

**Report on the IUF Executive Committee Meeting  
and the Women Committee Meeting,  
Geneva, April 22 – 24, 2015.**

Elizabeth Tang, General Secretary

**(1) The Women Committee Meeting, April 22.**

The meeting was opened by Patricia Alonso, the deputy chair of the Women Committee. She was from the Federation Argentina Union Personal de Panaderia Y Afines de la Republica Argentina. The meeting started by presenting the actions launched around the International Women's Day in March in particularly by the IUF affiliates in Asia – the "Make my Workplace Safe". The Committee agreed that in the future similar kind of coordinated actions should be implemented everywhere to achieve stronger impact.

On addressing gender based violence in the workplace, Barbra reported that unfortunately the ILO Governing Body failed to agree to include such item on the agenda of the International Labour Conference this year. More hard work is need by trade unions. On the campaign for decent work for hotel house keepers, many of them were women, concerns were raised on the increasing work intensity of the workers resulting in high rate of occupational injuries among the workers.

A brief report on the development of the IDWF (as attached) was presented to the Committee that was received with appreciation. It was followed by several interventions from the floor including Argentina, Guyana, Spain and India. The issues of migration and human trafficking faced by in particularly migrant domestic workers were noted. Many expressed grave concern over the recent violence in South Africa towards migrant workers and the drowning in the Mediterranean Sea of people escaping war, Persecution and poverty in their countries of origin. Finally a resolution was proposed on the increasing violence and xenophobia against migrant workers. Furthermore a resolution to end gender-based discrimination towards the lesbians, gays, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) was adopted.

Jyoti Macwan, General Secretary of SEWA and Vice Chair of the IUF Women Committee, introduced the discussion on the ILO process on transitioning from the informal to the formal economy. The IUF will work closely with WIEGO towards achieving a meaningful standard for informal workers at the International Labour Conference in Geneva this June. The meeting ended with a discussion on the IUF proposed Rules of Proceedings of the IUF Women Committee which agreed to mandate the IUF Administrative Committee to make a decision upon receipt of feedbacks from the members.

## **(2) The IUF Executive Committee Meeting, April 22 – 24.**

The meeting was opened and chaired by Hans-Olof Nilsson, President of the Swedish Food Workers Union and the IUF. In the opening remark, Ron Oswald, the IUF General Secretary stressed the importance of the IUF to organize and not only to unionize as the former implied workers solidarity and the latter, numbers.

There was a long list of items on the agenda – organizing and fighting within some transnational companies, the Citra Mina fish canning factory in the Philippines; activities in various sectors within the IUF and in various regions. In addition, there was a panel discussion on organizing in the Mainland China. Organizers from the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions and a labour NGO working in China presented a future work plan in China focusing on reaching out to workers in some major food and beverages transnational companies operating there.

On the report of the IUF Women Committee, the IDWF report was mentioned, highlighting our achievement of 15% membership growth last year and the 17 ratification of C189. Again, several interventions were received from the floor supporting the ratification of C189 and organizing of domestic workers by IDWF. The Executive Committee adopted the two proposed resolutions from the Women Committee on the increasing of violence and xenophobia against migrant workers and gender-based discrimination. In addition, considering the seriousness of the tragedy in the Mediterranean Sea, a resolution on Migrant Tragedy in the Mediterranean was adopted.

Finally in response to the report on Europe, appreciation was expressed to the EFFAT for its support to the ratification of the C189 and the initiatives to improve decent work to domestic workers in Europe the IDWF General Secretary. The IDWF believed the result of its research on the industrial relation in the domestic work would be useful in its plan on organizing the sector in Europe.