

ITEM 12

RESOLUTION 10

Workers' situation in Belarus

The situation with respect to workers' rights still remains extremely difficult in Belarus. The Government of Belarus disregards recommendations of the International Labour Organisation to cease trade union rights' violations and respect Conventions 87 and 98 on freedom of association and collective bargaining. Workers are persecuted and dismissed for their affiliation to the trade union REPAM. Trade union organisations are not registered, they are deprived of the possibility to carry out collective bargaining, the courts and the public prosecutor's office support illegal acts by the authorities and employers to oppress independent trade union organisations. The secret police undertakes special measures against REPAM union activists aimed at neutralising their activities. The police confiscates trade union bulletins printed in accordance with the law and detains activists.

In order to repress any expression of protest, harass and blackmail members of independent trade unions, the authorities and employers do not only apply short term contracts, but also use other forms of oppression, including transfer to lower paid jobs, bonus withdrawals and denial of employment for family members.

Despite repressions and pressure by Lukashenko's regime, the trade union REPAM, supported by solidarity from the IMF and a number of its affiliates, leads the fight for workers' legitimate interests and rights. Using different forms and methods of work including those which have been outlawed as well as distributing leaflets, information publications and mini-newspapers, carrying out protest actions, training workers and providing legal advice, the trade union REPAM courageously conducts an unequal struggle with the dictatorship to expand its influence at enterprises and in organisations in keeping with the principles of democracy and independence of the trade union movement in Belarus.

The delegates of the IMF 32nd World Congress express their solidarity with the fight of the trade union REPAM in conjunction with other independent trade unions of Belarus and:

- strongly protest against acts of Lukashenko's regime aimed at destroying the independent trade union movement;

- demand the leadership and the Government of Belarus to fulfil all ILO Recommendations to cease workers' rights violations; and
- appeal to IMF affiliates to give their support to the struggle of the Belarusian workers for their rights.

Delegates further call upon the IMF to do its utmost to unite the unions of Belarus in order to strengthen the fight against the Lukashenko regime.