

Manifesto of the International Labour Network of Solidarity and Struggles

This text, approved at the meeting in Chianciano Terme (Italy) in November 2025, updates the manifestos approved at the first five meetings of the Network held in March 2013 in Saint-Denis (France), in June 2015 in São Paulo (Brazil), January 2018 in Madrid (Spain), April 2022 in Dijon (France), and September 2023 in São Paulo (Brazil).

The International Labour Network of Solidarity and Struggles was founded in March 2013. More than 12 years have passed. Through this Network, we have the ambition to build a useful labour tool, both for the defense of the demands of workers in today's society and for the construction of a balance of power that allows for a break with the capitalist system, in favor of social emancipation, the right of peoples to self-determination, equality, democracy, respect for all people, etc.. This requires having the capacity to take stock of these twelve years, to be more effective in the future.

The balance is positive in many aspects, but how can it be generally described as such when the exploitation of workers remains the norm on the planet? When capitalism, in its incessant search for profits for a minority, organizes the plundering of raw materials in the poorest regions of the world and creates the conditions for ecological catastrophes of different types, which endanger the very future of the Earth? While imperialisms, colonialist states, fascist, military, and authoritarian regimes are present on all continents, with what that means in terms of genocide, wars, massacres, repression, etc.?

Strengthening our International Labour Network

Capitalism still exists, so our tool has not been effective enough. However, this is not about denying what the Network has achieved. Support for trade union and popular struggles, denunciation of employer and state repression, and international solidarity are issues in which our International Labour Network of Solidarity and Struggles intervene regularly and usefully. The Network's website and other means of communication are at the service of all member organizations, and even beyond. We will continue to disseminate this type of information, trying to do so more frequently in the five languages of the website, or even expanding the number of languages.

Work by professional sector is one of the bases of trade unionism, also at the international level. One of our priorities must be to consolidate what already exists and relaunch what is necessary. To carry this out, active collectives open to all member organizations of the Network are needed. Furthermore, links must also be established with the sectoral coordinations in which the Network's member organizations participate, such as those that exist for Amazon, call centers, subways, etc.. Our Network must prove its usefulness! We must better address international labour activity in multinationals.

The Network's continental meetings are a good means of extending the work between two international meetings. We decided to systematize them. The Network must also propose thematic meetings: in support of trade union and popular struggles or to discuss specific topics. The former can be public, that is, open to organizations that are not members of the Network.

The Network's newsletter must become the privileged means of information:

- Internally, each member organization can register its own professional and local structures, its militant collectives, its leaders, etc., who will thus directly receive information from the Network and be more inclined to use it.
- Externally, it is a means to publicize the Network to the largest possible number of trade union collectives around the world.

Together we put in place the necessary material means for the success of our common projects: websites, email exchange lists, coordination by professional sectors, etc. The Network's member organizations will publicize it through their own means (links on websites, articles in newspapers, logos on brochures, dissemination of common texts in each organization, etc.).

From this Network, we wish to recognise those organisations and movements that remain underground. We wish to proclaim and dignify their struggle against all forms of oppression against the interests of the working class, thus defending fundamental and inalienable rights such as freedom of the press, assembly, demonstration, thought, direct participation and association.

With the aim of increasing international solidarity, our Network must strengthen links with other militant collectives that act on the same issues. Some are members of the Network, such as LabourNet, but there are also LabourStart, Global Labour Institute, etc. The list is not exhaustive: in addition to initiatives of this type focused on one country or region of the world (with which we must also develop links), the Network proposes common work to the different collectives, websites, organizations, that inform and act in this area of international solidarity of workers and peoples.

Common commitments

We have concrete objectives, common commitments. We define them together and will carry them out together:

- To strengthen and expand the international work carried out in professional sectors and on interprofessional issues (women's rights, rights of Black and all racialized people, LGBTQI+, immigrant rights, housing, ecology, health and safety at workplaces, self-management and workers' control, etc.).
- We act, in the long term, in favor of international solidarity and, in particular, against all union-busting.
- Our struggle is directed against all oppressions, particularly those affecting women, the racialized Black population (victims of racism), immigrants, and LGTBQI+ (lesbians, gays, transsexuals, bisexuals, trans, queer, and intersexuals).
- We will intervene in a unitary and coordinated manner to support struggles and international campaigns, reaffirming the right to self-determination of all peoples.
- We continue the work of reflection and elaboration on the issues of the crisis of the capitalist system and the alternatives to it.

The world as it is, the world we want

Economic, financial, ecological, and social crises are intertwined and feed each other. The global crisis characteristic of capitalism shows the dead end of a development based on an increasingly unequal distribution of the wealth produced by the exploitation of workers, financial deregulation, generalized free trade, and contempt for ecological imperatives. To save the profits of shareholders and employers, to ensure the future of banks, global capitalist institutions (World Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organization, etc.), governments and employers are attacking the rights of workers with increasing force.

The situation suffered by workers is characterized by an uninterrupted attack on their standard of living, in order to guarantee the profits of bankers and large corporations. Imperialism and the bourgeoisies wage a social war, reducing wages, pensions, and rights, increasing poverty and inequalities, and trying to divide the population.

The current economic and political system organizes the plundering of numerous countries, forces millions of people to leave their region of origin to survive and then denies them all their rights under the pretext that they are immigrants.

Destruction of public services, challenging of social rights, attacks on trade union rights, violation of trade union freedoms, increase in precariousness and unemployment to exploit workers even more... These are the same methods used in all countries!

To achieve their goals, all means are used: criminalization, lawsuits, arrests, police interventions, military occupations, obstacles of all kinds to collective and individual rights. Repression and the use of violence are part of the measures used against those who resist, oppose, and build alternatives. Our solidarity, beyond borders, is one of our responses.

The attacks against social legislation, pensions, wages, working conditions, social insurance, public services, and democratic freedoms are part of a strategic project of capitalism aimed at fundamentally and permanently changing the balance of power between the dominant class, on the one hand, and wage earners and popular classes, on the other. This project is framed within a globalized capitalism, an economy that pits social regulations, legislation, labour conditions and frameworks against each other. The uberization and digital disarticulation of the economy causes growing precariousness in the world of labour.

An elite group of Big Tech billionaires has decided to launch a final attack on the working class by allying themselves with the religious far right represented by Trump's MAGA movement. Automation through 'artificial intelligence' is accelerating these attacks. The goal is to impose, by any means necessary, the widespread adoption of technologies designed to destroy stable, well-paid jobs in the global North and replace them with precarious jobs and poverty wages in the global South. The enormous human and environmental costs of AI are financed by military contracts, as we have seen in Gaza with the Gospel and Lavender projects or with the proliferation of killer robots. Responses exist: desert, sabotage, resist this attempt by abandoning the media that Big Tech seeks to impose on us, and adopt the self-managed media that some of us have already built.

The issue of health and safety at work, the general conditions of quality of life for workers in the popular sectors, take on a decisive importance in struggles and demands. That is why the International Trade Union Network for Solidarity and Struggles will launch debates, campaigns and surveys among workers, demanding an end to employer violence at work (deaths at work, accidents, stress, occupational diseases) and environmental violence.

In countries that remain in a situation of generalized extreme poverty, particularly because of colonialism and imperialism, which remain very much alive, these situations condemn a large part of the population to starve, be sold as slaves, or emigrate, often risking their lives, to countries where they are then victims of multiple and serious discriminations. Trade unionism must combat these forms of domination.

The question of the right to land and water is especially important in many countries, particularly in those that have been directly attacked by colonialism and imperialism. We must act in this area, fighting for true agrarian reforms, in collaboration with the social movements that are already fighting for these rights. In more general terms, the climate emergency obliges us to take this aspect into account in our trade union activity. Indigenous territories continue to be destroyed by capitalism. We applaud and support the struggles of indigenous peoples for a sustainable environment, access to uncontaminated water, and human dignity.

Military blocs reinforce the threats of imperialist war throughout the world. They must be dissolved (NATO, CSTO, etc.). They are instruments of imperialism, and we fight all forms of imperialism – American, Russian, Chinese, but also French, for example. The working class does not have to choose between imperialisms and must support all peoples under attack. The International Trade Union Network of Solidarity and Struggles calls for the unification of workers' opposition to all imperialist intervention and the strengthening of movements against war, militarisation and the war economy.

The genocide perpetrated by the Israeli State against the Palestinians, with the active support of the United States of America and allied regimes, is the continuation of the racist, colonialist, murderous, and fiercely large-scale repression policy carried out for years. Our Network, through member organizations, has been present in numerous mobilizations in this regard (popular demonstrations, boycott, divestment, and sanctions campaigns, freedom flotillas, on-site delegations, trade unionists from Palestine giving testimony, financial support, etc.). We will continue to respond as best as possible to the requests of Palestinian trade unions, some of which are members of our Network.

For more than three years, the Ukrainian people have been facing the war unleashed by the Russian government. As trade unionists and internationalists, we offer our support to those who resist in Ukraine, but also in Belarus and Russia, trying to respond to the needs expressed by our fellow trade unionists in this region of the world. Trade union convoys organized since May 1, 2022, are an example of this concrete solidarity. But it goes beyond: Ukrainian trade unions, actively involved in popular resistance against the occupation of the territory and acting against the economic liberalism prevailing in their country, are members of our Network and we support them.

In Sudan, the coup d'état of October 2022 put an end to the process initiated by the December 2018 revolution and led to a war with terrible consequences. This is a war between two groups of oppressors against the oppressed, a confrontation between two counter-revolutionary forces and the revolutionary aspirations of the Sudanese people. The roots of this war lie in the growing contradiction between the 2018 revolution, which sought to overthrow decades of dictatorship, and the counter-revolutionary forces that have hijacked the state apparatus, with the support of external powers, to crush that very revolution. In this situation, independent trade unions carry out important work, both in providing assistance to the local population in extremely difficult conditions and in informing the outside world about this war.

Palestine, Ukraine, Sudan, and many other regions of the world could be cited. This is not about establishing a hierarchy of the horrors of capitalism, wars, imperialisms.... Our trade unionism, rooted in realities on the ground, opposes all these evils. Once again, trade unionism must not hide any issue : What means of collective and democratic defense exist? How to control the manufacture of weaponry? How to organize the reconversion of certain sectors? All this concerns workers, and therefore trade unionism.

The debt mechanism, internal and external, impoverishes us : their debt is not ours; we do not have to pay it! Economic and financial policies presented as an incentive for demand recovery seem unlikely to guarantee a strong and lasting economic revival.

The multiplication of free trade agreements leads to a radicalization of social and ecological struggles, and of the struggle between wage earners and systems of domination.

We maintain our commitment to build and strengthen the international unity of workers, to fight against the criminalization of social movements, against austerity plans, reforms, and privatizations, against all forms of oppression and exploitation.

Strengthening trade unionism to break with capitalism

The trade unionism we claim cannot endorse pacts with the powers that validate anti-social measures. Trade unionism has the responsibility to organize resistance on an international scale, to build the necessary anti-capitalist social transformation through struggles. We want to build a system where exploitation is prohibited, based on common goods, on an equal redistribution of wealth among all those who create it (i.e., workers), on the rights of the latter, and on ecologically sustainable development.

We affirm our opposition to state trade unionism and our will for pluralism and trade union democracy. This does not contradict at all the search for the unity of trade union action, workers' unity, the unity of all exploited and/or oppressed people. On the contrary, we have nothing to do with those who call themselves trade unionists when they actually co-manage pension funds and are corrupted by the ruling class ... A ruling class that, moreover, has made corruption the usual mode of operation for a whole part of political leaders.

Our trade unionism combines the defense of the immediate interests of workers with the will for profound social change. It is not limited to the field of economic demands, but covers issues such as the right to housing, land, equality between men and women, anti-racism, the fight against homophobia and xenophobia, ecology, anti-colonialism, etc.

The interests we defend are those of the working class (workers in the formal or informal sector, retirees, unemployed, young people in training). They are articulated with those of the peoples of all regions of the world. In this sense, we are frontally opposed to the employers, governments, and institutions that are at their service, and we claim our autonomy from any political organization.

International labour organizations exist; trade union networks have been created in professional or geographical areas. From one region of the world to another, our labour histories, our trade union structures, and our trade union affiliations are different. But we share the essential: we are determined to advance in the coordination of fighting trade unionism at the international level. We want to share our experiences, enrich ourselves with the resistances and achievements of everyone, build unity across borders, put the international solidarity of workers into practice.

Given the crisis affecting the populations of all countries, for which capitalism is responsible, it is necessary to coordinate and unify our struggles. We call on labour collectives to join us in building this unity of labour action, necessary to fight social setbacks, conquer new rights, and build a different society.

The construction and consolidation of the International Labour Network of Solidarity and Struggle is very important in a world where the economy is increasingly globalized. We must face together the corporations and a bourgeoisie that internationalizes its business. This requires the development of active solidarity actions, coordinated actions, and campaigns globally, whether by

categories, sectors, countries, or continents. It is up to us to promote, through each of these struggles, an anti-capitalist orientation.

We decide to strengthen, expand, and make more effective a network of combative, struggling, and democratic trade unionism, autonomous, independent of employers and governments, anti-capitalist, feminist, ecologist, internationalist, which builds change through collective struggles and combats all forms of oppression (machismo, racism, homophobia, xenophobia, etc.).