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Affiliated organization to the WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS  
[www.fte-energia.org](http://www.fte-energia.org) | [prensa@fte-energia.org](mailto:prensa@fte-energia.org) | <http://twitter.com/ftenergia>  
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16th World Trade Union Congress, 6-9 April 2011, Athens, Greece  
Proposals of the FTE of MEXICO

## 21. WFTU's principles

**ABSTRACT:** The history of humanity is determined by the class struggle. The principles define human actions, and for the working class, its principles can not be but class principles.

### 1. Introduction

The first thing that should be clarified, and explicitly, not only in declarations but in the very basic documents of the WFTU, are the principles for which we fight.

Principles are what define the class unionism and distinguishes the collaborationist unionism.

The Principles express the theoretical and political vision of the world proletariat. For many workers, there is a spontaneous knowledge, empirical and intuitive, but that knowledge should be elevated to the level of class consciousness.

### 2- Class' principles

Among the principles that must be explicitly defined, the FTE of Mexico considers: a) Class Struggle, b) Position against the State, c) Anti-imperialism, d) Independence class, e) proletarian unity, and f) International solidarity.

The history of humanity is determined by the class struggle. Our struggle is located in the context of class struggle. It is NOT enough to say it; it must be stated in the Statutes of the WFTU.

One of the major problems, difficult to understand, is the problem of the State.

These are only theoretical considerations but also political. The State is an instrument of oppression that stands above classes to manage and use violence. The WFTU must express a clear enough position on the matter.

The struggle of the working class expresses the set of the exploited and oppressed by capital in its imperialist phase. That gives class struggle a broad and comprehensive dimension which can only be anti-imperialist in its concrete expressions, whether political, economic, social and cultural.

Class independence is a vital concept for the labor movement in the world. In many places, the loss of class independence has led to tragedies. Class independence is a principle that involves the definition of a proper policy in all respects, precisely independent of employers, states, governments, imperialism and anti-labor bureaucracies.

Proletarian unity is a principle that to be true must be understood. The unit should not be reduced to a simple proclamation, can not be idyllic, nor an abstraction. The unit is primarily political and a means to carry on the struggle and meet the class's goals.

Solidarity also has a political implication and can not be reduced to declarative aspects but consciously practiced at all levels: local, national and international.

### 3- Conclusions

The WFTU has a duty to recover the concept of class struggle, distorted in the past, not only to clarify its goals to fight for but to distinguish among the bourgeois thought, which tends to clouds the consciousness of the workers to flatten.

Today, many things have changed but others remain. The unions are still means of resistance to capital. Sometimes fulfilling their basic duties, sometimes no. Between optimistic and pessimistic views, it is still a need for a revolutionary unionism, class, able to fully understand the immediate and historical objectives of the working class.

### PROPOSAL

The FTE of Mexico presents to the 16th World Trade Union Congress the following proposal:

#### WFTU's Principles

Workers and people are living in a world determined by the class struggle. Workers defend our immediate and historical rights. It is our aspiration to achieve social transformation.

The unity we require to meet the immediate and historical purposes is a mean to realize the program on its own. The class struggle is at a worldwide scale and the struggle that we propose is framed at the national, regional and

international levels.

Formulating the program, building the organization and practice international solidarity are the political tasks in the current era.

Unions are organizations required for resistance and struggle against capitalism. We claim the need to make unions democratic fight real instruments. Class independence is a prerequisite for developing a policy on its own.

The struggle of workers is no stranger to the struggle of peoples to defend their resources, territory, sovereignty, independence and social rights. Along with other social sectors, workers are part of the same struggle that, in strategic alliance allows us to establish a new solidarity society, a better world, today desired by for the workers and peoples.

Natural resources are a collective patrimony of the world. We defend the natural resources and physical infrastructure of nations, as a social right of peoples.

In this struggle, we propose to international solidarity as a political action to share experiences, support and suggestions.

Proletarians of all countries,  
Unite!

Energy Workers' Front (FTE), of Mexico  
[energy@fte-energy.org](mailto:energy@fte-energy.org)