

UNION MONDIALE DES PROFESSIONS LIBERALES  
UNION MUNDIAL DE LAS PROFESIONES LIBERALES  
WORLD UNION OF PROFESSIONS  
WELTUNION DER FREIEN BERUFE

**MANIFESTATION OF THE WORLD UNION OF PROFESSIONS (WUP) BEFORE  
THE 86<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
LABOR OFFICE (ILO)**

**Geneva – June 11, 1998**

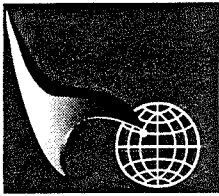
The Secretary-General,  
The President of the Plenary Session,  
The Delegates,

Since its foundation the International Labor Office has been based on a tripartite participation and decision system. Governments, employers and employees have occupied, and still occupy, their spaces of manifestation and power, influencing on decisions made by this international organization. It reflects on a number of conventions adopted by most countries, from the discussions established in this plenary session.

For some decades this system has met the interests of entrepreneurs, workers and countries that constitute this international organization, although some of them have not yet joined the most important conventions in the scope of syndicalistic freedom and workers' rights.

But in this 90's, technological, economic, and social transformations have changed the Planet's face. New professions arise as a magic blow, while other traditional ones are disappearing. Then, what's the use of a convention aiming at defending the rights of borderline guards in Europe?

The International Labor Office has to study, review and change its representative way. Once there are member countries permanently in the ILO's Administration Council due to their industrial, economic capacity, it is natural that entrepreneurs and workers be also represented in view of their participation in the economy and labor worldwide.



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Presently, the tertiary sector counts on the majority (50 – 60%) of the working stations in almost all the countries in the world. As a result of the increasing number of intellectual workers, technicians and independent professionals, a quaternary sector arises within the economic scenario: the workers of "knowledge".

The category of such workers and the use of intelligent machines have been increasing in a rhythm faster than the capacity of most mankind for being adapted to the new situations resulting from it. So, the technologies that bring, or should bring, welfare to mankind have contributed to launch a crowd of people into a severe reality represented by informal or unstable work, or even by unemployment.

The World Union of Professions gathers national organizations representing all professionals, which are called, according to the country and language: Union, Confederation, Association, Council, Grouping, Conference, Secretariat, etc. All of them are intended to defend the interests of professions and professionals they gather, that is, the same syndicalistic nature of the workers' representation in the ILO's Administration Council.

We recognize the importance of the so-called "International Labor Code" represented by almost two-hundred international conventions and ILO recommendations, in addition to technical assistance, studies, personnel training and researches developed by this Organization. But we want to go further. We want ILO to be adapted to the new parameters of distribution of the world economy sectors, to the globalization challenges, and to the elimination of bound barriers. We also want the recognition of the massive work force represented by independent professionals.

This new world order has generated the GATT (General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs) transformation into WTO (World Trade Organization). The UNO (United Nations Organization) itself has been discussing some changes in its structure. So, why ILO cannot do the same?

In this world moved more and more by new technologies, not skilled workmanship is not expected to attract entrepreneurs. There will be not any law, rule or union capable of assuring a job to someone who is not able to learn continuously and to



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follow up such a progress. Early in the next Century, at most 20% of the work force in developed countries will be composed of that kind of workers.

These facts will completely change the field of labor, as well as the expectations concerning the professionals who will meet its requirements.

Reasoning about the future may lead us to recycle the concepts that have been utilized up to now, in order to explain the labor market. If this Century declares the employment death, it will not happen to labor, because there will be still a lot of things to do. It will be the age of polyvalent professionals.

ILO concerns about the future will certainly lead its Administration Council to analyze such changes. WUP would like to contribute to the improvement of the institution that welcomes us today.

Independent professionals, other professionals and technicians throughout the world will play a fundamental role in the next Century, and it is not possible to imagine a new ILO without our participation.

**LUIS EDUARDO GAUTÉRIO GALLO**  
**President, the World Union of Professions**