



inform **Contact**

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

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REGION'S UNIONS FACED UP WITH COVID-19

Faced with the coronavirus pandemic, the region's trade unions have thoroughly revised their current tasks and restructured their work accordingly. Since then, union work has mainly unfolded in the following key areas:

First. Protect the rights and interests of workers who had found themselves in a plight as a result of the economic crisis caused by lockdown constraints. The emphasis was placed on such actions as issuing statements and appeals, making demands and proposals, providing legal assistance, and settling arising conflicts.

Second. Support and participate in various anti-epidemic actions taken by the state authorities. The leaders of several national trade union centres were elected members of the emergency commissions (headquarters).

Third. Organise trade union-sponsored charity events, promote the volunteer movement, and devote special attention to workers employed at the forefront of the fight against the epidemic, i.e. doctors, power engineers, life support workers, law enforcement agencies, teachers etc. The accomplishment of these tasks

required the involvement of all the organisational, moral and material potential of the unions.

All this time, the General Confederation of Trade Unions (GCTU) maintained information contact with its affiliates.

The ban on mass activities and the restriction of personal contacts necessitated more active use of digital telecommunication technologies in the trade union work, as well as wider utilisation of computer equipment and the Internet.

Regrettably, despite the tense period, attempts were made in some of the countries to infringe on trade union rights. This forced the unions to look for adequate ways to respond to the attacks on workers' rights, which distracted a lot of effort from their antipandemic struggles.

GCTU STATEMENT ON CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

On April 27, 2020, the General Confederation of Trade Unions issued a statement which, among other things, reads:

"In today's insecure and unstable world, the interests of working people are being ignored, as the rules for the global economy are set by

transnational corporations and a narrow group of super-rich people. This often occurs with the inaction or connivance of national governments.

The socio-economic gains made by many generations of workers and their unions are under constant attack. Hundreds of millions of people around the world are unemployed, or have to toil for negligible pay at precarious jobs, suffer from hunger, malnutrition and lack of drinking water, and die from curable diseases. Over two billion people are languishing below the poverty line. All this gives rise to extreme nationalism and xenophobia resulting in increased ethnic conflicts and armed clashes. The reckless exploitation of natural resources hinders sustainable development, and puts at stake the future of the planet and its inhabitants.

Unfortunately, the situation in our region is also characterised by such factors as rising inflation, declining production, dropping population incomes, worsening key social indicators, growing costs of services and consumer goods, unemployment, inequality and, consequently, attacks on workers' rights. The income gap between the richest and the poorest segments of the population makes the situation explosive. To combat these negative trends, the trade unions of our countries must join forces to coordinate their activities aimed at protecting workers' interests.

“Recently, the situation has been aggravated by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic that has engulfed the world and created the danger of a crisis in the global economy. The crisis has already affected, and in the foreseeable future will even more

affect, the economies of our region, which can lead to enterprise bankruptcies, significant job losses, and cut-downs in wages and social guarantees. State authorities are taking measures to combat the infection, and minimise the damage caused to enterprises by forced work-stoppages. These measures generally find understanding and support from the unions.

“The unions stand for introducing additional economic incentives. These may be subsidies, tax benefits and cheap loans that would correspond with the real needs of enterprises as they attempt to ensure the proper volumes of production and the wage rates sufficient to maintain decent living standards for workers.

“The GCTU calls on its affiliates to get energetically involved in this process at national and sectoral levels, and show solidarity with the struggle waged by the world's trade unions to protect workers' socio-economic rights and interests. It is only by pooling the efforts of the social partners that we can stop the spread of the pandemic and revive the economic development in our countries

“This May Day will be marked on the eve of the 75th Anniversary of the Victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War. To win this victory, the peoples of our countries had to pay the price of untold human suffering, loss of millions of lives, and enormous material damage. All the more cynical is the malicious campaign of lies and slander unleashed on the eve of this date with the aim downplaying the contribution by the USSR to the defeat of fascism, and even putting the Red Army on a par with the Nazi aggressor.

Trade unions, as mass organisations of working people, must give a decisive rebuff to the «revisers» of history, and prevent fascism revival in any form on the territories of our countries or elsewhere in the world. Simultaneously, all must be done to secure a decent, comfortable old age for those who won this Victory - war veterans and home front workers.”

ECONOMIC RECOVERY FIRST PRIORITY AFTER PANDEMIC

In an open letter to the leaders of the national trade union centres of the New Independent States and the industry-based Trade Union Internationals of the region, GCTU President Mikhail Shmakov and General Secretary Vladimir Scherbakov proposed a number of measures to ensure economic recovery and people's health and well-being. The measures had been formulated on the basis of an analysis of the current situation.

The trade unions of the region's countries were invited to make use of the considerations when developing their own proposals for overcoming today's crisis at their national levels.

The socio-economic situation that had evolved by the middle of 2020 in the region's states, as in many other countries, is characterised by a deep crisis whose effects can be compared with those of the Great Depression. The COVID-19 pandemic has undoubtedly had a very serious global impact on this process. In addition to that, the pandemic is coupled with two other factors, namely with the drop in oil prices and the decline in the global economy, which means it is a systems crisis. As the ILO rightly notes, the crisis laid bare all faults of the

globalisation model imposed on the world, revealed huge deficits of decent work still existent in 2020, and showed that millions of workers are in a very vulnerable position. To get out of this plight, it is necessary to restructure the entire system of the world economy.

At the same time, the universal introduction of lockdown and restrictions on the movement of citizens provides a powerful impetus for the development of information technologies and computer equipment owing to a sharply increased demand for electronic commerce services, distance education, and the need to have equipment for working at home and from remote work places. However, no structural adjustment of the economy has so far occurred in the countries of the region.

The current crisis has a twofold nature as the economy has been hit simultaneously from two sides, supply and demand. Cardinal measures are needed to help both businesses and workers. But practice has shown that the selected forms of rendering this assistance do not always achieve the goals. For example, the interest-free loans and tax deferrals designed to support business amid practical shutdowns of numerous organisations (enterprises) do not help preserve business. Under these conditions, employers started to sack workers en masse, send them on unpaid leave, or sharply cut their pay. In early May, four out of every five workers in most countries of the region completely or partially stopped working.

The heavy burden of crisis hardships has mainly been placed on the shoulders of workers, namely the middle class and the low-paid and unprotected workers. Unemployment is

on the increase in most countries of the region, millions of people are balancing on the verge of misery, while the existing inequality is only growing and deepening.

In the meantime, the employers' associations in many countries of the region are trying to take advantage of the situation to liberalise labour legislations and reduce the social burden on business. The immediate response of the unions should be to condemn the corporate predators seeking to capitalize on the crisis. Measures to support entrepreneurs should be sought in the spheres of tax and budget policies, rather than in labour legislation.

It is important that the unions make full use of the opportunities provided by tripartite social dialogue to propose their solutions to the following tasks

1. Restore the macroeconomic stability and, simultaneously, put the economies of the New Independent States on the outstripping growth trajectory, on the basis of a new technological order.

2. Within the framework of the CIS and the EAEU, ensure coordination of actions to maintain the economic ties in order to support business and secure workers' incomes.

3. Ensure that measures being taken to stimulate the economy be aimed at providing full employment in production and creating safe and decent jobs. Use the initial period of the crisis, with unemployment gone up, for retraining and advanced training of personnel. Provide adequate protection to the unemployed.

4. Establish a universal minimum wage (minimum work remuneration rate) not lower than the subsistence

minimum or the minimum consumer budget. Compensation payments, incentives and social benefits are not to be counted in this sum.

5. Saving labour rights and guarantees. Prevent changes in labour legislations towards liberalisation and deregulation of the labour market.

6. Considering the development of the pandemic situation, decisions should be taken to provide guarantees to citizens working in the territories of other countries of the Union. The migration policy as a whole must be improved within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

7. Build strategic reserves of basic raw materials, commodities, foodstuffs and medications to support the production and imports of critical goods in volumes sufficient to stabilise the prices.

8. Improving the public health system. Provide all citizens in the region's countries with free access to high-quality medical care, including high-tech one, and appropriate effective medicines.

9. Extend social and economic support measures to trade unions and their associations as civil society institutions that have experienced a reduction in funding coming from membership dues and the use of available property.

GCTU APPEAL ON WORLD LABOUR PROTECTION DAY

On the initiative of the International Labour Organisation, the World Day of Safety and Health at Work is observed annually on the 28th of April, also marked as an international day in

memory of workers killed or injured in the workplace.

The General Confederation of Trade Unions notes that recent events related to the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic have made serious adjustments to the agenda of this year's World Safety Day, highlighting the fight against this global threat to the human race. Today it concentrates on stopping the pandemic, securing health and safety in the workplace, and saving workers' lives.

We express our respect, solidarity and support to medical workers of all levels and ranks who are at the forefront of the battle against the invisible and treacherous enemy, and we hope it will be defeated.

We believe the role of health and safety experts acquires special importance in providing workers and managers with reliable information necessary for understanding the symptoms of the disease, and selecting individual and collective precautions.

More than ever, an effective social dialogue absolutely indispensable at all levels to ensure the efficiency and consistency of measures to protect the health of all workers and, subsequently, overcome the negative consequences of the pandemic for the economy and the world of work.

ARMENIA: MINERS ON STRIKE

About 60 miners at the Akhtala mining and processing plant went on strike 10 February 2020. They had demanded an increase in wages, provision of overalls and catering at the workplace in the mine, surcharges for rock explosion risks, improvement of working tools and solving the

ventilation problem. As their requirements had not been met, they decided to call a strike.

The three-day strike ended after representatives of the strikers met with the manager of the plant, who promised to respond to their demands.

The action taken by the miners could have been more organised and effective if there were a trade union organisation at the plant. According to the chairman of the Republican Union of Miners, Metallurgists and Jewellers, Eduard Pakhlevyanian, the only and the best way to settle the employer-employee relationship at the enterprise would be to sign a collective agreement by which the employer would commit to recognize the powers of union as the legal representative of the work collective.

The industry's trade union intends to conclude a collective agreement with the plant management, which will help ensure decent working conditions in line with international labour standards.

AZERBAIJAN: AHİK FIGHTING COVID-19 EFFECTS

The coronavirus pandemic forced the Azerbaijan Trade Union Confederation of (AHİK), whose activity embraces all spheres of public life, to build its work in accordance with the new requirements

As part of social measures to protect the population from the implications of the coronavirus, the government decided to pay out lump sums to the unemployed. Measures are also being taken to create 90 thousand paid jobs by organising public works, preserve the wage rates, and secure employment for more than 900

thousand workers in the public sector. The monthly electricity consumption limits were increased, and tuition had been paid to 17 thousand students from low-income families at the expense of the state budget

In this situation, the trade unions believe the prevention of unwarranted cuts in the number of workers to be one of their priorities.

The AHIK Executive Committee has taken a decision on the distribution of food relief among the low-income families and pensioners in need of special care and attention. All in all, assistance has been rendered to 3,900 families in 76 cities, towns and districts of the country. The distributed food packets contained a total 68 tons of high-quality daily consumer goods that are essential to every family

In the context of coronavirus pandemic, trade union organisations intend to continue providing material and moral assistance to people.

BELARUS: FPB HOLDS 8TH CONGRESS

The Federation of Trade Unions of Belarus (FPB) held its 8th Congress in Minsk 28 February 2020, with the attendance of 575 participants, including 498 elected delegates.

In his activity report FPB President Mikhail Orda said the unions had achieved a great deal over the past five years. The most important result was that the role of trade unions in society had strengthened substantially.

Today, crucial decisions in the socio-economic sphere are taken with the direct involvement of trade unions. All draft documents affecting workers' labour and socio-economic interests

must undergo an examination by FPB experts. Alongside the legislative and executive authorities, the trade union centre was among the drafters of the law on the amendment of the Labour Code. The unions made almost 40 proposals significantly enhancing the guarantees for workers. At their suggestion, a number of documents were adopted to solve problems vital for the people.

Congress has highlighted the urgent issues to be presently addressed. They include ensuring the even development of all regions, building a fair pension system, securing employment and decent wages, insurance of workers against the risks of non-payment of wages by bankrupt enterprises, legal protection of workers in the course of enterprise reorganisation, monitoring the prices of socially significant goods, and social dialogue in private companies.

Particular attention will be paid to creating trade union organisations in private enterprises. Over the period under review, more than four thousand primary trade-union organisations have been built within the Federation's framework. Out of them, over 75 per cent have been set up in the private sector of the economy

The reporter devoted much attention to the preparations for the nationwide celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War.

BELARUS: FPB LEADER HEADS INITIATIVE GROUP FOR ALEXANDER LUKASHENKO

The registration of 34 initiative groups for the nominating candidates for the President of Belarus was completed 15 May 2020. FPB leader

Mikhail Orda was registered as head of the initiative group for the presidential candidate Alexander Lukashenko.

“Our Federation has never kept away from significant social and political events in this country,” he said. Traditionally, we are actively involved in organizing and conducting election campaigns. After all, the fate of the state depends on the choice each of us makes.

“Today we live in a socially oriented country, whose main values are the people and fair treatment of them. And the main task of trade unions is to protect the interests of working people and labour collectives. We intend to preserve the values on which our state builds.”

The presidential election in Belarus is scheduled for August 9. From May 21 to June 19, initiative groups will collect signatures in support of their candidates. For a nominee to obtain the status of Presidential candidate, it is necessary to enlist the support of at least 100 thousand citizens of Belarus.

Mikhail Orda said more than 1.5 million signatures have already been collected for Alexander Lukashenko.

BELARUS: SOLIDARITY IN COMMON EFFORTS TO COMBAT PANDEMIC

The FPB is doing a lot to bring together the efforts of all trade unions in the country in the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic.

In his Mayday statement, FPB President Mikhail Orda said that trade union committees in enterprises were allocating funds for buying protective equipment for the employees. Mutual

aid funds had been set up by the unions in different companies to render financial support to the employees in dire straits, especially those in enterprises experiencing economic hardships. He added that since the beginning of April about five million rubles had been spent on all these purposes from the trade union mutual aid cash desks.

The unions keep under special attention the industries where workers, owing to their professional duties, come into contact with large numbers of people and, therefore, are at increased risk of contracting the disease. For example, the employees in some boarding houses have been transferred to a shift work schedule. The unions financed the supply of hot meals for them. More than 6.5 thousand railway workers will be insured against the disease at the expense of trade union funds.

On the initiative of trade unions, measures are being taken in almost every industry to protect the most vulnerable workers. They include people with chronic diseases, older people, and pregnant women. They are either sent on extraordinary paid leave or transferred to remote work.

Special attention is paid by trade unions to the issue of insurance and material support of medical employees. For these purposes, a special fund has been built to ensure the public health workers who have contracted the coronavirus infection disease.

BELARUS: HOT LINES ON UNLAWFUL DISMISSALS

FPB launched a hotline on illegal dismissals of workers 12 June 2020, by

publishing the contact telephone numbers of the national trade union centre and its regional organisations. The lines are viewed as part of the system set up to monitor the correct application of the updated Labour Code, in force since last January.

All who believe they have been fired or threatened with dismissal without any legal grounds can make use of the hot line, and trade union lawyers will deal with each case separately.

GEORGIA: ONLINE SESSION OF GTUC COUNCIL

The Georgian Trade Union Confederation (GTUC) held an online meeting of its Council in June. In his opening speech, GTUC President Irakli Petriashvili expressed gratitude to the medical workers and representatives of all professions who worked tirelessly in the difficult conditions of the coronavirus pandemic to save lives and prevent the country's economy from collapse.

Irakli Petriashvili gave an analysis of the work done by the trade unions over the past three months in lockdown. Efforts were focused on protecting the rights of workers, providing them with free legal advice, supporting the legal disputes initiated by the unions to protect people who were unlawfully sacked or stripped of civil rights, and on charity events.

On the whole, the unions have helped both workers and the country to pass with dignity through a most difficult time of confrontation with the epidemic. For the upcoming recovery period, major and serious new events have been planned, which will, too,

require a high level of organisation, energy and solidarity.

GEORGIA: GTUC STATEMENT ON HEALTH & SAFETY

Although the Georgian Law on Labour Protection has given great powers to the Department of Occupational Safety and Health Inspectorate, the statement says, its primary link, namely the corps of labour inspectors, remains a problem to be solved. Their number is clearly not sufficient, and this impedes the effective functioning of the Department, as evidenced by the growing number of industrial accidents.

According to ILO standards, there should be one labour inspector for every 20 thousand workers in the country, which means Georgia must have at least 83 inspectors, while in fact they are only 30. In addition, the regional distribution of inspectors is not even, they are mainly concentrated in the capital.

“We believe the above shortcomings to be an obstacle to the effective implementation of legislation on safety and health at work,” the statement says.

KAZAKHSTAN: FTURK ELECTS NEW LEADER

The General Council of the Federation of Trade Unions of the Republic of Kazakhstan (FTURK) held a meeting 6 May 2020. With the country being in the state of emergency, the agenda was considered remotely.

General Council relieved Yerali Tugzhanov of his duties as FTURK President in connection with his transfer to another job. Satybaldy Dauletalin, First Vice President of FPRK, was elected the new leader of the trade union centre. His candidacy won the support of a majority of the General Council votes (57 for , 3 abstained, with 0 against).

KAZAKHSTAN: FTURK SEEKS GCTU AFFILIATION

On June 9, 2020, the FTURK Executive Committee considered the Federation's joining the membership of the General Confederation of Trade Unions (GCTU).

Considering the lockdown in the country, the vote was taken through remote polling.

Based on the voting results, Executive Committee adopted a unanimous decision on FTURK's entry into the GCTU. The President of the Federation Satybaldy Dauletalin stressed that "the General Confederation of Trade Unions has a considerable potential for organising support and solidarity actions, cooperation, and an exchange of work experience."

Executive Committee members agreed that the entry of the FTUR into the GCTU would strengthen the position of the country's trade union movement at the international level.

The appropriate application for membership has been sent to the

General Confederation of Trade Unions.

MOLDOVA: UNIONS INSIST ON FULL-POWER LABOUR INSPECTORS

The National Trade Union Confederation of Moldova (CNSM) welcomes the development by the government of a draft law to amend current legislation in order to re-entrust the State Labour Inspectorate with control functions in the sphere of health and safety at work.

The purpose of the paper is to return to the integrated labour inspection system in line with a number of ILO conventions ratified by the country.

Trade union experts propose that the provision subordinating the work of the State Labour Inspectorate to the requirements of the Law on State Control of Entrepreneurship should be excluded from the draft law. They believe this Law contains many restrictions extrinsic to the labour inspection system as running contrary to ILO conventions.

The country's labour inspection system has been distorted as a result of the reform launched in 2016 in the field of state control over entrepreneurial activity. There was even a proposal to dismantle the State Labour Inspectorate and transfer its functions to the State Taxation Service and ten other agencies vested with powers in the sphere of labour safety and health.

However, thanks to the trade unions, the authorities came to realise that such a move would violate their international commitments, and decided to keep the current inspection

intact. They also acknowledged that in the field of occupational health and safety the country had been marking time for many years in a row, and, therefore, the task of the government was to return to the labour inspection system that existed before 2016.

MOLDOVA: DISTANT WORK NEEDS FAIR LAW REGULATION

To protect personnel in the aggravating situation caused by the coronavirus epidemic in Moldova, many enterprises decided to minimise the presence of their employees in public places and transfer part of the workforce to remote work.

For this purpose, it was necessary to amend the Labour Code, that is, to regulate the order of labour relations in the remote work context. A proposal to this effect had already been finalised and submitted for public debate by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection.

The CNSM proposal, which, regrettably, had not been taken into account when finalising the bill, was that the employer should be obliged to resort to such an opportunity without making changes to the individual work contract. Moreover, the decision must be brought to the attention of the employee in a timely manner, including through electronic means.

After public debate, the document will be finalised and sent to the parliamentary commissions which will make their own conclusions. The unions will insist that the changes they have proposed be taken into consideration in approving the bill.

RUSSIA: UNIONS TASK FORCE KEEPING AN EYE ON OBSERVANCE OF LABOUR LAWS

The Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia (FNPR) has built a Task Force to combat the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. Its task is to help the affiliates keep a regular eye on the changes taking place in the world of work relating to: timely payment of wages in enterprises and organisations, staff reductions, downtime, provision of workers with personal protection equipment, and sick leave payments.

The Head of the Task Force, a FNPR vice-president Sergey Nekrasov, said that the monitoring results had shown that the number of idle organisations was still large, but there were increasingly more cases of work restoration at previously suspended enterprises. The trade union organisations were making sure that the Labour Code was not violated.

According to Sergei Nekrasov, the trend towards illegal dismissal of workers has virtually disappeared. The temporary lull can be explained by the fact that employers either have already got rid of part of the workers at the early stage of active anti-epidemic measures or are obliged to wait two months after the reduction notice, as prescribed by law. Cases of forcing unpaid leave on the employees are currently quite rare. Much commoner are the facts of wage reductions.

On the whole, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, FNPR affiliates keep abreast. Many have hotline phones. This provides feedback to union members and employees who

can always consult if they believe their rights to have been violated.

RUSSIA: FNPR HELDS NATION-WIDE INTERNET MAY DAY RALLY

Because a number of regions in the Russian Federation imposed limitations on mass activities in view of the spreading COVID-19, the FNPR Executive Committee decided to change the format of May Day actions traditionally held by the country's trade unions. Therefore, May Day in 2020 was observed as an All-Russia online event under the earlier agreed slogans: "For Workers' Rights! For the Constitution! ", "For the Indexation of Salaries and Pensions!", "Solidarity Stronger than the Infection!"

share experience of using distance forms during the celebration of International Workers' Solidarity Day

On May 1 FNPR held an online all-Russia rollcall involving the leaders of its affiliates, the national industry trade unions and the territorial offices alike. As he opened the event, FNPR President Mikhail Shmakov read out a message from Russia's Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin who congratulated the unions on the Day of International Workers' Solidarity. Speaker of the State Duma Vyacheslav Volodin addressed participants with an online greeting.

The All-Russia virtual May Day rally ended up with the adoption of a resolution which, in particular, says: «On the Day of International Workers' Solidarity we demand a strict observance of the Russian Constitution and the rules of law protecting employees' jobs and decent work, and their civil and property rights!» The document outlines the position of

millions of workers to be represented at the negotiation between the government, the employers and the trade unions aiming to develop joint anti-crisis measures in these hard times for the country.

WAVE OF ANGER SWEEPS OVER UKRAINE

On January 15, 2020, the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine (FPU) built a picket line outside the House of Parliament (Verkhovna Rada) in Kyiv to protest against the Committee for Social Policy and Protection of Veterans' Rights.

The action took place as Parliament was considering a number of bills to cut workers' rights and guarantees and strip the unions of their right to protect the interests of employees.

Participating in the mass protest action were leaders and activists of all the national and territorial trade unions, including FPU President Grygory Osovyi, who spoke at the rally. The action was supported by representatives of youth organisations and other NGOs active in the country.

A thousands-strong solidarity rally of protest was also held by the unions 30 January 2020 outside the House of the Cabinet of Ministers in Kyiv. Its participants gathered together to protest against the draft Law on Labour and several other bills conflicting with the country's Constitution and international acts, and infringing the labour guarantees of Ukrainian workers.

Similar mass actions were held in all regional centres and other cities and towns as part of the national trade union campaign "Wave of Anger".

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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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