

"WORKING PEOPLE OF ALL COUNTRIES UNITE"



**WFTU | TRADE UNION
INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC
SERVICES WORKERS
AND ALLIED**

DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE
BULLETIN



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CONTENTS



Editorial Content	3
Meeting Discussion	8
Conclusions & wayforward	12
Declaration	16

EDITORIAL COMMENT

"Let the Ruling Classes Tremble At a Communist Revolution. The proletarians Have Nothing To Lose But Their Chains. They Have A World To Win. Workers Of All Countries, Unite".
Karl Marx (May 5, 1818 – March 14, 1883)

Comrades, Friends and Compatriots

Kindly receive the revolutionary and militant greetings on behalf of the 13th Congress Directive Committee of the Trade Union International Public Services and Allied to all public service workers and working people in general across the world from the Directive Committee of the 13th Congress of the World Federation of Trade union (WFTU) Trade union International of Public Services and Allied workers (TUI-PS&A).

An epistemic break has occurred, a rapture in the seemingly entrenched mechanism of neoliberalism. It is no surprise that Lenin's quote about decades and weeks seems to adorn ever other article. Suddenly, unrepentant free-marketers have been usurped by government interventionists and the principle of utility has been completely altered overnight. It turns



CDE ZOLA SAPHETHA

General Secretary

out that PR consultants, change managers and lobbyists are not particularly useful in combating global pandemic. We now know the jobs that are essential to a healthy society, governments can no longer pretend.

These rapid developments signify that the 2020s will likely be the defining decade of the century, the moment where humanity irrevocably descends into darkness or pull back from the brink. The new is about to be born. But are we emerging into a post capitalist nightmare or is this the beginning of a socialist awakening? Of course, it might be neither of these scenarios. There is a chance that the question might remind us of Ernest Mandel's claim in his introduction to the first volume of Marx's Capital that "capitalism's heyday is over". Like Mandel believed that the economic and geopolitical crises of the late 1960s and 1970s would signal the end of capitalist hegemony, many of us thought the end of 2008 crisis would precipitate the end of the neoliberal

order. It was, however, only re-imagined and consolidated.

There is certainly a chance that the coronavirus pandemic might give way to an even more bloody war against the population, a brutal form of austerity that would make the post-2008 measures seem almost Keynesian.

Around the world, millions of us are taking to our windows to applaud the frontline workers fighting COVID-19. This solidarity is welcome. But, as trade unions, the only way we can do real justice to these momentous efforts is by winning deep, systematic change that workers, now more than ever, deserve. We must not accept a return to when that normal was part of the problem.

Profit over people, cost over care: capitalist broken healthcare exposed by virus.

Suddenly, we find ourselves in a transformed





“Let the Ruling Classes Tremble
At a Communist Revolution.
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EDITORIAL COMMENT

world. Empty streets. Closed shops, unusually clear skies, and climbing deaths tolls: something unprecedented is unfolding before our eyes.

News about the economy is alarming almost everywhere: the COVID-19 pandemic has triggered the sharpest and deepest economic contraction in the history of capitalism. To paraphrase The Communist Manifesto, all that was solid has melted into air: 'globalisation' has gone into reverse, long supply chains, that were previously the only 'rational' way to organise production, have collapsed and hard borders are back, trade has declined drastically and international travel has been severely constrained. In a matter of days, tens of millions of workers became unemployed and millions of businesses lost their employees, customers, suppliers and credit lines.

Further the political implications are uncertain. Ideologically, neoliberal discourses about the imperative of 'fiscal austerity' and the limitations of public policy have vanished while the private sector beg for government spending and pleading for unlimited public spending in order to save private initiative. No doubt they will get back to normal when circumstances change and memories fade. At that point, the state will become 'bad' again, and public service will be ready for another round of culling.

Indeed, the pandemic hit after four decades of neoliberalism had depleted state capacities in the name of the 'superior efficiency' of the market, fostered

deindustrialisation through the 'globalisation' of production, and built fragile financial structures secured only by the state, all in the name of short-term profitability. The disintegration of the global economy left the most uncompromisingly neoliberal economies in many countries exposed as being unable to produce enough face masks and personal protective equipment for their healthcare personnel, not to speak of ventilators to keep their hospitalised population alive.

We must work together to rebuild the world after the pandemic. The new world that we build, must be sustainable and it must have both an environmental conscience and a social conscience. We need Solidarity, Not Sanctions.

We must not accept a return to normal when the normal was part of the problem

The truth is out to the world now that societies do not need capitalism and humanity would be better off without this inhumane system. People we depend on in this crisis are the toiling masses on whose shoulders, blood and sweat we all depend on in our everyday life. In this regard, we recognise the valuable contributions made by frontline foot-soldiers who are nurses, doctors, pharmacists, cleaners, dispensary and reception clerks, potters, ambulance, morgue workers and public service workers in general. At this point, as the Trade Union International Public Service and Allied (TUI PS&A), we applaud and pay tribute to them for their courage and humane service rendered in detecting, testing, quarantining

people who are infected and providing counselling to those affected by Coronavirus and in treating the patients that are suffering from COVID-19 disease including saving lives of the world's populace.

It is clear to us that a COVID-19 outbreak "over there" is also a COVID-19 "right here". If the world after this pandemic is to begin to look anything close to the vision of the good life embodied in humanity, we need to pay far more heed to, and implement much more fully, the kind of international solidarity conceived in the declaration of the World Federation Trade Union (WFTU) and its sectoral component the Trade Union International Public Service and Allied Workers Unity and Solidarity elaborated in both the Platform of Action 2016 to 2020 and Four Year Platform 2020 – 2024.

This first Directive Committee meeting of the XIII World Congress of TUI Public Service & Allied was convened on the 11th–12th March 2020, Johannesburg South Africa inspired by the theme "Join the struggles against privatisation – defend workers' rights" of its 13th World Congress held in November 2019 in Cyprus. The immediate task of the directive was to develop a concrete four (4) year platform amongst others which would guide its organisational work largely drawn from the long commitment of TUI PS&A - the defence of workers' rights and the working class broader struggles against the twin evils of capitalism and imperialism.

This meeting noted that the International Congress held in

November 2019, Cyprus could not discuss or adopt the program of action for the four-year terms of office of the new elected leadership. Further noted that the year 2020, is the year to celebrate the seventy fifth (75th) anniversary celebrations of the militant and class orientated World Federation of Trade Unions which dictated that as a sectoral component of this World Federation we must discuss and adopt the four-year platform (program of action) and a program for WFTU 75th celebrations for implementation.

It is for this reason that the Central Office of TUI Public Service & Allied had decided to produce this first bulletin in order to reflect on the brief synopsis of the discussions unfolded at this meeting and more importantly to share the conclusions and way forward of the Directive Committee with members through structures such as Continents, Regions, Nations, Affiliates and friends of our trade union for implementation.

This bulletin is the first and will be followed by many which covers the implementation of activities captured by our program of action and year plan of WFTU anniversary celebrations including the reflections of meetings to be convened throughout the term of office.

We hope and trust that every reader will enjoy reading this bulletin and be encouraged to look for many coming.

Forward to Socialism!

Down with Capitalism!

Forward to Socialism!



MEETING DISCUSSION

SUMMARY OF ISSUES

This bulletin will briefly reflect the essence of each issue discussed at the meeting for transparency and information and capture in full the decisions of the meeting for implementation. Please find the issues and way forward below:

1. TUI-PS&A Statute

The General Secretary, Cde. Zola Saphetha presented a comprehensive and detailed report focusing on administrative obstacles and areas of contradictions from the TUI PS&A Statute and their impact into operational and organizational work which needed to be clarified for the smooth processing organisational work through building a stable and sustainable international trade union capable of representing the interests and aspirations of public service and allied workers across the world.

2. TUI PS&A Office Organogram

The General Secretary made a presentation on the draft organogram for adoption which covered positions of the appointed staff and support staff provided by the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (NEHAWU) for the

overall support to the work of the General Secretary of Trade Union International Public Service and Allied at the Central Office in South Africa. The presentation concluded by providing detail information on the secured offices, address, the lease period, information on rentals and other necessary items linked to the fully functional offices of the calibre of our trade union with international character for acceptance by the Directive Committee.

3. Continental Reports

The General Secretary presented the background and the need to for reports from continents and regions to establish a better overview about what is happening and going round the world to ascertain generic issues (issues cutting across continents and peculiars)





for prompt responses and support and for building a relevant world organisation to the plight of public service and allied workers through creating responsive structures capable to tackle all challenges facing all members and friends of TUI PS&A wherever they are. These challenges can only be responded through developing comprehensive programme of action and driving vigorous campaigns informed concrete conditions on the grounds for relevance.

After the presentation, Vice-Presidents from Latin America and Caribbean, Europe, Africa French Speaking, Africa English Speaking, Asia and Pacific and Chairperson of Finance Control

Committee provided reports on their respective continents to the meeting for discussions and considerations.

4. Information and Publicity Plan

The General Secretary presented the draft information and publicity plan characterized by the international situation which is a capitalist deep-seated crisis that requires the creation of the alternative drive by the vanguard of the working class working together with a class orientated trade union movement deeply connected to the struggles of the working people in order to defend their rights and struggles for the just world.

5. Website New Outlook

A presentation was made by Cde. Thenjiwe Masuku, NEHAWU Website Developer who indicated that TUI PS&A has a Website, Facebook account, Twitter, YouTube channel, all of these are in existence however the layout is outdated and user experience is reduced by improper layout with regards to fonts, out of scale images, inconsistencies, etc.

Cde. Thenjiwe went on to propose a new domain for TUI PS&A Website which must be known and used as <https://www.tuipublicservice.org> to avoid traffic and also the need to change the social media names of TUI for uniformity and consistency including dealing with strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the digital footprint.

6. Handover Meetings

The General Secretary provided a full account on the hand-over meeting conducted between him and the current WFTU President, Cde. Mzwandile Makwayiba who is former Vice-President of TUI PS&A and former TUI PS&A President, Cde. Lulamile Sotaka in East London from the 29th February up to 01st March 2020. In his presentation, the General Secretary highlighted that this hand-over session assisted a lots in furthering the re-orientation in the depth international working class solidarity and history of TUI PS&A in strengthening the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) including sharing the strengths and challenges and/or weaknesses TUI PS&A and WFTU went through overtime.

Key to the weaknesses shared was a very saddening to learn that our Trade Union International PS&A went through a form of an interregnum of one kind or another between the period 2009 to 2014 where either by design or lack of commitment, the organisation was literally dysfunctional and both directed us to learn from this weakness for future strength.

The General Secretary further updated the

meeting about the handover meeting which was scheduled to take place between himself and the former TUI-PS&A General Secretary, Cde. Pierpaolo Leonardi which had to be postponed due to COVID-19. He argued that this handover session still remains important to the smooth transition on number of areas such as Bank Account, Website and information related to affiliated trade unions to TUI PS&A and contacts thereof.

7. New Affiliates

The General Secretary, Comrade Zola Saphetha presented to the directive committee on the application of affiliation to the Trade Union International Public Service and Allied from two affiliates from Nepal and Mauritius. The affiliate from Nepal - Nepal Medical and Sales Representative Association and Tax Counsellor Workers Organization of Nepal. The affiliate from Mauritius - The Government Services Employees Association – GSEA. He further informed the directive of engagements with the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Union which are at an advance stage and that the federation has agreed in principle to affiliate to WFTU.

8. TUI PS & A Four (4) Year Platform

The General Secretary, Comrade Zola Saphetha presented the TUI-PS&A four (4) year platform (POA) and moved from the premise that TUI-Public Services is the sectorial structure of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) and carries out its actions in the sector central, regional and local Public Administration, Public Services and the like in all continents, in conjunction with the overall action of the WFTU on a Continental and World level.

This understanding recognises the fact that workers and affiliates of TUI PS&A are located in the various locals of its different regions/continent; by implication, this means that the implementation of the TUI PS&A POA happens primarily at the continental and local level, while the centre (central office) plays the role



DIRECTIVE

MEETING

12 MARCH 2020



of coordinating and overseeing the overall international work of the TUI Public Services in WFTU. The four (4) year platform would focus amongst others on the following particular areas: internationalism and anti-imperialist action, trade union rights, anti-privatization campaign collective bargaining and social security campaigns, trade union education, workers unity and solidarity, the rights of the youth, women and immigrants, communications and publicity strategy and building organizational strength.

9. TUI PS&A WFTU 75TH Anniversary Program of Action

The internationalist class orientated World Federation of Trade Unions in the year 2020 is celebrating its 75th Anniversary since its formation on 03 October 1945 and as such the Trade Union International Public Services and Allied which constitutes an sectorial structure of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) will be celebrating the WFTU 75th Anniversary. The directive committee received a presentation on the draft WFTU 75th Anniversary program of action which covered introduction, seminars and workshops, subject, topics and themes , trade union scale and format. All these areas

will have activities along each and further cover the components of workers and working class struggles today, workers' arts and culture, events and forms of activities.

10. Conclusions and Way Forward

After in-depth and robust discussions on all issues reflected above, the meeting came to the following conclusions and way forward:

- (a) A meeting endorses a committee of five comprising of the President, General Secretary, Chairperson of Finance Control Committee and Two (2) Vice Presidents with the responsibility to facilitate amendments of Statute for consideration by the next international congress of TUI PS&A. The meeting further clarify the appointment of the two Vice-Presidents which will be processed by the first Secretariat meeting to take place soon.
- (b) The meeting agrees that the Secretariat meeting should take place on the 17th September 2020 back to back with the Asia-Pacific Regional Seminar organised by the Continent on "Needs for Social Economy for



working class and the role of Trade Union” scheduled for the 18th and 19th September 2020 in Nepal.

- (c) The directive committee accepts the appointment of Cde. Mbuyiseni Mathonsi as Head of Secretariat, the secondments of Cde. Lebogang Pule as Secretariat Coordinator, Cde. Desmond Mlatha as Ideology and Political Coordinator and, Cde. Nomakhosi Mazibuko as Receptionist including the creation of Information and Publicity Officer which shall be filled in due course.
- (d) The directive committee recognises and welcomes the support provided by the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union {NEHAWU} to reinforce the personnel of the Central Office with Cde. Sidney Kgara - the Head of Policy Development, Cde. Lucian Segami – the Head of International Relations and Cde. Casper Nanto – the Head of Organizing and Collective Bargaining.
- (e) The Trade Union International Public Service & Allied (TUI-PS&A) in the terrain of information and publicity will continue

to wage struggles against the advancement of capitalism through driving the battle of ideas as a project targeting the unjust and brutal system of capitalism. In this regard, the Central Office will design publications focusing on ideological and organisation work guided by adopted four year platform (program of action) as an instrument to deepen class consciousness.

(f) While on the other hand, the TUI PS&A will develop a dedicated publication focuses on international working class solidarity through sharing and supporting activities and actions taking place in different continents and regions including affiliates and friends.

- (g) The meeting accepts and adopts the continental reports presented as a basis to build upon the general overview on international outlook for the TUI PS&A particularly on the impact of the Coronavirus and the extent to which the public service workers have been exploited in different countries in continents.
- (h) In this regard, all continents and regions were directed to submit reports in writing before the end of March 2020 for consolidation. These reports will help in developing a conclusive view on the state of the international trade union of public service workers in order to enable the central office to be in the better position to intervention and provide support where is needed.
- (i) Organizational and campaigns publication of TUI PS&A will focus on activities outlined in the four-year plan of action including amongst others anti-privatisation campaign and others which shall be conducted via online, social media, website for purposes of a wider reach and dissemination of



information to member affiliates through regions and continents.

- (j) The TUI PS&A website will be hosted and relocate to the Central Office as a matter of principle and operation. In this regard, the meeting directs the General Secretary to consult and communicate this decision on the relocation of TUI PS&A Website and all social media platforms available to the Central Office in South Africa to comrades in Italy, the former Central TUI PS&A Offices.
- (k) All continents are directed to create links to the main website of the organization – TUI PS&A for information sharing and dissemination. In this regard, all members of the Directive Committee were given an opportunity to make further inputs on the preferred option outlook on apps and other related aspects within a period of two weeks from the meeting.
- (l) The meeting chooses <https://www.tuipublicservice.org> as one of the proposed options as TUI PS&A new domain.
- (m) The meeting mandates the President,

General Secretary and former President, Cde. Sotaka to visit Italy, India and Greece for purposes of hand-over and collective the archiving of TUI PS&A in these countries in particular and provide full report in the next meeting of the Directive Committee for considerations.

- (n) The meeting accepts and adopts the four year platform as presented as a practical step to defend the hard-won gains of





workers, instrument to change the world in exerting the working class hegemony through implementing its pillars.

(o) The 3rd of October 2020 which is the WFTU International Day of Action will be set aside for anti-privatization campaign as part of celebrating the WFTU 75th Anniversary. In this regard, the build-up activities in all continents will be organised towards the 3rd October 2020 focusing on peculiar situations or issues of each region or continent.

(p) Immediately the meeting adopts the theme for the 3rd October 2020 (the WFTU international day of action) "Stop Privatisation Now" as privatisation has been declared by TUI PS&A as its enemy and the working class hence it must be stopped now.

(q) The pamphlets should be designed and program be formulated on time and circulated to all Continents and regions for mobilization and implementation.

(r) The meeting accepts the 75th WFTU anniversary celebrations as a program of action for the trade union international public service and allied workers for implementation.

(s) The program of action together with the four year platform (program of action 2020 – 2024) will be circulated and publicized to all members through their trade unions affiliated and friends of TUI PS&A including forwarding to the WFTU Central Office in Greece.

(t) The directive committee accepts the applications in principle by Tax Counsellor Workers Organisation of NEPAL and mandates the General Secretary to effect the required administrative processes.

(u) The directive committee accepts the intention to affiliate by GSEA and mandates the General Secretary to make a follow up including going to Mauritius if a need arises to finalise the affiliation administratively and report progress in the next meeting of the Directive Committee.

(v) The General Secretary was directed to continue to engage with ZCTU, the federation of Zimbabwe for the affiliation to WFTU and TUI PS&A.



DECLARATION OF THE FIRST DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE

**11-12 March 2020, Johannesburg,
South Africa**

The first Directive Committee meeting of the XIII World Congress of the TUI Public Service & Allied was successfully convened in Johannesburg, South Africa, on the 11th to 12th March 2020.

The meeting took place against the background of the unfolding immediate threat to humanity by the spread of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 disease. The TUI Public Service & Allied joins millions around the world in expressing solidarity with all those that are suffering from the coronavirus, which has already registered more than 100 000 laboratory-confirmed cases and fatalities across all continents. This virus has already caused massive instability and disruptions in the lives of the working class and the broader populations across the world, especially in People's Republic of China.

We commend the People's Republic of China for its swift and exemplary response to the coronavirus outbreak, which gives confidence that through responsive government-led interventions, the tide of the coronavirus can be stemmed.

The spread of the coronavirus has led to the shutdown of workplaces, thus threatening jobs, worsening the living conditions and destabilising the livelihoods of the working class.

The TUI Public Service & Allied calls on all its affiliates and members to demand:



- That all governments must implement the World Health Organisation's consolidated package of preparedness and response to the Coronavirus.
- The training of all frontline workers at ports of entry in handling the movement of people and cases of the affected individuals.
- The provision of personal protective equipment to all exposed workers working at the ports of entry.
- The training of all relevant staff on handling coronavirus and COVID-19 disease, including on all the necessary clinical protocols that must be followed in all healthcare centres.

The humanitarian crisis caused by the coronavirus, comes at a time of an underlying capitalist crisis and imperialist wars. The crisis will aggravate mass displacement and migration affecting millions of people.

The TUI Public Service & Allied condemns the US government and the European Union on their inhuman treatment of refugees and immigrants, in this regard, we demand:

- The respect of the rights of refugees under international conventions.
- The abolition of the Dublin Regulation and the EU-Turkey agreement
- The closure of all prison camps for refugees and migrants; and

- No participation, support or involvement in NATO, US and EU actions and operations in the Middle East region that support Turkey's invasion of Syria, interventions in Libya, Palestine that are perpetuating war and disaster.

We currently witnessing turmoil unfolding in capitalist stock markets around the world, especially in the oil market as a result of the breakdown of global production in the midst of US provoked trade war with China as well as the rising tensions around the unfolding catastrophic imperialist war in Syria and threats against Iran.

The Directive Committee condemns the escalation of Yankee imperialism across the world, especially in Latin America. The USA is now the leading force in creating conditions for the rise of racism, sexism, xenophobia and other forms of hatred and discriminations across the world. Under Trump, it has now nakedly stepped up its sabotage of the economic development that is led by progressive and revolutionary governments, including in China, Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Bolivia and other countries. In Latin America, this imperialist offensive has led to direct interventions to destabilise political order and cause coups in order to put in place Neoliberal puppet governments organised around the Lima group and to repress the revolutionary forces.

Thus, the TUI Public Service & Allied also pledges solidarity to the people of Palestine in their resistance against the Zionist occupation by US-backed apartheid Israel.

The Directive Committee meeting reaffirmed its commitment in the fight against capitalism and the implementation of neoliberal policies within countries through international, regional trade agreements as well as by bourgeois governments. Our stance against the privatisation of public services is the centre-piece of our programme of action. Taking into account our countries peculiarities, we shall embark on mass mobilisation and protest actions against the privatisation on the 75th

anniversary celebrations of WFTU International Day of Action from the 3rd October and around.

We demand an end to the privatisation of public services. We are opposed to international trade in services, corporate tax cuts and campaign for collective bargaining. We are opposed to the super-exploitation of women and children, to job losses due to the application of new intelligent digital technologies, to the destruction of the environment, the abuse of the vulnerable migrant workers and suppression of wages within countries.

The Directive Committee will implement its four year platform, through national and regional activities. In this regard, all TUI PS & Allied affiliates and organisations shall involve members at their workplaces and communities in different types of events.

In addition, the Directive Committee passed the following resolutions:

- To rebuild and strengthen the links and communication within the whole family of TUI, including reviving relations with the trade unions that historically belonged to our TUI and others.
- To establish a committee comprising the President, General Secretary, Chairman of Finance Control Commission and other two Vice Presidents to be confirmed by the Secretariat meeting to consider improvements and amendments on our constitution in order to align it with our statutes.
- To step up our media work, in particular making improvements on our communication within our family and the broader WFTU community and taking advantage of the modern information communication technologies.
- To implement the agreed affiliation contributions by member unions in line with the statute/constitution in order to strengthen our international organisational duties, whilst taking into consideration the financial



challenges that some of our member unions are experiencing. We reassert our principle to remain a militant and independent public service trade union movement, and will do all what we can to depend on our own resources and members in financing our work.

- To put in practice our principled directive that every affiliate of the TUI must recruit other trade unions into the fold of our class-oriented international in order to build working class power for socialist struggles.
- To step up the mobilisation of women workers as part of the broader programme of the WFTU to advance collective workers' rights and to take up issues of women, ethnic minorities, youth, children and migrants.
- The Directive Committee also pledges its solidarity with the struggle of civil servants in Peru against the Emergency Decrees 014-20 and 016-20 which are harmful to workers

and erode trade union rights.

The TUI will mark the WFTU 75th anniversary celebrations with seminars, music, cultural events and demonstrations organised in all regions and continents as determined by the local conditions and traditions. Some of the celebrations will take the following form in the different continents:

- French speaking Africa to organise a regional conference in July 2020 in Kinshasa, DRC to address high level migration in the region including a campaign to mobilise youth into the WFTU.
- PASYYEK will collaborate with the federation of PEO to host the international event on the 2nd of October to honour the 75th anniversary of WFTU. In the event it is expected that a big number of international delegates will be invited.
- PASYEK will organise a seminar about the

history and action of WFTU since its establishment.

- As part of the WFTU 75th anniversary celebrations, PASYEK will host in its hotel apartments between 60 to 80 children coming from special schools as well as children who are under the care of the Welfare State Services.
- PASYEK will also organise a cultural event (theatre performance) honouring the 75 years of WFTU.
- An anti-privatisation national forum in the French speaking Africa region on 03rd October.
- In Latin American region, a seminar on the WFTU and anniversary on 28-29 August 2020

- Egypt, seminars, events, training for class orientation against collaboration.

- Portugal, demonstration on anti-privatisation and WFTU anniversary celebration.

The WFTU TUI Public Services & Allied will convene its Secretariat meeting on the 17th September 2020 in Kathmandu, Nepal and the Directive Committee meeting on the 18th September 2020.

**VIVA TRADE UNION
INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC
SERVICE!!!**

LONG LIVE WFTU!!!

**FORWARD WITH
INTERNATIONAL WORKING
CLASS SOLIDARITY!!!**