

## MOVING FORWARD TO APRECON 2016 – ACTION TIME

PSI Congress had identified the goals almost an year back and the EB has set the priorities and threw the challenges to the Regions now Now the Region has to raise to the challenges. Since prioritization phase is over , now is the planning and action time. A broad consultation at the regional level was necessary in order to get wide ranged and diverse views on the issues at hand. The Regional workshop has accomplished to raise such a platform and we are able to arrive at some consolidation. We have touched upon number of issues concerning the AP Region but there are end number of issues still to be addressed We cannot do everything at once, but we can do something at once.

It is easy to visualize an action framework in paper to achieve those priorities for the next 4 years but making it happen in reality depends upon the commitment and motivation. Hence I make a very humble effort with the bottom-line of what we can and what we have from the discussions in the past 3 days.

### Influencing Global Policies

Trade issues are getting in big way in the region as we listened, scared and frustrated. There are many facets to the trade issues, some of them moving faster and some of them looming large. We need to safeguard public services and we need to protect our members and we need to show our strength and power of arguments to those who are making these policies. The Region need to focus on activities/participation and intervention in the trade related activities. Hence during the APRECON 2016 and prior we should be able to organize at least one or two campaigns on this issue.

(show green or red) – let me see green raised for those who would be participating in those events and share the impacts of the national campaigns in the trade agreements.

Funding the QPS – The tax justice campaign and its relation to the QPS and then to MDGs have been clearly demonstrated by the panelists. Where do we stand with this campaign in the Region. The region where 60% population is denied the basic public services and hence we need to be angry and raise up and must show and stand up. I propose that we have to atleast hold an yearly campaign on the tax justice.

Kindly raise your cards for me to count the no. of countries who will be interested in doing this.

### Trade union Rights

Our Regional statistics are dismal with reference to Freedom of Association and collective bargaining to public sector workers and the governments cite the public services workers as reason for not ratifying these conventions. Fire fighters, emergency workers, first responders people who work round the clock and in readiness to assist people whether it is floods, fire or earthquake are not given the rights to organize or bargain. If we have to change this scenario then we need to support these categories of

workers and bring them into the fold of unions. This needs a rethinking and restructuring of the traditional organizing. The region propose to go for organizing these categories of workers in phases.. In this matter the overpowered financial institutions have a big role to play and in order to arrest their progress it is important for our intervention in their policies and actions.

Can I see your concurrence for active campaign to ratify and implement CLS conventions to include all those who are excluded so far

#### Privatization and fight against corruption

Privatization especially in the basic public services is an onslaught on democracy and people. There is nobody other than the public services workers who have the power to expose the dark dealings and un democratic processes happening around. People will judge us by our actions not by our words. Therefore it is needed that we are constantly on watch and ready to defend and properly equipped. Corruption erodes the value of public services and the unions are best equipped to understand and make the others understanding.

I need your confirmation that we will continue our fight against privatization and corruption and will make intense activities in the next 4 years.

#### Gender and young people and growth

All the above commitments are possible only when the unions grow in membership, participation of women and young people. The attacks on women are increasing to a deplorable level both at work places, domestic level and at societal level. These will scare away women from their vital contributions to development and progress. Safety and security are foremost issues for a peaceful society. Social protection provides the dignity and status for all citizens. Young people are forced to take precarious jobs with no conditions of decent work. In this precarious condition they will have no rights to unionize and represented. Considering the future of unions it is vital that young workers are aligned with the unions especially in the public services as education and career planning are important steps for them. Organizing young people, fighting for their decent working conditions, protecting them from victimization, most importantly to fight for decent jobs for all have become more important than anytime now.

It is not ambitious if the region proposed that by next APRECON we will increase the membership by another million as a target and distribute to the sub regions a target of 250000 ...

#### Migration

Again this region is sending the migrants, young migrants, women migrants in loads to other regions and countries. Every year we lose health workers, teachers, skilled engineers, technical experts and domestic workers to other regions where they work

for the development and welfare but are exploited and face great difficulties. Many countries benefit from their homeward remittances but in turn did not provide them the necessary support. The sending countries are many in the region and hence it is important that we get engaged in getting the migrants rights protected by having the international instruments in place and involve in national debates and policy framework to protect them. There will be some project based actions on pilot level to engage in the migration issues from a public services perspective. Do I get your approval for such an involvement.

In summary the APREC will take note of the discussions in the Regional workshop and the expressions of commitment. APREC 2014 will be able to draw a work plan according to the priorities and to get approval from the EB. The region will be able to organize some activities directly but will mainly depend upon the affiliates national action and associate with them. For the year 2014 depending upon the budget approval a similar activity at the regional level is a possibility to evaluate the actions taking place in 2014.

I would like to share some golden and olden words which carry depth of meaning.

Talk doesn't cook rice. ~Chinese Proverb

Do it, and then you will feel motivated to do it.