



# GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS



## **Public organisation «General Confederation of Trade Unions – International Trade Union Organisation».**

Founded 16 April 1992.



The General Confederation of Trade Unions is the legal successor to the trade union movement of Russia and the Soviet Union that dates back to 1905.

The GCTU affiliates 10 national trade union centres and 28 industry-based trade union internationals with a total membership of almost 50 million.

### **The GCTU was built with a view to:**

- consolidating the affiliates' efforts to protect the social and labour rights and interests of workers in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, promoting the rights of trade unions and the guarantees of their activity, and strengthening international trade union solidarity;
- ensuring comprehensive cooperation and mutual assistance of workers and trade unions in the CIS countries in implementing the goals and tasks as defined in this Constitution.

*(GCTU Constitution, Article 2)*

**The General Confederation of Trade Unions carries out its activities in the states where its member-organisations are located, viz.:**



**Azerbaijan Republic**



**Republic of Armenia**



**Republic of Belarus**



**Georgia**



**Republic of Kazakhstan**



**Kyrgyz Republic**



**Republic of Moldova**



**Russian Federation**



**Republic of Tajikistan**



**Ukraine**

## The GCTU enjoys official observer status with:



Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS);



Inter-Parliamentary Assembly and the Integration Committee of the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC);



Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia;



CIS Consultative Council for Labour, Migration and Social Protection of the Population;



CIS Council for Cultural Cooperation;



CIS Council for Cooperation in the Field of Education.

## The GCTU cooperates actively with the:



Executive Committee of the CIS;



CIS Economic Council and the Commission for Economic Issues;



CIS Interstate Statistical Committee;



Coordination Council of the International Union «Community of Public Organisations of Veterans (Pensioners) of the Independent States».

The GCTU promotes the development of the trade union movement in the countries of the Commonwealth, initiates solidarity campaigns to protect trade union rights and freedoms, and supports the struggles for better social and economic conditions of workers, higher wages, effective employment, and health and safety at work. The Confederation coordinates the activities of its affiliates aimed at developing labour and socio-economic legislations.

The GCTU cooperates on a permanent basis with interstate, inter-parliamentary and intergovernmental organisations, and participates in the elaboration and expert appraisals of international agreements and legislative acts. In this way it contributes towards the establishment of a single economic, social and humanitarian space within the CIS.



*Tauride Palace in St. Petersburg*

Over the last few years, more than 100 legal acts have been prepared for the CIS and the EurAsEC on the initiative of the GCTU or with its direct involvement.



*Headquarters of the CIS Executive Committee in Minsk*

These include, among others, the Charter of Social Rights and Guarantees for Citizens of the CIS Member-States, the Guidelines for Reforming Wages and Salaries in the CIS States, the Concept of the Model Labour Code, framework laws on social partnership, employment, the subsistence minimum, legal regulation of safety and health at work, labour protection services, education, and veterans, the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Regulation of Social and Labour Relations in TNCs Operative in the CIS, and others.



## **The General Confederation of Trade Unions is recognised and widely known at the global level.**

The GCTU enjoys



regional consultative status for Europe with the International Labour Organisation;



special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC);



association status with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI).



The proactive stand of the GCTU on the most important socio-economic problems has won it recognition in the international trade union movement.

The GCTU has established, and maintains, friendly relations with a great deal of global, regional and national trade union centres.



**The supreme authority of the General Confederation of Trade Unions is the Congress convened once in five years.**



## **CONGRESSES**



- The 19<sup>th</sup> Congress of Trade Unions adopted the Declaration on the Foundation of the General Confederation of Trade Unions (GCTU) of the USSR in October 1990.



- The 4<sup>th</sup> plenary session of the Council of the GCTU of the USSR adopted the Declaration on the Transformation of the General Confederation of Trade Unions of the USSR into an International Trade Union Centre, April 1992.

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Congress of the GCTU held in April 1992 took decisions on the struggle for decent wages, employment, social guarantees for workers, and mutually beneficial cooperation among the New Independent States.



- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress of the GCTU in September 1993 supported the aspiration of trade unions of the Independent States to coordination in the economic field and interstate cooperation.





- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the GCTU held in September 1997 approved the Guidelines for the Activity of the General Confederation of Trade Unions in 1997–2002.



- The 4<sup>th</sup> GCTU Congress held in September 2002 outlined the new priorities for the Commonwealth trade union movement, including the qualitative improvement of citizens' living standards and the creation of a common regional social space.



- The 5<sup>th</sup> (Extraordinary) GCTU Congress in March 2004 arrived at the conclusion that the transition phase in the development of the trade union movement in the Commonwealth countries was essentially over, decided to set up a GCTU Council, and introduced the offices of President, Vice-President, and General Secretary of the GCTU.



- The 6<sup>th</sup> GCTU Congress held in September 2007 demonstrated the unity of the trade unions of CIS countries, their willingness to strengthen the union power with concrete solidarity actions in the struggle against liberal globalisation, and act vigorously for the good of working people.



- The 7<sup>th</sup> GCTU Congress in September 2012 adopted the Guidelines for GCTU Activity in 2012-2017, showed the growing unity of the trade union movement in CIS countries, and raised the question of turning the unions into an influential civil society organisation.



The 7<sup>th</sup> GCTU Congress defined the main slogan of all trade union activity in the region for the upcoming five years as «Decent Work and Social Justice Provide Reliable Guarantees!».

As decided by the Congress, the Confederation concentrates its efforts on the promotion of social development, and the improvement of the human and workers' rights situation in all New Independent States where there are GCTU affiliates.



*Delegates to the GCTU 7<sup>th</sup> Congress*

## OTHER GCTU AUTHORITIES

The Confederation's authority in between the Congresses is the Council of the GCTU composed of representatives of all the affiliated organisations.

The everyday activity of the Confederation is administered by the Executive Committee of the GCTU.



The control functions are performed by the Control and Auditing Commission of the GCTU.



### The GCTU has the following Commissions:

- Commission for Trade Union Development and Organising, and for International Cooperation;
- Commission for the Protection of Workers' Social and Economic Interests and for Legal Issues;
- Commission for Labour Health and Safety, Environmental Protection, and Social Security;
- Commission for Humanitarian Cooperation and Information;
- Commission for Gender Equality.

To coordinate the work among young trade unionists, the GCTU Youth Council was set up.



Pursuant to the decisions of the GCTU 7th Congress, trade union solidarity campaigns are held in the region for:

- minimum wages not lower than the subsistence minimum;
- a decent pension.



The GCTU and its affiliates take an active part in actions organised by the international trade union movement for decent work and social justice.



## GCTU Leadership



President  
of the GCTU  
**Mikhail  
Shmakov**



General  
Secretary  
of the GCTU  
**Vladimir  
Scherbakov**



Vice-President  
of the GCTU  
**Viktor  
Karnyushin**

## Deputy General Secretaries of the GCTU



**Natalia  
Podshibyakina**



**Albert  
Potapov**



**Valery  
Yuriev**

## Chair of the GCTU Control and Auditing Commission



**Alexander  
Shurikov**

## GCTU AFFILIATES



### NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTRES

**Azerbaijan Trade Unions  
Confederation, AHİK**  
President Sattar Mehbaliyev



**Confederation of Trade Unions  
of Armenia, CTUA**  
President Eduard Tumasian



**Federation of Trade Unions  
of Belarus, FPB**  
President Leonid Kozik



**Georgian Trade Union  
Confederation, GTUC**  
President Irakli Petriashvili



**Federation of Trade Unions  
of the Republic of Kazakhstan,  
FTURK**  
President Abelgazi Kusainov



## GCTU AFFILIATES

**Kyrgyzstan Federation  
of Trade Unions, KFTU**  
President Asylbek Toktogulov



**National Trade Union  
Confederation of Moldova,  
CNSM**  
President Oleg Budza



**Federation of Independent  
Trade Unions of Russia, FNPR**  
President Mikhail Shmakov



**Federation of Independent  
Trade Unions of Tajikistan,  
FITUT**  
President Murodali Salikhov



**Federation of Trade Unions  
of Ukraine, FPU**  
Acting President & First Vice  
President Grigory Osovy



## GCTU AFFILIATES



### INDUSTRIAL TRADE UNION INTERNATIONALS

**International Association of Civil  
Aviation Workers' Unions**  
President Anatoly Bunarev



**International Amalgamation  
of Unions of Automobile  
and Farm Machinery Workers**  
President Andrey Fefelov



**International Organisation  
of Agro-Industrial Trade Unions**  
Chair of the Consultative Council  
Natalya Agapova



**International Confederation of  
Atomic Energy Workers' Unions**  
President Alexander Yurkin



**International Confederation  
of Water Transport  
Workers' Unions**  
Chairman Georgy Stolyarenko



## GCTU AFFILIATES

**Trade Union International  
 of Workers in Geology,  
 Geodesy and Cartography**  
 President Alexey Tarasenko



**Federation of Mining and  
 Metallurgical Workers' Unions  
 (Trade Union International  
 «Soyuzmetall»)**  
 Acting President  
 Asylbek Nuralin  
 General Secretary  
 Eugeny Pogodin



**International Confederation of  
 Railway Workers' and Transport  
 Builders' Unions**  
 President  
 Nikolay Nikiforov  
 General Secretary  
 Guennady Kosolapov





## GCTU AFFILIATES



### **International Trade Union Alliance of Housing and Public Utilities, Local Industry and Services Workers**

President

Alexander Vasilevsky

Acting General Secretary

Yakov Vartanian



### **International Trade Union Federation of State and Public Employees**

President Vladimir Savchenko



### **International Confederation of Health Workers' Unions**

President

Mikhail Kuzmenko

General Secretary

Guennady Scherbakov



## GCTU AFFILIATES

**International Trade Union  
Association «Consultative  
Council of Cultural  
Workers' Unions»**  
General Secretary  
Vladimir Kamen



**Federation of Timber and  
Related Industries  
Workers' Unions  
of the Commonwealth  
of Independent States**  
President Viktor Karnyushin



**International Organisation  
of Metalworkers' Unions**  
President Nikolai Shatokhin



**International Association  
of Trade Unions of Workers  
in Scientific Research  
and Production Cooperatives  
and Enterprises**  
President Serguey Zhirukhin



**International Organisation  
of Defence Industry  
Workers' Unions**  
President Andrey Chekmenev



## GCTU AFFILIATES



**International Confederation  
of Trade Unions of Workers  
in the Oil and Gas Industries  
and Construction Workers  
in the Oil and Gas Complex**  
President Lev Mironov  
General Secretary Melik Mirzoev



**International Organisation  
of Trade Unions of Educational  
and Scientific Workers**  
President Galina Merkulova



**Trade Union International  
of Workers in Radio-electronic  
Industry**  
President Ivan Gybin



**International Association  
of Fishing Industry  
Workers' Unions**  
President Vladimir Kruglov



## GCTU AFFILIATES

**International Organisation  
of Communications  
Workers' Unions**  
President Anatoly Nazeikin



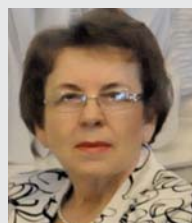
**International Confederation  
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Chair Vladimir Bazayev



**International Confederation  
of Construction and Building  
Materials Industry  
Workers' Unions**  
President Guennady Arzhanov



**International Association  
of Textile and Light Industry  
Workers' Unions**  
President Ludmilla Konovalchuk



**International Public Organisation  
«Confederation of Unions  
of Workers in Commerce,  
Restaurants, Consumers'  
Cooperatives and Various Forms  
of Business»**  
President Valentina Mitrofanova



## GCTU AFFILIATES



**International Federation  
of Transport and Road  
Maintenance Workers' Unions**  
President Alexander Shurikov



**International Association  
of Chemical and Allied  
Workers' Unions**  
President Alexander Sitnov



**International Trade Union  
Association  
«Elektroprofsoyuz»  
(«Electrounion»)**  
President Vassily Bondarev





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The information support of the GCTU's activity  
is provided by the journals «Vestnik profsoyuzov»  
(Trade Union Herald) and «Profsoyuzy»  
(Trade Unions), the newsletter «InformContact»  
(in Russian, English and French), the Information and  
Publishing House «Profizdat», the Trade Unions'  
Scientific Research Centre, the GCTU Central  
Archives, and the GCTU web-site: [www.vkp.ru](http://www.vkp.ru)