75th Anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945.

For the entire period the IPA produced 569 documents, which indicates the degree of effectiveness of its performance.

RUSSIA: FNPR NOT HAPPY WITH GOVERNMENT POLICY

The General Council of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia (FNPR) held its regular meeting in Moscow 30 October 2019, with representatives of the government, employers' associations, and parliament attending as invited guests.

Describing the current situation in Russia in his report, FNPR President Mikhail Shmakov wondered: "Can one expect any wage rises if there is no economic growth in the country" He mocked the government's "success" reports as signals coming from a "parallel universe," where there are neither meagre wages and pensions, nor quasi-taxes, nor a high level of poverty. The existing machinery of social partnership, he added, can help resolve the economic problems facing the country, but only provided the negotiations are conducted by responsible parties who are willing to make effective decisions in the interests of the people. "

The General Council approved a Plan of Practical Actions to Implement of the Decisions of the FNPR 10th Congress, and a Programme of the Federation's Standard Setting Activity/

The meeting adopted a statement on the property of trade unions and on the ways of making its use more efficient. In view of the fact that the speaker of the upper house of Parliament, Valentina

Matvienko, had recently shown a keen interest in the trade union property and finance, the statement recalled that “in accordance with the law *On trade unions, their rights and guarantees of activity*, as well as with the *ILO Convention “On Freedom of Association and the Protection of the Right to Organise”* any interference by public authorities in the activities of trade unions, including their finance, is not allowed.”

The General Council declared 2020 the Year of the 30th Anniversary of the FNPR, and called on the affiliates to launch active outreach work to make the public aware of the goals and tasks of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia.

RUSSIA: UNIONS AGAINST TAXES ON POOR

The FNPR has constantly been raising the problem of abolishing the personal income tax (PIT) on low-income people. The issue has long been considered by the Government of Russia.

The idea to repeal the personal income tax on the poor has also won the support of the upper house of the Federal Assembly (Parliament) of Russia.

Tax cancellation is a socially fair offer because the income gap between the poor and the rich is very wide, especially as almost a quarter of the country's population is poor.

Trade unions believe that abolition of personal income tax will be positively met both by the poor themselves and the population as a whole. It will lead to

a real improvement in the situation of citizens.

RUSSIA: YOUTH CARE FOR FUTURE OF TRADE UNIONS

About 300 young activists aged 18 to 35 took part in the All-Russia Youth Trade Union Forum “Strategic Reserve-2019: Motivation” organised by FNPR from 4-7 December 2019 in Sochi. Delegates discussed topical problems of the country's trade union movement, challenges facing the unions, and prospects for young people in the current socio-economic situation.

The lively and thorough exchange of views on the current social and labour relations in Russia that took place at the forum involved dozens of speakers. They noted with regret that in recent years, economic growth had been close to zero (a mere 0.4 per cent of the GDP since 2012), while industrial production had risen only by 0.6 per cent. As a result, workers' real incomes had not been growing for several years.

The reason behind the shrinking trade union membership is to be found not only in reduced production volumes or in decreased numbers of employees in major enterprises, but also in the employers' stiff opposition to setting up trade union organisations. On the other hand, this is also a result of the inefficient efforts by trade unions to provide protection to employees at the workplace, and the lack of information on their activities. According to participants, in order for a national union to be efficient, it needs at least 400 thousand members.

The Forum ended with the adoption of a resolution containing recommendations

that will be submitted for consideration by the FNPR Executive Committee.

RUSSIA: UNIONS DISCUSS LABOUR RELATIONS

As part of the WDDW-19 programme, a scientific and action-oriented Conference was held 7 October 2019 at the Academy of Labour and Social Relations (AT&SO) in Moscow dealing with topical issues of realizing the right of Russian workers to decent pay. The conference, organised by the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia (FNPR), was attended by the leaders of FNPR and all-Russia industrial trade unions, professors and lecturers of the AT&SO and Lomonosov Moscow State University, representatives of the academic community, economists, writers, publicists etc.

Conference addressed the fundamental categories on which the modern economy and social and labour relations build. Among them are fair work remuneration safe and comfortable working environments, sources and prerequisites for labour productivity growth, and the observance and improvement of labour law.

In his welcoming speech, FNPR President Mikhail Shmakov said the word combination “decent work” was firmly rooted in the political and economic vocabulary of the country. Surveys and studies show that the first concern of the worker is the decent level of material wealth, while respect from the employer and fellow-workers ranks firmly second. He also noted that the contradiction between labour and capital, which fundamentally affects the social and labour relations, had not subsided, more over, it had manifested

itself with renewed vigour. Recently, there appeared a contradiction between financial and productive capital.

Professor of Lomonosov Moscow State University Alexander Buzgalin urged participants to turn to the experience of leading Western countries and demand the establishment of a fairer state revenue distribution model.

Participating leaders of several Russian industrial unions shared their experience in upholding the right of employees’ right to decent pay.

RUSSIA: FNPR PREPARING FOR ANNIVERSARY

Speaking to the meeting of the FNPR Executive Committee held in Moscow 18 December 2019, David Kristal, a FNPR vice president, introduced participants to the plan of major events to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Russia and the 115th Anniversary of the country’s trade union movement. They will include an all-Russia meeting of leaders of primary organisations, competitions, workshops, conferences, and round table seminars, as well as publishing a book and making a film about FNPR activity.

Another FNPR Vice President, Alexander Shershukov, made a presentation on the contribution of trade unions to the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War (1941-1945), which will be marked 9 May 2020. He called on FNPR affiliates to get actively involved in festivities at the state level; to honour the war veterans and home front workers; and highlight the events dedicated to trade unions’ contribution to

the creation of the people's militia, the evacuation of industrial enterprises to the country's interior, and rendering assistance to families of war veterans.

AZERBAIJAN: ADVANCING TOWARDS DECENT WORK

Azerbaijan has consistently pursued a policy aimed at achieving the strategic goals set in the ILO Decent Work Agenda and the Decent Work Country Programme for 2016–2020.

An important contribution to the accomplishment of these programmes is being made by the Azerbaijan Trade Union Confederation (AHİK), which work continuously to ensure decent wages, quality jobs, safe working conditions, compliance with international labour standards, and building a socially just economy. The struggle for fair work remuneration is a priority area of this activity.

In 2019, the country's President presented two important social reform packages that were supported by trade unions.

The implementation of the first package has brought up the minimum wage to the subsistence minimum level, and million citizens got wage raises. Simultaneously, the pensions and social benefits have been increased.

The second package of social reforms provides for increasing the minimum wage as from 1 September 2019 up to 250 manats, which will mean 38.9% higher than the subsistence minimum and raise salaries for another 400 thousand people. The reforms will embrace a total of 4.2 million people. In terms of purchasing power parity of the minimum wage, Azerbaijan ranks second among the CIS countries.

The strive to provide full and productive employment is part and parcel of trade union policies to achieve decent work. Over the last six months in 2019, about 60 thousand new jobs were created in the country, with unemployment reduces to 4.9 per cent

BELARUS: FPB TAKE STOCK OF THE YEAR

The 11th plenary session of the Council of the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus (FPB), held in Minsk 29 November 2019, reviewed the results of trade union participation in the parliamentary election, discussed the performance of the Federation in 2019, and identified socially important tasks for the near future.

During the election campaign, about nine thousand trade union activists were members of the territorial, district and precinct election commissions. In addition, in each region and at the FPB central office trade union headquarters were set up to coordinate the work of the observers. The statement of the FPB says the trade unions have not registered any systemic violations that could affect the election outcome.

In 2019, the Federation did a great job to protect workers' socio-economic rights in accordance with the programme adopted by the 7th Congress of the FPB. The unions kept under constant control problems related to the rates of the minimum and average wages, the provision of support to workers in solving their housing problems, the promotion of education and health care, and the improvement of the pension systems for those employed in special working conditions.

The FPB was actively involved in the process of amending the Labour Code, and made about 40 proposals. Owing to the trade union insistence, public control over compliance with safety and health legislation had been strengthened. Labour safety inspectors have been included in the staffs of district and city trade union organisations, with the task to help finding quick solutions to problems that arise on the ground

The main provisions of the development program and the set of measures to be taken have been the subject of nation-wide discussion in work collectives.

The trade union “road map” has much in common with the national Programme for the socio-economic development of Belarus for 2016–2020.

BELARUS: UNION LAWYERS ALWAYS ON WORKERS' SIDE

Over the first six months of 2019, trade union lawyers rendered help to more than two thousand people, with 23 employees reinstated to their jobs and more than 900 thousand roubles returned to people.

These data were announced at a workshop organised at the central office of the Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus (FPB) for prosecutors and trade union lawyers. Speaking to participants, FPB President Mikhail Orda stressed that the unions had recently mounted their efforts to promote the interests of employees using all resources necessary for this purpose.

Since May, each district and city organisation as has had a legal inspector working on a voluntary basis, whose duty is giving legal advice to

workers, rendering them assistance in solving difficult issues, examining collective agreements etc.

Along with the state authorities, the FPB participated in the development of a new version of the Labour Code. Trade unions have made 40 proposals relating to guarantees for conscientious employees, limitation of workers' material liability, elimination of discrimination against pensioners, etc.

The Federation signed an agreement on cooperation with the Prosecutor General's office in the field of protection of employees' rights and interests. The work trade unions do to protect the workers in the court deserves special mention. They not only help the employees prepare the necessary documents, but also accompany them throughout the trial.

Another important area of trade union activity was their participation in the preparation and examination of collective agreements. As from January 2020, the new Labour Code version will be in effect, and the unions will monitor the application of law in practice, in order to avoid distortions and abuse by employers.

“Our position is to protect always the employee, said FPB President, even when everyone is against him/her. They should see our support and feel that they are not alone.

GEORGIA: HIGH TIME TO RATIFY ILO CONVENTION 190

Irakli Petriashvili, President of the Georgian Trade Union Confederation, GTUC, called on the country's authorities to ratify ILO Convention 190

on Violence and Harassment ILO Convention (2019).

Georgian trade unions were among active participants in the development and adoption of this truly historic Convention at the 108th Anniversary International Labour Conference held in Geneva in June 2019. The GTUC believes the Convention and its accompanying Recommendation No 206 to be powerful tools for improving the work environments for millions of women, particularly those who belong to disadvantaged groups or are employed in the informal economy with low-paid and dangerous jobs.

“These documents can change our lives if ratified and implemented, -said Irakli Petriashvili. - The unions and myself will continue to fight actively for the elimination of violence at the workplace”.

KYRGYZSTAN: BILL ON UNIONS UNDER BITTER CRITICISM

The preliminary review of the draft law on trade unions caused heated discussions and opinion clashes at a meeting of the Committee on Social Affairs, Education, Science, Culture and Health Care.

Trade unions believe that the provisions of the draft law restrict their independence, impose internal life rules on them, limit democracy, violate the principles of collective leadership, place the unions in a subordinate position in relation to state authorities and render equal social partnership impossible.

According to estimates made by the Kyrgyzstan Federation of Trade Unions (KFTU) the document is in conflict with the ILO Conventions “Freedom of

association and protection of the right to organize”, “Right to organize and collective bargaining” and “Tripartite consultation (international labour standards)”, as well as with the country’s Constitution and Labour Code.

A particularly heated debate broke out when the bill was discussed at the plenary session of Parliament 2 October 2019. However, despite this the bill was put to vote and approved in the second reading on the following day.

The KFTU Deputy Chair Rysgul Babayeva said the adoption of this bill was a threat to the very existence of an independent trade union movement in Kyrgyzstan.

MOLDOVA: UNIONS INSISTENT ON STRONGER SOCIAL PROTECTION

At its meeting in October 2019, the Confederation Committee of the National Confederation of Trade Unions of Moldova (CNSM) discussed and approved the CNSM amendments to the draft laws on the social insurance budget and on the compulsory health insurance funds for 2020.

The CNSM welcomes the fact that the draft law on the state social insurance budget for 2020 provides for financing a whole number of measures to improve the social protection of the population, such as increased disability pensions; raised allowances for the cold season; supplemented electricity pay for low-income pensioners etc.

Simultaneously, trade unions believe that, when finalising the draft law, a single principle of indexation should apply to all types of social benefits and allowances, depending on the inflation rate.

As for the compulsory health insurance funds, the unions will insist that the government provide for measures to ensure deductions from the state budget in the amount not less than the current ones, with due regard for the rate of inflation, and increase the budget assignments for preventive services, including treatment in sanatoria.

Participants discussed the steps taken and offered by the government to eliminate contradictions between national legislation and ILO Conventions No 81 on labour inspection and No 129 on labour inspection in agriculture. They also considered the CNSM proposal to request that the government ratify ILO Convention No 102 on the minimum standards of social security and ensure its implementation.

MOLDOVA: YOUTH WANT DECENT JOBS AT HOME

As part of the National Youth Week, the CNSM jointly with a group of students from the State University of Medicine and Pharmacy organised a flash mob in the building of the Chisinau railway station under the slogan “Stop emigration!”

Young people chanted they wanted to stay at home, and demanded that favourable conditions be created in the country with competitive decent pay so that their relatives and friends who went to work abroad could return to Moldova.

The purpose of the action was to draw the attention of the authorities, social partners and entire society to the need for an effective socio-economic policy in the country that would protect the

interests of young people and minimise their emigration from Moldova.

MOLDOVA: PREMIER MEETS WITH TRADE UNIONISTS

Prime Minister Ion Chicu met with a delegation of high-ranking trade unionists headed by CNSM President Oleg Budza in Chisinau 24 December 2019.

The parties discussed a wide range of socio-economic issues including creating new jobs, raising the minimum wage, fighting the growth of illegal employment, and protecting employees' interests.

The Prime Minister briefed the union leaders on the Government's Programme of Activity for 2020-2023 aiming to modernise the national infrastructure, attract investments, create secure jobs in the country's regions, and improve the welfare of the people.

“The phenomenon of illegal employment, - he stressed, - can only be countered effectively by increasing the number of quality employment opportunities, and creating favourable conditions for investors who can create stable jobs throughout the country”.

The Prime Minister spoke out in favour of regular contacts with CNSM representatives in order to find balanced solutions to challenges facing the country.

UZBEKISTAN: LAUNCH OF TRIPARTITE COMMISSION

The Republican Tripartite Commission on Social and Labour Issues held 28 October 2019 its inaugural meeting in the main office of

the Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan (FPUz). The Commission, established by a Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers as a standing body for social dialogue, is composed of representatives of the government, the trade unions, and the employers' organisations.

The main tasks of the Commission are to:

- hold consultations and coordinate positions on issues of socio-economic policy and labour relations;
- maintain constructive cooperation, based on mutual consideration of positions, rights and interests;
- promote collective bargaining regulation of social and labour relations through signing a General Agreement and monitoring the progress of its implementation;
- familiarize with international experience;
- review and publish the annual reports on the implementation of procedures provided for in ILO Convention No 144 on tripartite consultation (international labour standards);
- consider periodically the non-ratified ILO conventions and recommendations, with a view to promoting their ratification and implementation, etc.

Participants approved the Plan of activities of the Commission for 2019-2020.

UZBEKISTAN: NEW LAW ON TRADE UNIONS APPROVED

Parliament of Uzbekistan (Oliy Majlis) considered and approved a new law on the country's trade unions 30 November 2019.

Participants in the session said the emergence of the new law was due to the fact that the current law "On trade unions, rights and guarantees of their activities" dated July 2, 1992 was outdated and did not reflect many norms of the Labour Code, as well as laws on employment, labour protection, non-governmental non-commercial organisations, etc.

The new law defines the basic principles of trade union activity, namely: legality, voluntariness, non-discrimination, independence and self-government, equality, transparency and openness.

Guarantees for the rights of trade unions and their organisations have also been established. In particular, the authorities and employers are not allowed to interfere in the inner affairs of trade unions, demand that they submit any documents on their activities, or stop the activities of trade unions on the initiative of state authorities.

The new law will provide for state support for trade unions' activity and guarantees of their property rights and measures to protect employees elected to the trade unions bodies.

The law will be sent to the President of the Republic for signature. After that it will come into effect.

AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION OF RAILWAY UNIONS SIGNED

Representatives of the GCTU-affiliated International Confederation of Railway Workers' and Transport Builders' Unions (ICTURWTB) attended an Executive Committee session of the European Transport Workers'

Federation (ETF) held in Brussels from 27-28 November 2019.

The ETF represents over five million transport workers (civil aviation, fishery, inland waterways, logistics, maritime transport, ports and docks, railways, road transport, tourism and urban public transport) from more than 200 trade unions of 41 countries of the European Union, the European Economic Area, and Central and Eastern Europe.

During the meeting, the ETF General Secretary Livia Spera and the ICTURWTB General Secretary Gennady Kosolapov signed an agreement on cooperation between the two organisations.

The agreement confirms their mutual desire to develop cooperation on the principles of openness to dialogue, coordination of programmes of activities in the region, implementation of joint training, information and analytical projects, and joint actions in defence of the interests of trade union members.

The parties approved a plan of joint projects for 2020-2022 embracing the following aspects:

- analysis of global economic changes in transport;
- survey of working conditions of employees involved in interstate transportation of goods and passengers;
- creation of trade union organisations and conclusion of collective agreements in outsourcing companies;
- analysis of conditions for achieving equal employment opportunities for men and women in the field of transport.

A calendar of joint actions for 2020 was adopted, including the ETF

presentation at the 58th meeting of the ICTURWTB Council (Moscow, April 2020) as part of the events to celebrate the 115th anniversary of the trade union movement of railway workers.

WORKING MEETING OF “ELEKTROPROFISOYUZ”

Delegations of trade unions of electric power, electrical engineering and fuel industry workers from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Russia participated in a working meeting organised by the Trade Unions' International “Electroprofsoyuz” in Baku from 21-25 2019, in conjunction with the Trade Union of Electric Power and Electrical Industry Workers of Azerbaijan.

Participants considered the system of social dialogue (social partnership) used in the “Electroprofsoyuz” member organisations and the ways of improve it.

They also shared experience in developing, substantiating and defending the position of trade unions in collective bargaining, and ensuring efficient control over the collective agreements and accords that had already entered into force. In addition to that, participants discussed forms of social dialogue and maintaining regular contacts with employers and state authorities in the field of regulating social and labour relations.

The meeting traditionally ended with the adoption of a final document that offers recommendations to trade union organisations of all levels as to how to improve social dialogue (social partnership) in the industry.

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THE GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS, GCTU, IS AN INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION ORGANISATION THAT WAS FOUNDED AT ITS FIRST CONGRESS ON 16 APRIL 1992.

ITS CONSTITUTION, WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE FIRST CONGRESS, WAS AMENDED AND SUPPLEMENTED BY THE SECOND CONGRESS OF THE GCTU 22 SEPTEMBER 1993,
THE THIRD CONGRESS OF THE GCTU 18 SEPTEMBER 1997,
THE FIFTH (EXTRAORDINARY) CONGRESS OF THE GCTU 26 MARCH 2004,
THE SIXTH CONGRESS OF THE GCTU 14 SEPTEMBER 2007,
AND THE EIGHTH CONGRESS OF THE GCTU 12 SEPTEMBER 2017.

THE BASIC OBJECTIVES OF THE GCTU ARE:
CO-ORDINATION OF ITS AFFILIATES' ACTIVITIES ON THE PROTECTION OF
SOCIAL RIGHTS OF WORKERS, STUDENTS AND PENSIONERS;
- ASSISTANCE IN THEIR PROTECTION OF TRADE UNION RIGHTS AND GUARANTEES;
AND
- ORGANISING TRADE UNION SOLIDARITY AND CO-ORDINATION
OF ITS AFFILIATES' INTERNATIONAL POLICIES.

THE GCTU BUILDS ITS ACTIVITIES IN CONFORMITY WITH THE UNIVERSALLY RECOGNISED STANDARDS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, WITH FULL RESPECT FOR ITS AFFILIATES' COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE AND THE EQUALITY OF THEIR RIGHTS AND DUTIES.
THE GCTU AFFILIATES NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTRES OF ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, BELARUS, GEORGIA, KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, MOLDOVA, RUSSIA, TAJIKISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN, AND ALSO 26 INDUSTRIAL TRADE UNION INTERNATIONALS.

THE GCTU IS READY TO CO-OPERATE WITH ANY OTHER NATIONAL TRADE UNION FEDERATIONS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR AFFILIATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

THE CONFEDERATION ENJOYS OBSERVER STATUS WITH THE CIS AND EURASEC INTER-PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLIES, THE CIS COUNCIL OF HEADS OF STATE, THE CIS COUNCIL OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, THE CIS INTERSTATE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, ETC.

INTERNATIONALLY, IT IS IN CONSULTATIVE RELATIONS WITH THE ILO , THE UN DPI AND THE ECOSOC.

THE GCTU SUPREME BODIES ARE THE CONGRESS, CONVENED EVERY FIVE YEARS, AND, IN THE INTERVALS BETWEEN THE CONGRESSES, THE COUNCIL AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES IS EXERCISED BY THE GCTU AUDITING COMMISSION.

PRESIDENT OF THE GCTU IS MIKHAIL SHMAKOV,
GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE GCTU IS VLADIMIR SCHERBAKOV

DEAR READERS

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