

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESSAGE TO WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS  
16TH WORLD TRADE UNION CONGRESS  
Athens, 6 April 2011

I am pleased to greet all those attending the World Federation of Trade Unions' 16th World Trade Union Congress. 18 Feb 11

The trade union movement has a long and proud record of fighting for democracy, peace and social justice. In this time of economic volatility, it is more important than ever that we continue to work together for fundamental rights and the goal of decent work for all.

The global economic crisis has further raised unemployment and pushed millions more into the ranks of the working poor. Today, more than half the world's working population is in vulnerable employment. They lack formal work arrangements and social security, and often earn too little to provide for their families, let alone climb the ladder of economic opportunity.

It is therefore fitting that the theme of this Congress is a world free from exploitation. Social justice is more than an ethical imperative. It is a foundation for national stability and global prosperity. Equal opportunity, solidarity for the most vulnerable and respect for universal human rights are essential to fulfilling the productive potential of peoples and nations.

Bridging the gap between poverty and decent work means investing in economic and social policies that foster job creation, promoting decent labour conditions and strengthening social protection systems. The trade union movement can – and must – continue to play a central role.

We must also put a special emphasis on youth employment. In a growing number of countries, more than half the population is under 30 years old. With young adults three times more likely to be unemployed than their elders, the social and political consequences are both disturbing and predictable. Any glance at the world headlines quickly confirms that jobs and justice, food and dignity, national and global security are related.

As the Constitution of the International Labour Organization states so clearly, "universal and lasting peace can be established only if it is based on social justice." I commend your steadfast advocacy for this fundamental principle and wish you a productive meeting.



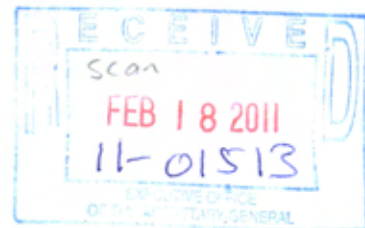
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WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Athens, February 18, 2011

To: His Excellency  
The United Nations Secretary-General  
Mr. Ban Ki-moon  
New York, NY 10017  
USA



Previous Log  
10-08525

Your Excellency Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon,

I would like to thank you for your letter dated 30 September 2010 in reply to our invitation to attend the 16<sup>th</sup> World Trade Union Congress to be held in Athens, Greece on April 6-10, 2011.

We fully understand your busy schedule Mr. Secretary-General. If there is any change in your schedule for any possibility to attend the Congress we will be very honored to receive you as guest of honor.

I would like to make you a very special request. It would be extremely important for us if you could send us a greeting message to the Congress. This message will be read and distributed to more than 600 delegates from 120 countries worldwide who will be attending the Congress.

A representative from WFTU will be in New York next week to attend the 55<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women and this would be an excellent opportunity for our representative to collect the greeting message from your office.

Looking forward to receive your reply, receive dear Secretary-General our warmest greetings



George Mavrikos  
General Secretary  
Member of the Greek Parliament

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