

# *INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY AND KEY OBJECTIVES RESOLUTION ACTU CONGRESS 1997*

## 1 STRATEGY

- 1.1 To maintain an active involvement in our affiliated and related bodies such as ICFTU, ICFTU/APRO, CTUC, TUAC, SPOCTU and ICTUR.
- 1.2 To establish active collaboration and networking with key union national centres.
- 1.3 To facilitate the involvement of affiliate organisations in international matters.
- 1.4 To play a positive role in our region in campaigns sponsored by the ILO, ICFTU, ICFTU-APRO and other organisations in areas such as the promotion of ILO Standards including child labour.
- 1.5 To actively participate in the ILO.
- 1.6 To assist in the positive development of APHEDA to provide international humanitarian assistance to workers, refugees and disadvantaged communities in need.
- 1.7 To promote the development of an independent democratic and effective trade union movement in our region.
- 1.8 To work with community organisations on international issues of mutual concern.
- 1.9 To work with the international union movement on trade and investment liberalisation issues.
- 1.10 To work with the international union movement in campaigns that seek to reduce the disadvantages borne by the Indigenous People of Australia.

## 2 KEY ACTIVITIES

### 2.1 Active involvement with international affiliations

- 1] The major priorities of the ICFTU, ICFTU-APRO in our region to:
  - 1] defending trade union rights
  - 2] campaigning for employment and international labour standards including the abolition of child labour
  - 3] tackling the transnationals
  - 4] promoting the growth of trade union membership
  - 5] promoting equality, gender parity and the rights of Indigenous people
- 2] Our activities in these areas will concentrate on:
  - 1] SPOCTU/CTUC efforts in South Pacific
  - 2] Indonesian TU development - *report to be prepared*

- 3] PNG TU development - *report to be prepared*
- 4] Trade union and human rights in Burma
- 5] Continue representations to government, including Trade Minister Fischer
- 6] Publicise issues related to trade and labour standards
- 7] Work with ICFTU-APRO on practical initiatives in the region
- 8] Australian unions to raise \$25,000 to fund a proposed ICFTU-APRO program of freeing child bonded labourers in Pakistan
- 9] Initiate action to build on the FIFA agreement banning soccer balls made by child labour in areas such as achieving a child labour Free Olympics 2000
- 10] Developing the Indian Ocean initiative in collaboration with ITS and ICFTU structures
- 11] promote self determination and independence for Kanaky (New Caledonia)
- 12] promote, in international forums, the struggle for justice by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## 2.2 Establish networks with national centres

- 1] Steps will be taken to establish better understanding, information sharing and exchange of ideas directed towards practical outcomes with key national centres of relevance to the ACTU.
- 2] Initiatives to encourage the sharing of information will be taken. These could include:
  - 1] regular written reports between national centres on rights
  - 2] taking opportunities to visit the national bodies
  - 3] invitations to attend the ACTU Congress and reciprocal visits to conferences of other national centres
  - 4] exchange of personnel between national centres.
- 3] These initiatives to be directed towards achieving practical outcomes for both the ACTU and the other national centres.

## 2.3 Facilitate Involvement of Affiliates in International Activity

- 1] Affiliates can be assisted to take part in international activities in a variety of ways. These include:
  - 1] promote exchange of personnel and information between unions in Australia and overseas
  - 2] advice regarding campaigns, meetings etc. to which they could contribute
  - 3] advice to affiliates regarding issues such as child labour, ILO standards and globalisation/trade liberalisation
  - 4] maintaining a data/information bank as a source of information on international developments
  - 5] promoting industry specific action

## 2.4 Play positive role in international campaigns

- 1] This objective will be met by activity around other objectives
- 2] The ACTU and unions in Australia must be seen to be a positive contributor to campaigns in our region
- 3] The key campaigns at present go to the issues specified in [1] above, i.e.
  - 1] Union organisation
  - 2] ILO standards
  - 3] Child labour

## 2.5 Be active in ILO

- 1] We have played an active role in the ILO in the past. Recent actions by the Federal Government to seriously downgrade Australia's commitment to the ILO area are a major problem in regard to our future contribution.
- 2] We should take action along the lines of:
  - 1] ongoing representations to restore the normal delegation of four worker participants at ILO conferences
  - 2] consider issues which we believe could be worthy of study by the ILO
  - 3] be prepared to lodge complaints to the ILO regarding breach of standards by governments/employers

## 2.6 Assist Development of APHEDA

- 1] APHEDA is the ACTU's international development arm.
- 2] The ACTU should continue its work to ensure that APHEDA achieves its objectives in the international area.
- 3] The ACTU also encourages affiliates to co-operate fully in promoting the work of APHEDA through membership at affiliate and individual level, direct donations and involvement in overseas aid programs, general publicity and development education within the union movement in Australia.

## 2.7 Promote Trade Unionism in the Region

- 1] In our region, with the exception of New Zealand, PNG and Fiji, trade unionism has not established a firm footing. There is a need for Australia, as the strongest trade union movement in the region, to show a strong lead in assisting in trade union growth. For the South Pacific countries our work on trade union development has been through SPOCTU and CTUC.
- 2] Initiatives regarding trade union development have been canvassed in 1. The two countries/areas on which we should focus are:
  - 1] South Pacific, particularly Papua New Guinea
  - 2] Indonesia
  - 3] Burma

## 2.8 Work with Community Groups

- 1] The ACTU will continue to work with community based organisations which are also involved with international issues. In particular the ACTU will:
  - 1] maintain its membership with ACFOA (APHEDA) and participate in the formal consultations of agencies with DFAT and the Attorney-General's departments
  - 2] continue to work with like-minded organisations on campaigns such as abolishing child labour, Burma and promoting an independent East Timor
  - 3] develop its network with both community organisations and Australian based ethnic and Indigenous organisations concerned with human and trade union rights; these will include Korea and Cambodia
  - 4] work with ICTUR to encourage the involvement of legal and other professionals in the development of trade union rights
  - 5] work with community groups to assist with the supply of food aid to North Korea and

## Bouganville

- 6] utilise its international network to respond to requests for assistance from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in their strategies to internationalise native title issues and fundamental human rights issues.

### 2.9 Trade and Investment

- 1] Work with the ICFTU and TUAC to promote social development and trade union rights in the context of a critical analysis of trade liberalisation and globalisation.
- 2] Monitor developments in APEC and actively participate in relevant processes including the Asia Pacific Labour Network (APLN)
- 3] Play a part in the WTO related activities to promote fair labour standards in conjunction with the development of trade liberalisation policies.
- 4] work toward achieving a lifting of the US trade embargo on Cuba and overcoming the shortage of essential goods.
- 5] Disseminate information and education materials on the role of APEC and also the activities of unions in the Asia Pacific region re. its strategies and policies.