



elektron

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

Affiliated organization to the WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS
www.fte-energia.org | prensa@fte-energia.org | <http://twitter.com/ftenergia>
<http://ftemexico.blogspot.com> | *Volume 11, Number 10, January 10, 2011*

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

10. Young workers

ABSTRACT: Capitalism has no youth policy, it can not provide answers, not even to define the concept of youth, and even less social responsibilities towards it. It is necessary to redefine the political tasks to address the problem in its multiple aspects.

1. Introduction

It can not be address the problem of youth without considering the set of social relations. ¿What does it mean to be young? A transition to work, it says, implying the job market, a source of social discrimination, segmentation and prioritization of the work force.

Empirical diversity from working leads to a loss of precise meaning to the identity of the workers themselves, even for social and political behavior.

Despite the decrease in the absorption of the labor market and the increasing unemployment, work continues to play a decisive role for individuals and societies, and continues to act as a central category, structuring and determining the most essential life experiences.

2- Youthful charm and disenchantment

The statistics are inaccurate. For some, in 2005, the number of youth aged 10 to 24 years in the world was 1 773 million; this is 27% of the total population. Of the economically active

population of 15 to 19 years worldwide, 37% were female and 49% were men.

According to the World Youth Report, in 2007 there were 1 200 million young people between 15 and 24, these is 18% of world population, and constituted 25% of working age.

The labor market consists of core workers, those with relatively fixed and stable employment, peripheral workers, located in ancillary activities, temporary and low paid, mainly women and foreign workers in the service of contractors, subject to poor working conditions.

Like other workers, young people face a reduction in working conditions and occupational health, employment and wages. Technological change pushes unemployment, labor flexibility and precariousness. Given the lack of stable and secure employment, youth entering the called informal sector, where they will spend long hours, earning little and with no social protection, or open unemployment.

According to the report, "Global Employment Trends for Youth", youth unemployment worldwide stood at 2009, 81 million young people. This represents an increase of 7.8 million people, ie almost 10%

2011, [elektron 11 \(10\) 2](#), FTE in México

over that recorded in late 2007. In percentage terms, the global youth unemployment increased from 11.9% to 13% during that period, an increase which the report describes as "more acute than ever". Only in 2009 the number of jobless youths around the globe had an increase of 6.6 million.

For many young people, including university, migration is an escape that leads them to face worst situations, by discrimination and violence.

Apart from unemployment, child and youth prostitution, trafficking of children and youth, and drugs have become a calamity for the youth.

This leads to the loss of social identity: youth violence, teenage stress, which affects the attitudes, values and political participation. The picture is also serious in this sector of the population in education and health matter, where 130 million youth are illiterate and another 10 million have been affected by the AIDS.

Poverty is the main problem. The World Youth Report 2005: Young People Today and in 2015, the United Nations Organization (UNO), almost half of young people in the world live in poverty and 130 million are illiterate. In 2009, the Organization of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) revealed that about 200 million, 18% of the population aged 15 to 24, live on less than \$ 1 a day and 515 million less than 2 daily.

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), more than 240 million children around the world are working, where 170 million are in exploitative and ruthless labor conditions.

In Mexico, 7.5 million young people between 12 and 29 neither work not even study. According to the 2010 annual report on children, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Mexico ranks first in physical violence, sexual abuse and murders of children under 14 years between the countries of the body. From 2006 to 2008 were registered in

the country 23 000 homicides of children aged zero to 17 years of age.

3- Conclusions

The world's youth live in deprivation, in a context of subculture, and with great vulnerability. Capitalism and their governments have no youth policy. Sociological studies are few. There is slippage in the States with limited bureaucratic visions.

The restructuring of traditional work, with journey and hours, promotions and fixed salaries is changing adversely. There is simply no work for everyone.

There are Malthusian views that attribute the problems to population pressure and conclude by justifying the Darwinism work, according to which the work is for the fittest. But capitalism is not in a position to guarantee employment for young people. ¿Does that mean capitalism no longer needs from employment? Or, ¿we must to work less to work all?

An alternative is to reduce the normal working day and night work, as well as establish the Youth Day for young people to combine work and study. The most important thing is to redistribute social wealth and work. This poses the social reorganization of work, to be employed and to have more free time.

PROPOSALS

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

- 1- For the WFTU youth involves a set of psychosocial relationships necessary for the transformation of the wage-earning world. At this time, capitalism degrades the life and marginalized youth.
- 2- The WFTU calls for young workers to join the workers' struggle and to create, national and international, organizations, united and in mobilization.