



# WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Class oriented - uniting - democratic - modern – independent – internationalist!

## WFTU REPRESENTATIVE\* INTERVENTION DURING “SPEAKERS CORNER”, UNESCO NGO FORUM 2017, RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA

Riyadh, May 4, 2017

Dear colleagues and friends,

On behalf of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) which represents 92 million workers in 126 countries all around the globe, I would like to convey you a warm and cordial greeting; meanwhile, I would like to congratulate the UNESCO for the topic of this year’s NGO Forum as it represents a truth that many times people tend to forget: youth do have a great social impact and especially the working youth can constitute a real factor for social progress.

This principle characterizes the entire work of the WFTU. That’s why we firmly try to make working youth to play this role. In this direction, inside our Federation we have formed a special Working Youth Secretariat with a concrete action among young working women and young immigrants. On the same time, on a regional level there are the Regional Youth Secretariats operating in different regions (Americas, Europe etc.) Through these structures we make every endeavor possible so that young working people take part in their trade unions in order they change the negative situation regarding the poor participation and youth presence inside trade union organizations. Moreover, to us, the most important thing is that young working people should take initiatives, assume responsibilities and get involved in the trade union leaderships. They have to realize the significance of standing up for a job with rights, decent salaries, social security as well as health and safety conditions inside the workplaces. During the last period we have organized many trade union workshops and trade union training programs and seminars all over the world. The culmination of this process will be the World Working Youth Festival we are about to organize till the end of this year.

Concluding this brief summary of our action, allow me to say that the working youth fight for a job with rights is also a fight for the satisfaction of its contemporary needs, a fight for the life itself.

Thank you.

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