



# elektron

Bulletin of the **ENERGY WORKERS' FRONT**, in **MEXICO**

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<http://ftemexico.blogspot.com> | *Volume 11, Number 6, January 6, 2011*

16th World Trade Union Congress, 6-9 April 2011, Athens, Greece  
PROPOSALS OF THE FTE OF MEXICO

## 6. Trade union and social rights

**ABSTRACT:** The unity of the workers starts by defending their labor, trade union and social rights. To do this, it is needed a convenient way of trade union organization, the unification of the labor conditions and a political practice class.

### 1. Introduction

Thousands of millions around the world are workers. But union membership is far below 10%. Moreover, the affiliate resignation is growing.

Worldwide, we coexist three generations of proletarians, located in the manufacturing, heavy industry and technologized sectors. In non-manufacturing sectors such as agriculture and trade, workers are also present, whether agricultural or service workers.

In the several sectors, working conditions are uneven. The same is happens in the case of their unions. Today, it coexist guild unions, business unions and industry unions. The worst thing is that most workers are not part of any union.

Many organizations have been denatured, bureaucratized and corrupted. In many cases, workers are suspicious of their unions, others are kidnapped in their own organizations, and bureaucracies are their prison guards.

In a pessimistic side, we believe that the unions arising within capitalism have become absorbed by capital. In this assessment,

the capital has encouraged among workers bourgeois ideology that sets them apart from class struggle to assume the collaborationism, away from social transformation.

In an optimistic version, unions involve the first form of opposition to the power of capital and have a revolutionary potential. The value of trade union action is very limited but the political potential is very important. However, for unions to properly assume its role as class consciousness is required.

One of the problems for workers in the world is the existence of a minority unionism, corruption of leaders, the passivity of the bases and worker's gentrification.

The challenge is to raise the sights of trade unionism. This requires the unity, expressed in the organization, and knowledge, expressed in political leadership and a program with the class's principles

### 2- Fundamental labor rights

#### 2.1 Organization of trade unions

To address the capital, organization is needed. At the present time, the old trade unions, trade unions or union guild companies are overcome

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historically. Today, the modern form of organization of the proletariat is in large unions by industry.

The existence of many unions, of all kinds, pulverized the trade union movement, inhibits class identity and discourages solidarity. The union split is a strategy of imperialism. The more trade union division exists, the more capitalism favors it self facing his historical, now, disjointed opponent.

Perhaps one pathetic case is that of Mexico, where the number of unions exceeded 12 000, of which 90% are not real but fictitious. Of the remainder, almost all are subject to the bureaucratic degeneration without social dynamics, and burdened by corruption and violence. At the same time, there are more than 60 centrals where none of those is true. There is the contradiction that members are fewer and fewer but the number of trade unions and centrals is growing. In all cases, it is a business unionism.

To overcome this situation of labor division in the various countries is relevant strengthen trade union unification process. In this process, there are two fundamental tasks: 1- To organize nonunion workers, 2- To build a national industrial union for each branch of economic activity. In general, would have 20 branches to which all workers would join. The national industrial unions must be unique within each branch and group manual workers, technicians, professionals and researchers in the sector.

The national industrial unions would be the base of unique centrals in each country. The task is not easy but is necessary. Union organizing is not all, it is also required the development of consciousness, where the task it must be approached by the unions themselves.

So far as to develop class consciousness, it can not be spontaneous, it is possible the practice of class unionism, asserting the workers' democracy based on collective decisions, preventing unions become strange devices to masses.

## 2.2 Collective labor recruitment

The first point of unity among unionized workers is the struggle for their common business interests.

Collective recruitment must be established by industry, given that it is the work process itself. The existence of so many unions prevents unnecessary unification of working conditions, introduces more competition between workers and solidarity deteriorates.

The Collective Labor Agreement is a pact between capital and labor, under current legislation. It also represents a collective heritage that is necessary to defend unified. To do this, we need collective action, among others; the strike itself is not an end but a mean.

## 3- Conclusions

The union struggle must not exclude the political action of workers, to avoid the conservatism and authoritarianism of the bureaucracy, as well as union degeneration and its incorporation into the State. Finally, the intake of the working class is not only the organization as salaried but as producers.

Unions state the difference between capital and labor. But to address imperialism the working class needs structured organizations at the level of the requirements of the class struggle.

## PROPOSALS

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

- 1- The WFTU calls its members to the unit, building national and international unions of industry, by branch of economic activity, and to fight for the unified labor collective recruitment in every work process.