

PART FOUR

# Global Union Federations



# Global Union Federations

## International Transport Workers' Federation

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), a federation of 650 transport unions, has shifted its focus to concentrate closely on campaigns, international networking and union organising.

Based on international solidarity since it was founded in 1896, following cooperation between Dutch and British maritime unions during a strike, the ITF uses its industrially-based structures to build the union strengths of port workers, seafarers, aviation workers, road transport and railway workers.

The ITF's 60-year old Flag of Convenience campaign supports the rights of seafarers in the world's oldest globalised industry. Maritime unions' efforts culminated in 2003 in the first ever internationally bargained, worldwide collective agreement.

In road and rail transport as well as in ports and airports, the ITF is dealing with multinational corporations and developing policies to build industrial muscle in today's boom industry - the logistics sector. Here, as in the passenger transport industry, changing employment structures have led the ITF to look closely at the profile age and gender of the workforce.

Led by its affiliated unions, today's ITF is responding to globalisation with a planned approach to organising along global transport and supply chains, coupled with strategic campaigns to ensure transport workers' rights are respected the world over."



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## International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers Federation

The International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers Federation is a Global Union Federation bringing together 217 affiliated organisations in 110 countries.

The aims of the ITGLWF are to draw up policy guidelines on important issues for unions in the sectors and coordinate the activities of affiliates around the world. It acts as a clearing house for information of relevance to the daily work of unions and undertakes solidarity action in support of unions in the sector.

The ITGLWF runs a programme of education and development aid to assist unions in developing countries in organising workers and it actively lobbies intergovernmental organisations and other relevant institutions to ensure the interests of workers in the sectors are taken into account in decisions made at international level.

The ITGLWF is funded by subscriptions from its affiliated organisations. Education and development aid programmes are funded by donor organisations. The Congress is the supreme authority of the ITGLWF and meets once every four years to decide general policy. It is composed of delegates from affiliated organisations.

The Executive Committee meets once a year and is responsible for directing the activities of the ITGLWF and implementing the decisions of the Congress. It provides representation on the basis of number of paid-up members by country and currently includes representation from 34 countries.

While the overall priorities and policies of the ITGLWF are handled at global level, regional activities and relations are covered by the regional organisations which operate as an integral part of the ITGLWF, though each has its own decision-making bodies and conducts its own activities: FITTVCC/ORI, the Americas' regional organisation, is based in Venezuela; ITGLWF/ERO, the European regional organisation, is based in Belgium; TWARO, the Asian regional organisation is based in Japan; the African Regional Consultative Council, is based in South Africa.

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## Education International

EI is the Global Union for teachers and other education workers, with 29 million members in 348 member organisations in 166 countries and territories. There are four regional conferences: EI Europe, including the European Trade Union Committee on Education; EI Asia and Pacific, EI Africa, and EI Latin America. Member organizations in North America and the Caribbean meet regularly in a fifth regional grouping.

EI members come from all levels of education – from pre-school to university. Over 50 percent of members are women, and gender equity is mandated by EI statutes in its governance structures.

The World Congress bringing together over a thousand delegates meets every three years, and regional conferences meet between Congresses. The Executive Board currently has 27 members from 24 countries.

EI is committed to promote the right to education for all persons in the world, without discrimination, and to this end:

To pursue the establishment and protection of open, publicly funded and controlled educational systems, and academic and cultural institutions;

To promote the political, social and economic conditions that are required for the realization of the right to education in all nations and for the achievement of equal educational opportunities for all.

Together with advocacy, another focus for EI is solidarity. Development cooperation programs of solidarity between members in the industrialised and developing countries to support leadership training and capacity building. A principal focus is the development of union capacity to work for Education for All in each country. This is combined with an extensive program aimed at the prevention of HIV/AIDS. Programs are currently underway in 27 countries.

EI also applies the principle of linking local mobilization with global advocacy in defense of human and trade union rights. Teacher union leaders are often targeted either by governments or by armed groups. When leaders are attacked, or imprisoned, or member unions repressed, EI launches Urgent Action Appeals and affiliates respond with waves of protests to the governments concerned.



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## Public Services International

PSI is the Global Union Federation for public sector trade unions. PSI represents some 650 affiliated trade unions in 150 countries. Together, these unions organise more than 20 million public sector workers, providing services in central government,

health and social care, municipal and community services, and public utilities.

PSI represents the interests of public sector workers. Since 1907, when it was founded, PSI has co-ordinated public sector struggles for workers' rights, social and economic justice, and efficient and accessible public services.

PSI campaigns to improve the quality of public services. This involves working closely with international organisations, national governments, consumer lobbies, community organisations and NGOs.

PSI solidarity and union development projects help affiliated unions by providing training and capacity-building support on the ground, especially in countries where trade unions are fighting for recognition.

PSI presents the public sector case at the International Labour Organisation and other United Nations bodies, the World Bank and the regional development banks, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organisation, the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development and many others.

PSI has active women's committees at global, regional and sub-regional levels, and all decision-making structures are based on gender parity.

PSI has regional bases in Barbados, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, India, Japan, Lebanon, Malaysia, New Zealand, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Togo, Ukraine and the USA.

PSI works closely together with ICFTU - the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions - and other union federations, in particular EI, the Education International, and the European Federation of Public Service Unions



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## UNI Global Union

UNI is the Global Union for skills and services with 15 million members in 900 unions and four regional organisations, UNI-Africa, UNI-Americas, UNI-Asia & Pacific and UNI-Europa, each of which is campaigning for a real social dimension to regional economic integration.

UNI Global Union is working to build union growth and represents members in the following sectors: Commerce, Electricity, Finance, Gaming, Graphical, Hair & Beauty, IT, Business Services, Industry, Media and Entertainment, Post, Cleaning and Security, Telecoms, Tourism and Social Insurance. Each sector is a global union in its own right with action plans aimed at organising, raising industry-wide standards and negotiating global agreements with companies.

To develop issues across sectors, UNI has three groups which are working to promote global equality, to champion youth and to bring professionals and managers into unions.



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## The Building and Woodworkers International

The Building and Woodworkers International (BWI) is the Global Union Federation for unions covering workers in the building, building materials, wood, forestry and related areas of work. The BWI has 338 national affiliates in Africa and the Middle East (88), Asia (75), Europe (119), North America (7), Latin America and the Caribbean (49)

With millions of children at work, many of them working as labourers in construction, BWI promotes practical solutions to the child labour crisis through schooling, campaign and organising. In India, the BWI campaign *Children Should Learn Not Earn!* has set up schools for child workers, pulling thousands out of building sites and getting them into the classroom.

Similarly, the BWI *Gender Empowerment* programme has helped train thousands of women workers in union work to combat low pay and dangerous work in construction and wood and forestry.

With 100,000 workers dying every year from asbestos related diseases, *Health and Safety* is a key concern. BWI- affiliated unions are campaigning for a global ban on asbestos. In Latin America, bans have already been implemented in several countries.

BWI has succeeded in gaining the inclusion of the ILO core labour standards in systems for certification of wood and forestry products, such as Forestry Stewardship Council and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes. In Africa this has helped unions to fight poverty through sustainable forestry and better working conditions.

In the defence of human and workers rights BWI helps train promoters of trade union and humans rights and backs legal actions with global solidarity work.

With more than 10 multinational construction and wood industry companies signed up to global agreements BWI has given practical meaning to international social dialogue and the promotion of ILO Conventions. BWI has lobbied the World Bank for the adoption and implementation of ILO core labour standards as mandatory to procurement policies.

In May 2005 mandatory clauses were added to World Bank construction contracts on forced labour, child labour, non-discrimination, and other labour standards. In 2006, the private sector wing of the Bank required its clients to respect core labour standards.



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## International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations

The International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF) is the Global Union Federation of trade unions representing workers employed in agriculture and plantations; the preparation and manufacture of food and beverages; hotels, restaurants and catering services; and all stages of tobacco processing

The IUF is composed of 348 trade unions in 127 countries with a combined membership of over 12 million workers. From its founding in 1920, international labour solidarity has been the IUF's guiding principle. The IUF builds solidarity at every stage of the food chain, international organising within transnational companies and supporting global action to defend human, democratic, and trade union rights

**Strengthening Affiliates.** The IUF exists to strengthen member unions through mutual support. It does this through: supporting affiliates in organising drives and in conflicts with employers and governments; coordinating and implementing solidarity and support actions; sector-wide organising; research and publications; promoting women's equality at the workplace, in society and in the trade union movement; and trade union education programmes

**International Recognition and Collective Bargaining.** No IUF sectors is unaffected by globalisation. The IUF seeks to create an international union counterweight to the power of transnational companies. We fight for union recognition at every level, including international level. In today's global economy our goal must be internationally negotiated rights and standards within global companies

**Defending Human, Democratic and Trade Union Rights.** The active defence of trade union, human and democratic rights is an essential part of IUF ongoing activity. Defending these rights is a fundamental class issue.

The IUF gives active support to movements everywhere struggling against oppression. We respond internationally to every attack on our affiliates and on the labour movement. We are committed to building alliances with human rights, environmental, consumer and other organisations in civil society who share our objectives.

**Regions.** IUF regional organisations exist in Africa, Asia/Pacific, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America and North America. The regions are autonomous, and pursue independent activities in close collaboration with the IUF and its governing bodies. In addition, sub-regional bodies exist to coordinate activity at that level.



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# International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine & General Workers' Unions

The ICEM represents 20 million members through its 403 Affiliated national trade unions in 122 countries. The ICEM Sectors are:

- **Energy:** Oil and gas exploration, extraction, production including refining and distribution; Electrical, including Nuclear, generation and distribution.
- **Mining and Quarrying:** Exploration, extraction and processing of hard coal and lignite, metallic and non-metallic minerals, clays, sands, gravels and gems. Also, diamond and gem sorting, cutting and polishing, and ornament and jewellery manufacture.
- **Chemicals and Bioscience:** Research, production and refining of chemical elements, compounds and products, pharmaceuticals, chemo-technical products, petrochemicals, agrochemicals, plastics, plastic products and components and artificial fibres. Also, research and manufacture of products and materials resulting from biotechnical methods or genetic engineering techniques.
- **Pulp and Paper:** Production and conversion of pulp, paper, paperboard and paper packaging.
- **Rubber:** Research and manufacture of synthetic rubber and composites and fabrication of both natural and synthetic rubber products.
- **Glass, Ceramics, Cement:** Research and manufacture of flat glass, container glass, glass fibres, household glass and all other glass products; all types of pottery, clay and ceramic materials; Cement, non-metallic minerals, composites and products.
- **Environmental Services:** Waste disposal and recovery, pollution control, recycling, cleaning and maintenance, laundry, dry cleaning and hygiene services, portage and security and associated activities.

**Major Activities and programmes:** The ICEM is dedicated to practical union solidarity globally. The GUF unites unions in its sectors and provides real life union-building support to unions in developing countries through donor-funded projects. The ICEM has taken the lead globally in a campaign to curb the escalating use of contract and agency labour by promoting the sustainability

and benefits of full-time and permanent employment. The ICEM is working with the world's major mining companies to stem the spread of HIV/AIDS by building medical clinics for full community access near mining sites in remote regions.



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## International Metalworkers' Federation

The International Metalworkers' Federation (IMF) represents the collective interests of 25 million metalworkers from more than 200 unions in 100 countries. Founded in 1893, the federation covers industries such as steel, non-ferrous metals and ore mining, mechanical engineering, shipbuilding, automobile, aerospace, electrical and electronics.

The IMF aims to improve metalworkers' wages, working and living conditions and to ensure that metalworkers' rights are respected. To achieve this, the IMF works with its national affiliates and at a global level to:

- Build a global metalworkers' movement,
- Strengthen international solidarity,
- Engage with transnational corporations,
- Secure workers' rights, including the rights of women workers, and
- Fight for sustainable economic development.

The IMF keeps abreast of developments in the metal industry, servicing its member unions with research on economic and social issues and fighting for trade union and human rights.

In addition to organising industrial and regional conferences, the IMF brings together trade union representatives to discuss international union policy on subjects such as trade and development, organising the unorganised and health and safety.

Since 2002, the IMF has signed a series of International Framework Agreements (IFAs) with transnational companies, establishing core labour standards as a minimum requirement for the company and its suppliers.



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## International Federation of Journalists

*'There can be no Press Freedom if Journalists Exist in Conditions of Corruption, Poverty or Fear'*

The IFJ is the Global Union for journalists. It was first created in 1926 and relaunched in its modern form in 1952. Today it represents more than 550,000 journalists in 150 national unions covering 119 countries

The IFJ campaigns vigorously for journalists rights. It promotes trade union development work and insists that professional rights can only be defended when there are independent, vigorous and representative trade unions for journalists.

The IFJ works closely with agencies of the United Nations and carries out media development work to combat social exclusion in partnership with journalists' unions. The Federation has regional offices in Latin America, Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

A primary concern for the IFJ is the safety and security of journalists and media staff and the IFJ is the founder, with leading media employers, of the International News Safety Institute, a specialised NGO dedicated to improving levels of protection for journalists and media staff.

The IFJ is closely associated with campaigns at national, regional and global level to improve levels of media pluralism and to counter the threat to democratic rights and secure working conditions posed by excessive media concentration. With other trade union groups in the media and entertainment sector the IFJ works to promote public interest values in media, to defend authors' rights and to promote decent working conditions in journalism.



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## International Arts and Entertainment Alliance

This Global Union Federation comprising FIM, FIA and UNI-MEI is a truly independent and representative body, recognised by ICFTU and, with respect to its European activities, by ETUC. Recent activities have included workshops in Latin America through the regional coordination of IAEA (CREA) to promote the rights of workers in film production. Alliance members are recognised by WIPO, UNESCO and the ILO and the Council of Europe and the European Union. Additionally, FIM holds observer status with the International Organisation of the Francophonie.

**The International Federation of Actors (FIA)** was set up in 1952 by the French performers' union and its sister organisation in the UK and currently represents more than 100 performers' unions, guilds and professional associations in over 75 countries.



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**The International Federation of Musicians (FIM)**, founded in 1948, is the only international organisation representing musicians worldwide. It has member unions in over 70 countries.



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**UNI-MEI**, the media and entertainment section of UNI Global Union, represents broadcasting workers, film and theatre technicians and staff, specific creative and professional groups (writers, screenwriters, directors, visual artists), other

arts and entertainment workers, as well as workers in sports and a variety of related groups.



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## Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD

The Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) is the official voice of the labour movement at the Organisation for Cooperation and Development. TUAC has played an important role in OECD work for more than 40 years, bringing the voice of more than 60 million workers in the 30 industrialised countries to the international policy debate. TUAC's affiliates consist of 56 national trade union centres. They finance TUAC activities, decide on policy and elect TUAC officers.

TUAC was founded in 1948 as a trade union advisory committee for the European Recovery Programme – the Marshall Plan. TUAC has represented organised labour's views to the OECD from the moment of its formation in 1961.

With the onset of globalisation and the debate in the OECD as a potential regulator, TUAC has stepped up work with Global Union partners to seek to ensure that global markets are balanced by respect of workers' rights and effective rules governing multinationals.

Through consultations with OECD governments and experts, TUAC co-ordinates and represents the views of the trade union movement in the industrialised countries. It also coordinates trade union input to the annual G8 economic summits and employment conferences. The main areas of TUAC work are:

- Economic policies in general (including preparation of the trade union statement for the G8 Economic Summits and Employment Conferences); Structural adjustment and labour market policies; sustainable development.
- Education and training policy; Pension and retirement security; The impact of globalisation on employment;
- Governance for global markets, including implementation of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and OECD relations with non-member countries notably in Central and Eastern Europe and in Asia.

OECD instruments such as the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises are not binding in a legal sense, but they can be effective as a tool for defending workers' rights. A major revision in 2000 added new guidelines (e.g. on human rights and anti-corruption) and strengthened others (e.g. the environment). The revision also enhanced the implementation mechanisms of the Guidelines and extended their reach to business operations worldwide and sub-contractors. TUAC assists unions in raising cases with governmental National Contact Points designed to ensure that the Guidelines are implemented.

TUAC was also involved from the start in the 2003-2004 revision of the OECD Principles of Corporate Governance in the wake of corporate scandals, taking part in the Steering Group that developed the revised text.



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# International Trade Union Confederation



The new International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) brings together the affiliates of the ICFTU, the World Confederation of Labour, and national union centres which were not previously affiliated to either international. With some 180 million members from more than 300 organisations in 157 countries and territories, the ITUC is well placed to exert real influence on world affairs.

The ITUC's activities will be based on the Programme Resolution adopted at its Founding Congress on 1 – 3 November in Vienna. This policy and action framework involves combining advocacy with campaigning and practical solidarity, forming the basis of a new trade union internationalism. This means putting international challenges right at the heart of national trade union work, and linking union members and activists into international activities in a deeper and more systematic way than in the past.

The ITUC will cooperate with the Global Union Federations and the OECD-TUAC in a structured partnership, with a Global Unions Council providing the platform for cooperation and joint activities. This will help ensure maximum cohesion between the work of the GUFs in their different sectors, and that of the ITUC on issues that reach across sectors.

With new unified structures at the regional level, the impact of the ITUC in the various continents will also be strengthened, bringing a stronger voice and more effective action in tackling concerns such as regional economic agreements and in delivering cross-border solidarity.

The ITUC will also work with other civil society organisations on issues of common interest, building on existing experience in campaigning on poverty and debt, globalisation, child labour, and a host of other matters.

The unification of the world trade union movement into the ITUC is a historic step, which will open new pathways to confront the many challenges facing working women and men worldwide. Ultimately, the success of the new International will depend on the embedding of the new trade union internationalism at all levels of the trade union movement around the world.

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# Acronyms

<b>AFL</b>	American Federation of Labor
<b>ANC</b>	African National Congress
<b>AWS</b>	Solidarity Electoral Action
<b>AZACTU</b>	Azanian Confederation of Trade Unions
<b>COSATU</b>	Congress of South African Trade Unions
<b>CAFTA</b>	Central American Free Trade Agreement
<b>CGIL</b>	Italian General Federation of Labor
<b>CMLC</b>	Consolidated Maritime Labour Convention
<b>CNT</b>	Confederacion Nacional del Trabajo (National Confederation of Labor)
<b>CUSA</b>	Council of Unions of South Africa
<b>EI</b>	Education International
<b>ETA</b>	Ethiopia Teachers Association
<b>ETUC</b>	European Trade Union Confederation
<b>FIA</b>	International Federation of Actors
<b>FILTEA</b>	Federazione Italiana Lavoratori Tessile e Abbigliamento (textile and garment workers' union)
<b>FIM</b>	International Federation of Musicians
<b>FOSATU</b>	Federation of South African Trade Unions
<b>GATT</b>	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
<b>GUF</b>	Global Union Federations
<b>IAEA</b>	International Arts and Entertainment Alliance
<b>IBW</b>	International Building and Wood Workers Federation
<b>ICEM</b>	International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Union
<b>ICFTU</b>	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
<b>ICMM</b>	International Council on Mining and Metals
<b>IFAs</b>	International Framework Agreements
<b>IFI</b>	International Financial Institutions
<b>IFJ</b>	International Federation of Journalists
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization

<b>ILWU</b>	International Longshore and Warehouse Union's
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>IMF</b>	International Metalworkers' Federation
<b>INSI</b>	International News Safety Institute
<b>ITF</b>	International Transport Workers' Federation
<b>ITGLWF</b>	International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers' Federation
<b>ITUC</b>	International Trade Union Confederation
<b>IUF</b>	International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations
<b>KWTU</b>	Korean Women's Trade Union
<b>Mercosur</b>	Economic Community of West African States and the Southern American Common Market
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>MHIS</b>	Micro Health Insurance Schemes
<b>MOOS</b>	Making Offshore Outsourcing Sustainable
<b>NACTU</b>	National Council of Trade Unions
<b>OECD</b>	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>PSI</b>	Public Services International
<b>SACTU</b>	South African Congress of Trade Unions
<b>SATLC</b>	South African Trades and Labour Council
<b>TUAC</b>	Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD
<b>TUCSA</b>	Trade Union Council of South Africa
<b>UGT</b>	Union Generale de Trabajadores (General Union of Workers)
<b>UN</b>	United Nation
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNI</b>	UNI Global Union
<b>UNI-MEI</b>	UNI Global Union - Media and Entertainment International
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UWUSA</b>	United Workers' Union of South Africa
<b>WCL</b>	World Confederation of Labour
<b>WFTU</b>	World Federation of Trade Unions
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organisation



