



The CGIL General Assembly Agenda for Peace

7 October 2024

On the World Day for Decent Work, the CGIL General Assembly reaffirms "that universal and lasting peace can only be based on social justice" (Article 1 of the ILO Constitution).

This year's World Day comes one year after the heinous terrorist attack by Hamas and the outbreak of war in Gaza. Tens of thousands of civilians, more than half of them children, were killed. Meanwhile, the war in Ukraine continues to cause terror and destruction, conflicts around the world are on a steady rise, and the nuclear threat is becoming ever more real.

The CGIL General Assembly expresses its opposition and deep concern at the escalation of the conflict in the West Bank, Lebanon, Iran and other areas of the Middle East and condemns the abstention of the Italian government on the UN resolution of 18 September and the decision of the European Parliament to allow the use of Western weapons on Russian territory. Instead, we demand that Italy, and the EU recognise the State of Palestine, commit to promoting a two-state solution and a path of de-escalation that protects human life and puts international law at the centre.

We also reiterate the need to comply with the provisions of the International Court of Justice's opinion that Israel must take "all measures within its power to prevent and punish direct and public incitement to genocide" and the contents of the UN resolution, namely a permanent ceasefire, an end to illegal settlements in the Occupied Territories within the next 12 months, a call on member states to refrain from economic or commercial dealings with Israel in the Occupied Territories, as well as the supply or transfer of weapons, and to allow full access for humanitarian aid.

We express our solidarity with the mass mobilisations that have taken place in recent days and the general strike organised in Israel and banned by Netanyahu's nationalist and far-right government, and we strongly condemn the repeated attacks by the Israeli government on the UN, as well as the decision to declare the Secretary General persona non grata, to whom we express our full support and solidarity.

The General Assembly calls for an immediate ceasefire in Ukraine as well as in Gaza, respect for international conventions and agreements, international and humanitarian law, and condemns all forms of violence and reprisal against the civilian populations and reiterates its call for the immediate release of Israeli hostages and prisoners of war.

We find unacceptable the logic of the war economy, the child of austerity. We will oppose investment in arms - which can already be deducted from the debt calculation - to meet

NATO's demand for 2.5% of GDP at the expense of social spending and investment in job creation and development.

The CGIL was one of the first trade unions in the world to send humanitarian aid to Gaza and will continue to support the people, the Palestinian and Ukrainian workers and those around the world who pay the worst consequences of wars and conflicts, while wealth is increasingly concentrated in the hands of the few, starting with the multinational war corporations. Peace is also a precondition for effectively tackling the climate and environmental crises.

The General Assembly commits the organisation at national, European and international level - in conjunction with the European and international confederations ETUC and CIS - to support multilateralism, starting with the International Labour Organisation, diplomacy and negotiation, and to strongly reject the logic of rearmament and militarisation. We propose to organise an international trade union mobilisation for peace and decent work on the occasion of the Jubilee Year.

European defence must be based on the values of freedom and democracy and rediscover the motivation for the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize. The EU must cultivate its founding values of solidarity, cooperation, rights, democracy and a coherent foreign policy based on dialogue between parties, negotiations to build peace and common security.

The General Assembly commits the whole organisation, in close collaboration with civil society networks and coalitions, to confirm and re-launch activities to assist the victims of war, by promoting cooperation initiatives and support for democratisation processes, the defence of rights and the freedom to demonstrate, starting with the national mobilisation day **"FERMIAMO LE GUERRE - Il tempo della Pace è ora" (STOP WARS - The time for Peace is now)**, convened together with pacifist networks for next **Saturday, 26 October 2024**, which will be held throughout Italy.