



**Federation of Trade Unions of  
Ukraine**



**Confederation of Free  
Trade Unions of Ukraine**



**All-Ukrainian Union of  
Workers' Solidarity (VOST  
"VOLYA")**

**31.03.2022**

**Ayuba Wabba  
ITUC President**

**Sharan Burrow  
ITUC General Secretary**

**ITUC General Council members**

**ITUC affiliates**

### **Open statement**

The trade union associations of Ukraine, affiliated to the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), deeply resent the manner and course of the ITUC General Council meeting of 28 March 2022 to address the emergency critical situation caused by the war unleashed and led by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and openly, unconditionally and unequivocally supported by the federation of "independent" trade unions of that country (fnpr).

Our indignation is caused in particular by the unwarranted informing of the meeting by the chairs Ayuba Wabba and Sharan Burrow of presence or absence of support for individual proposals, as well as the order of conduct and consideration of affiliates' proposals for a decision by the General Council on the issue under discussion. The procedure for democratic decision-making as defined by the ITUC statutory documents and other international democratic standards was distorted, namely by taking as a basis the proposal made last without voting for the previously submitted proposals.

The proposal of the Ukrainian side on adoption by the ITUC General Council, in the manner prescribed by Article IV(a), of the decision to suspend the fnpr membership in the ITUC as the organisation which by its consistent and unconcealed support of the aggressor confirmed its incompatibility with the basic statutory provisions and objectives of the ITUC activity, was made in advance by the Ukrainian trade unions. (see the FPU letter dated 27/02/2022, the KVPU letter dated 26/02/2022, the FPU/KVPU/VOST "VOLYA" joint letters

dated 15/03/2022 and 24/03/2022). It was also voiced by representatives of Ukraine at the General Council meeting on 07/03/2022, as well as in statements at the meeting on 28/03/2022 by Grygorii Osovyi, member of ITUC General Council, ITUC Vice-President in 2019-2020, FPU President, and Mykhailo Volynets, ITUC Vice-President, KVPU President. The above proposal, despite the obvious protests of the General Council members, as well as Grygorii Osovyi's repeated demand, was not put to a vote.

We believe that this order of the meeting and decision-making was in direct violation of Articles XXIV (a) and (b) (on preparation of the agenda and decision-making at the meetings), XXV (d) (on the rights and duties of the ITUC Executive Bureau members), XXVI (on the ITUC General Council working bodies).

The content of the decision announced at the meeting on 28/03/2022 as adopted is a separate misunderstanding. During the meeting the fnpr president mikhail shmakov in his speech, in the style of false aggressive russian state propaganda, unconditionally, unequivocally and unambiguously confirmed the preliminary statements and actions of the fnpr in support of the russian federation's war against Ukraine, which, indeed, was unanimously condemned by the meeting, including the President Ayuba Wabba and the General Secretary Sharan Burrow. Likewise, the words of the organisation's uncompromising and unequivocal condemnation of the said war, judging from the statements of the meeting chairs, should form the basis of the ITUC Resolution that was announced at the meeting as adopted. Accordingly, questions arise: what exactly is to be confirmed or denied by the formed commission, following the speech of mikhail shmakov, who has once again personally confirmed support for the war by the organisation he represents?

We would also like to hear the comments of the meeting chairs on assessment of decisions of international organisations on the situation in Ukraine, such as the UN General Assembly, the International Court of Justice, the ILO Governing Body, whose commitment and support the organisation has as its activity to demonstrate in accordance with the direct provisions of the ITUC Constitution, but the very fact of trying to establish an additional committee to assess the situation in respect of which such decisions have been issued, shows lack of respect for these organisations.

In view of the above, the trade union associations of Ukraine affiliated to the ITUC:

1. **Consider the decision**, announced by the ITUC General Council meeting chairs on 28/03/2022 as unanimously adopted, not complying with the real expression of will, statutory documents, principles of democracy and openness, and **de facto and de jure untaken**.

2. **Express sincere gratitude** to the ITUC affiliates and their representatives in the General Council, which in their speeches supported the proposal of the Ukrainian side to suspend the fnpr membership in the ITUC and insisted on putting it to a vote in the manner prescribed by the ITUC Constitution.

3. **Exercise their right** as full affiliates of the ITUC to submit draft decisions to the General Council in a timely manner, in accordance with the ITUC statutory documents, taking into account:

- a. The full discussion of the issue at the meeting,
- b. The clear establishment, at the meeting of 28/03/2022, of the unequivocal affirmation of the fnpr's position in favour of the armed aggression,
- c. The absence of a legitimate decision and the fact that the meeting has not been completed,

**Insist on voting before 04/04/2022** on the draft decision submitted by Ukraine on suspension of the fnpr membership as the organisation, which by its statements and actions has consistently proved its incompatibility with the ITUC goals and statutory provisions.

4. In the event of non-response, **reserve the right** by all democratic means available, in particular, through bilateral and multilateral action involving other ITUC affiliates:

- a) **Seek to reinstate compliance** by the working bodies and officials of the Confederation with the fundamental objectives of the activities defined in the statutory documents, with **unswerving respect for democracy, peace and human rights**;
- b) **Promote the dates of the ITUC Congress as close as possible** with raising an issue of renewal of the Confederation's working bodies and the expulsion of the fnpr.

**Grygorii Osovyi**

**President of the  
Federation of Trade  
Unions of Ukraine  
(FPU)**

**Mykhailo Volynets**

**President of the  
Confederation of Free  
Trade Unions of  
Ukraine (KVPU)**

**Oleksandr Dzhulyk**

**President of the  
All-Ukrainian Union of  
Workers' Solidarity  
(VOST "VOLYA")**