

INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION

44th Congress

Singapore, 18 October 2018

Women Transport Workers' Conference

REPORT

The Women Transport Workers' Conference took place on 18 October 2018.

The Conference was opened by Diana Holland, Chair of the ITF Women Transport Workers' Committee, a warm welcome was given by Mary Liew, on behalf of the host unions in Singapore.

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of Agenda

The Conference **adopted** the agenda, as presented.

Agenda Item 2: Election of Rapporteur

Jasmin Labarda (AMOSUP, Philippines) was elected Rapporteur.

Astrid Konig (Kommunal, Sweden) and Tina Agustien (SPKA, Indonesia) were elected Scrutineers.

Gaebepe Molaodi (BTGWU, Botswana) and Ana Maria Orellana Morales (STCLP, Peru) were elected Tellers.

Agenda Item 3: Congress Theme Document

The **General Secretary** gave a presentation on the Congress Theme Document, which focused on the department's priorities, and confirmed the ITF's strong commitment to ITF women. The discussion in regards to the Congress Theme Document was taken in conjunction with Agenda item 4, work programme.

The Conference **adopted** the Congress Theme Document, as presented.

Agenda Item 4: Work Programme

Delegate's attention was drawn to the following three documents:

- Women Transport Workers Building Power – 'This is Our World Too!', outcomes and recommendations of the ITF Women Transport Workers' Conference held in Marrakech in November 2017 which were **accepted** and **endorsed**

- Our Priorities - Women Transport Workers in the ITF Congress 2018 theme document 'Transport Workers Building Power' which was strongly **welcomed** and **supported**
- 'The impact of the future of work for women in public transport' 2018 report executive summary and recommendations which was **welcomed** as ground-breaking research that would strengthen the ITF strategy, and ITF women's work programme implementation.

Speakers then presented ITF Women Transport Workers activities and future priorities as follows:

- Introduction – Brigitta Paas, FNV, Netherlands
- Obituaries – Terri Mast, ILWU, United States of America
- Logistics and warehousing – Valerie Latron, FGTE-CFDT, France
- Gender-based occupational segregation – Laura Cordoba, FNTCOTAC, Argentina
- Organising in civil aviation – Leslie Dias, Unifor, Canada
- Our Public Transport – Wilma Clement, BWU, Barbados
- Women's advocacy, domestic violence at work and the ILO convention and recommendation on violence and harassment in the world of work – Sheela Naikwade, MSTKS, India
- UNCSW and international days of action – Dorothy Nandera, ATGWU, Uganda
- Women's leadership – Ekaterina Yordanova, FTTUB, Bulgaria

The Conference celebrated the presence in the conference of Nermin Al-Sharif (general secretary, Dockers and Seafarers Union of Libya) and the overwhelming international support for her organised by the ITF, and **endorsed** her passionate call for women transport workers' leadership at all levels. Conference stood firm against all persecution of trade unionists worldwide.

The work programme priorities were presented by the Chair under the two over-arching priorities:

- **Building women transport workers' economic power: Ending gender-based occupational segregation in the global transport industry - 'This is our world too!':** targeting employers and International Financial Institutions where they influence industry development
- **Building the power of trade union action to end violence against women transport workers:** globally, regionally, nationally and sectorally, including new regions and target employers, and achievement and ratification of an ILO convention and recommendation on violence and harassment in the world of work

Including:

- Building the Our Public Transport programme where gender was already strongly embedded
- Supporting warehouse, hubs and informal workers' programmes by promoting gender equality and supporting women's leadership and organising women workers
- Utilising global action days such as International Women's Day (8 March), UN Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls (25 November), World Toilet Day (19 November) strategically to support ITF and ITF Women priorities

In discussion, delegates then raised the following issues:

- Empowering women transport workers through training to work with digital technologies
- Increasing union membership of women transport workers
- Equal pay and working conditions
- Recognising the impact of the menopause on women workers and putting pressure on employers to introduce policy
- Violence against women, including the global women's advocacy programme and domestic violence paid leave
- Integration of women into leadership and decision-making structures, as well as women's structures
- Ending gender-based occupational segregation
- Addressing safe access to toilets for transport workers

Sisters from Latin America and the Caribbean raised their concern about the general tone of hostility and disrespect that dominated the regional electoral group earlier this week. The Conference strongly supported their call for a reconfirmation that there was no place for this behaviour at any ITF event.

The Conference **adopted** the department related priorities for 2019 onwards, as presented.

Gold Award

The Conference paid tribute to the wonderful contribution of ITF Executive Board Member elect Ann Anderson, ITF Women Transport Workers' Committee vice-chair and General Secretary of CCWU, Guyana. The **ITF General Secretary** presented a posthumous gold award to Ann Anderson for outstanding service to the cause of transport workers internationally, in defence and furtherance of the interests of those workers, and for the preservation of trade union freedoms and rights.

Agenda Item 5: Motions

There were no motions referred to the Conference by the Resolutions Committee, however one motion due to be debated at the Congress plenary was referred to the Conference due to its reference to women transport workers:

Composite Motion 1: Organising Informal Transport Workers

Geetha Shresthabhattarai (NETWON, Nepal) introduced the motion, which the Conference **strongly supported** with a recommendation to the plenary for its adoption.

Agenda item 6: Elections

ITF Women Transport Workers Committee

The following were elected by the Conference:

Africa	
Regional representative	Anika Manavi (SYNTRAPAL, Togo)
Regional representative	Maryam Jummai Bello Yassin (NURTW, Nigeria)
Regional representative	Wendy Mwaonaji Kavolo (RWUM, Malawi)
Arab World	
Regional representative	Kalthoum Barkallah (FNCT, Tunisia)
Asia/Pacific	
Regional representative	Mich-Elle Myers (MUA, Australia)
Regional representative	Heity Ariaty (until retirement 2019 end) then Tina Agustien 2020-Congress (both from SPKA, Indonesia)
Regional representative	Enktugs Bat-Erdene (FMRWU, Mongolia)
Regional representative	Sheela Naikwade (MSTKS, India)
Europe	
Regional representative	Nuria Belenguer (UGT, Spain)
Regional representative	Susanne Gallhagen (Kommunal, Sweden)
Regional representative	Diana Holland (Unite the Union, UK)
Regional representative	Maya Schwiegershausen-Güth (ver.di, Germany)
Regional representative	Olga Vakulenko (ROSPROFZHEL, Russia)
Regional representative	Madlen Yordanova (FTTUB, Bulgaria)
Latin America/Caribbean	
Regional representative	Alma Teresa Gonzalez (ATM, Mexico)
Regional representative	Laura Cordoba (FNTCOTAC, Argentina)
Regional representative	Dionne Howard (BWU, Barbados)
North America	
Regional representative	Sara Gonzalez (IAM, USA)
Regional representative	Joy Thomson (CMSG, Canada)
Regional representative	Leslie Dias (Unifor, Canada)
Section representatives	
Civil Aviation	Dorsaf Saihi (FNT, Tunisia)
Dockers	Monique Verbeeck (BTB, Belgium)
Fisheries	Sylvie Roux (FGTE-CFDT, France)
Inland Navigation	Valerie Latron (FGTE-CFDT, France)
Railway Workers	Simi Lalsingh (NFIR, India)
Road Transport Workers	Wilma Clement (BWU, Barbados)
Seafarers	Lena Dyring (NSU, Norway)
Tourism Services	Praveena Singh (AIRF, India)
Executive Board women regional representatives	
Africa	Juliana Mpanduji (COTWU (T), Tanzania)
Arab World	Meryem Halouani (UMT, Morocco)
Asia/Pacific	Mary Liew (SMOU, Singapore)
Europe	Valerie Latron (FGTE-CFDT, France)
Latin America/Caribbean	Janaina Fernandes (FNTEF, Brazil)
North America	Terri Mast (ILWU, US)
Young woman transport workers' representative	
	Jasmin Labarda (AMOSUP, Philippines)

The newly elected Women Transport Workers' Committee convened during the Conference to elect the Chair and Vice Chairs. The following were elected:

Chair	Diana Holland (Unite the Union, Great Britain)
Vice Chair	Kalthoum Barkallah (FNCT, Tunisia)
Vice Chair	Mich-Elle Myers (MUA, Australia)
Vice Chair	Wilma Clement (BWU, Barbados)

Agenda Item 7: Any other business

There were no other items for discussion.