



[www.imfmetal.org/  
congress2005](http://www.imfmetal.org/congress2005)

## IMF Website covers Congress

Would you like your colleagues at home to follow the developments at the IMF Congress? Would you like to retrieve documents, pictures or the Resolutions from the proceedings now – or back in your country?

The special IMF Congress website, [www.imfmetal.org/congress2005](http://www.imfmetal.org/congress2005) will give you all this and more – in English, German, Spanish, French and Russian.

During the Congress, live video footage from the proceedings will be available in English and German, as well as in the language spoken.

In addition, for your convenience, the recorded speeches are saved and will continue to be available for viewing after the Congress concludes. For example,

the much-acclaimed speech delivered during the opening ceremony by Heinz Fischer, President of Austria, can be accessed.

Also, the IMF Congress News Bulletins that are handed out to you in the morning are retrievable as downloads from the website.

Finally, the online-version of the “Asbestos Kills” digital image, unveiled Sunday afternoon at Congress opening, is prominent on the site. At an appalling rate of one death every five minutes, the global killing caused by asbestos related diseases continues. When Congress concludes, the image on the stage will be taken down, but the online version will remain to remind us all of the ongoing tragedy.



## IMF CONGRESS News

The bulletin for the IMF World Congress is produced by the joint IMF & GMT congress communications team.

The bulletin, distributed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, is published in English, German and Spanish.

Deadline for this issue: Monday, May 23, 8 PM  
Print: GMT  
Photos: Gisela Ortner



## Resolutions

**As of the deadline of noon, Monday, May 23, the following Resolutions have been received and will be introduced to the Congress in the following order:**

**Tuesday, May 24**

**Resolution 6:**  
Eradicating poverty through decent work, fair trade and development (NUMSA, South Africa & British section)

**Resolution 3:**  
Against war (FLM, Italy)

**Resolution 7:**  
Uniting the forces of the Global Union Federations in the industry (Nordic countries)

**Wednesday, May 25**  
**Resolution 5:**  
Statement on gender equality (Women's Conference)

**Resolution 2:**  
Global ban on asbestos (British section)

**Resolution 4:**  
Women's work under globalisation

(Women's Conference)

**Resolution 1:**  
Colombia (USW, USA)

**Resolution 8:**  
Paraguay (Fetrampar, Paraguay)

**Resolution 9:**  
Nepal (SMEFI, India)

**Resolution 10:** Workers' rights in Belarus (EMA Estonia, LMLU Latvia & LMTU Lithuania)

# IMF CONGRESS News #2

TUESDAY  
24 May 2005

Bulletin for the 31<sup>st</sup> IMF World Congress, Vienna 2005

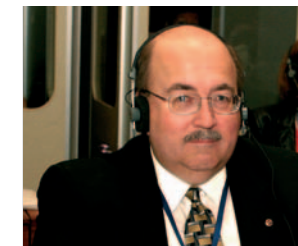


Seven of the eight women elected to the IMF Executive.



Today's keynote speaker, Sharan Burrow, was elected the first ever female president of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) at its Congress in December last year.

PAGE 3



Tom Buffenbarger, International President of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) was elected as Vice President by the IMF Executive yesterday.

PAGE 3

## An historic moment

**On Monday afternoon IMF Congress delegates for the first time in history elected eight women to the IMF Executive.**

These women stand for millions of women all over the world whose voices will now be heard more clearly within the IMF. “This is a very moving, historic moment,”

said GMT President Nürnberger after the election. “We are very happy with the enrichment these women will bring to the IMF’s work and policy.”

Eight women are now in the IMF Executive, a sign to women all over the world, that they are welcome in all metalworkers’ federations.





Silumko Nondwangu (NUMSA) speaking in favour of the changes to the IMF Rules.

## Congress changes IMF Rules

**Delegates at the 31st IMF World Congress yesterday voted to accept changes to the IMF Rules. The changes resulted in women being elected to the Executive for the first time in the history of the IMF.**

The new rules require that a minimum of six women be elected to the Executive. In yesterday's election eight women were elected. An additional representative from Central and Eastern Europe was included on the IMF Executive, bringing the total membership to 25.

The changes to the IMF

Rules also included the adoption of a new subscription and voting system. Jens Bundvad, CO-industri - Denmark, reporting from the Rules Committee, described the process IMF went through to arrive at the proposal that was put to Congress. "A compromise is always needed between the variety

of interests that constitute an organisation like the IMF," he said.

The new subscription system, which will apply from 2005, separates affiliates into six groups based on their country's GNP per capita. Affiliates from countries with a low GNP will pay a lower percentage of the fee per member. And those from higher GNP nations will pay more, upto 100 per cent of the 1.10 Swiss Franc

fee per member.

The new voting system, which will apply at the next Central Committee, links the number of votes an affiliate has to the amount of subscription fees paid. The new rules state that for the first 200,000 members, all affiliates have one vote for each member. For membership above the 200,000 the number of votes is calculated as a per cent based on the fee paid.

### We asked 7 delegates at the IMF World Congress: How has offshoring changed your trade union work?



"Offshoring is a common phenomenon today. You can't always prevent it from happening so reskilling is particularly important to ensure those who have lost their jobs remain employable."

Cyrille Tan (IMF-SC), Singapore



"Offshoring is one of the biggest challenges faced by the trade unions in India. Our union is targeting this problem by holding union awareness raising events amongst unorganised workers."

Sanjay Vadhavkar (SMEFI), India



"Many multinationals claim they want to help developing countries through investment. But closer observation reveals that they are only interested in maximising profits by exploiting the workforce."

Napoleon Kpoh (ICU), Ghana



"Offshoring means pressures on wages and working conditions. Offshoring can only be prevented by decreasing the inequalities between the workers of different countries through international working class solidarity."

Adnan Serdaroglu (Birlisik), Turkey



"There is no contradiction between campaigning for job security at home and raising labour standards abroad. Unions need to break down borders and work together to take multinationals on at their own game."

Barbara Murray (Amicus), UK



"Offshoring weakens wages and conditions. In our union we have stopped this through a strong policy of converting employees in outsourcing companies into union members."

Napoleon Gomez Urrutia (SNTMMS), Mexico



"For us, offshoring means that we need more international action because we need more and better workers' rights. This is the only way we can stop workers being pitted against each other."

Alessandra Mecozzi (FLM), Italy

## Sharan Burrow: Advancing Works' Rights

**Today's keynote speaker, Sharan Burrow, was elected the first ever female president of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) at its Congress in December last year.**

Speaking after the ICFTU Congress, Sharan said, "this is a critical period for the global union movement. High on the agenda will be engaging multinational companies to ensure they live up to their obligations and stop exploitation in their supply chains."

Sharan is also president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) and was a guest at the IMF Congress in

Sydney in 2001. She was born in Warren, a small town in western New South Wales, into a family with a long history of involvement in unions and the struggle to improve the lives of working people.

In 1976 Sharan began her teaching career in high schools in country NSW. Not long after, she got involved in the teachers' union, eventually becoming president of the Australian Education Union in 1992. Sharan's involvement in global unions began as the Vice-President of Education International from 1995 to 2000.

Sharan's speech to Congress will address the theme Advancing Workers' Rights.



Peter Scherrer, General Secretary European Metalworkers' Federation

**"To earn a living in dignity is a fundamental and universal right."**

## IMF Executive elects a Vice President

**Tom Buffenbarger**, International President of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) was elected as Vice President by the IMF Executive yesterday.

"I am sincerely honoured to be selected for this position by my sisters and brothers," he said. Tom Buffenbarger has served on the IMF Executive since becoming IAM International President in 1997.

Tom Buffenbarger represents the men and women who build, repair and operate machines in North America. A machinist for more than thirty years, he is a journeyman tool and die maker and began his union career while working at GE's jet engine plant in Ohio.

### Future direction tops the agenda

Today's programme includes four guest speakers as the debate on the IMF Action Programme for 2005 - 2009 begins.

### 09.00

#### Advancing Workers' Rights

ICFTU President Sharan Burrow delivers keynote address to Congress.

### 11.30

#### Building alliances

Adrie Papma the director of alliance building at Oxfam speaks on unions and civil society groups.

### 13.30

#### The offshoring debate

Discussion on part three of the Action Programme commences, including a round table debate on "Meeting the challenges of offshoring".



Adrie Papma, Director of Alliance Building at Novib/Oxfam, Netherlands, addresses delegates today. Adrie will be addressing the Congress about her experience of working with trade unions on campaigns.

### Highlights

#### Global asbestos ban

Make sure you send a letter to your government when you visit the IMF asbestos display in the foyer adjacent to the Congress Hall.

### Tomorrow!

Adoption of the IMF Action Programme 2005 - 2009.