

IUF Global Meat Conference

Chicago, 13-15 October, 2015



Conference resolution on Trade and Investment Agreements

This 3rd global conference of the IUF meat sector affiliates condemns the process and substance of corporate-driven trade and investment agreements which restrict the power of governments to protect the public interest, diminish the role of public services and promote deregulation and privatization, such as:

Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP)

Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between the EU and Canada

Trade in Services Agreement (TISA)

Trade agreements must facilitate trade which encourages the creation of decent jobs and rising living standards for all, fosters the protection of worker and consumer health and safety, protects and develops public goods and services, protects the environment and contributes to raising rather than lowering standards in these regards.

Trade and Investment Agreements must be negotiated through an open and democratic process which allows input and monitoring by citizens and their democratically elected representatives and other representatives of civil society including trade unions.

We reject trade deals which:

- a) Grant foreign investors the power to challenge the democratic right of governments to prioritize workers interests and citizens' rights through laws and regulations adopted in the public interest.
- b) Restrict the right of working people to access the necessities of life, including food and medicines, by asserting the priority of corporate intellectual property rights;
- c) Reduce wages and lower working conditions or destroy the livelihoods of workers in the meat processing as in other sectors.
- d) Undermine or remove democratic rights, including trade union rights and food security and sovereignty.

IUF affiliates strongly reject the corporate push for “regulatory convergence” in treaty agreements which lower food safety standards in a process of downward harmonization. Sovereign nations must retain the right to make their own laws regarding food safety, occupational health and safety and labelling information to consumers.

IUF Meat Sector affiliates commit to campaign nationally and to work together internationally to fight trade and investment agreements and win trade relationships which respect and promote human rights and food security.

IUF Meat Sector affiliates call upon their respective Governments to respect and promote human rights and food security when negotiating trade agreements on behalf of their citizens.