

ALTERNATIVA DEMOCRÁTICA SINDICAL DE LAS AMÉRICAS



SINDICALISMO DE VALORES Y PRINCIPIOS

ADS' SPEECH AT THE "INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF LABOR AND SOLIDARITY"
ORGANIZED BY MEMUR-SEN IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY, FROM OCTOBER 19 TO 23, 2022

ALTHOUGH MANY OF US ARE ORGANIZED IN TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS,
YET WE ARE FEW, WHEN IT COMES TO ADDRESSING OF ALL THE CHALLENGES RELATED
TO INJUSTICE AND LABOR ABUSE, THAT THE WORKING CLASS CONFRONTS
IN NEARLY ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

The late Bro. Julio Robert Gómez Esguerra R.I.P.

- Honorable Minister of Labor and Social Security of Turkey **Mr. Vedat Bilgin**
- Distinguished President of MEMUR-SEN, **Mr. Ali Yalçın** and the members of its Executive Committee.
- Special guests, esteemed comrades, leaders of the trade union organizations participating in this distinguished congress.

On behalf of the “Alternative Democratic Unionism of the Americas and Caribbean” (ADS), our President Bro. **Nilton Souza** from **Brazil** and the members of the Executive Committee of the ADS, I have the pleasure and honor as Secretary General and on this occasion accompanied by the Secretary of International Relations and Migration, Bro. **Salvador Medina Torres**, to first of all, express our sincere gratitude to MEMUR-SEN for the invitation to participate in this memorable congress and to extend warm greetings of brotherhood and solidarity, on behalf of the workers of the Americas and the Caribbean, to our comrades of the trade union movement in Turkey and in the continents of **Europe, Asia and Africa**.

Allow me to introduce to you, the Regional Confederation Alternative Democratic Unionism of the Americas” ... “**Trade Unionism of Principles and Values**”.

The ADS was founded in **April 2017**, during its Constitutive Congress in the city of **Bogota, Colombia** and is based on the following principles and values: **Solidarity, Decent work, the Truth, Social Dialogue and Peaceful co-existence**.

Through its affiliated National Trade Union Centrals and Confederations, the ADS has presence within the five (5) regions of the Americas, in **15** countries including:

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Colombia, Venezuela, Panama, El Salvador, Mexico, Ecuador, Perú, Chile, Brazil and Paraguay and in the Caribbean: Curaçao, Aruba, Puerto Rico, Haiti and the Cuban workers in exile.

Among our affiliates, we also have national organizations which have with links to regional confederations representing workers in the Public Sector, such as **CLATSEP** and **CLATE**, within the local and state government structures.

Developments on labor markets in global and regional context:

Policies regarding labor conditions around the world, including the Americas and the Caribbean region, tend to promote precariousness, deregulation and informality, causing serious deterioration of the rights of the working class, including trade union freedoms. For this reason, the trade union movement must reorient itself and prepare strategies to continue the struggle to defend the human, social, labor and trade union rights of all categories of workers, promoting decent work and social protection at the national, sub-regional, continental and global levels. Also develop union and technical training programs, focusing on strategic issues for the achievement of the proposed objectives. The objective is to strengthen leadership and advocacy capacities in public policies, as well as in political, labor and social transformations, which are essential for making progress in the respective countries. Within this framework, ADS is focusing on programs and services for our affiliates in the region. We hope to be able to establish in this congress, close ties of collaboration and solidarity with fraternal trade union confederations present and in the world.

With reference to the main theme of this Congress: "Labor and Solidarity".

The ADS actively supports the objective of this congress, to establish an international network of trade union collaboration in solidarity, to collectively face the challenges, challenges and threats caused by the current global crises and changes in the world order, as well as the needs that arise in the scope of the future of Labor.

In the scope of **"Trade unions in transition"** the ILO placed the following interrogatory remark, regarding "what will be the role of the union movement in the scope of the Future of Work" and stated that: **"Just as the Future of Work is uncertain, so is the future of Trade Unions"**.

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These are all issues that the trade union movement must analyze well and prepare its affiliated organizations and the workers to be able to seek answers to the challenges and threats on the one hand, and to take advantage of the new opportunities that will arise on the other hand.

In this respect, the trade union movement must revitalize itself, strengthening its national, regional and international structures, establish platforms and global networks of collaboration and develop innovative strategies of management and collective action, without exclusions. For this reason, we must demand from the **ILO** and other supranational organizations, the recognition and respect for the legitimate right to establish autonomous national and regional organizations and their freedom of affiliation to international trade union organizations. The practice of exclusion and segregation by international organizations does not suit the workers' movement. On the contrary.... We should promote the practice of **Synergy, Inclusion, Collaboration and Union Solidarity**.

I will conclude my address to you, with the following statement of our deceased bro. Julio Roberto Gomez Esguerra, first president of ADS, who's soul is resting in peace.

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The ADS congratulates the **MEMUR-SEN** once more for its initiative to organize this Congress "**Labor and Solidarity**" and calls upon all organizations present, to support the establishment of an international network of trade union solidarity and collaboration.
Long live the "United and Solidary Trade Unionism in the World"!

With fraternal greetings

Roland Ignacio
General Secretary of ADS
Curaçao, the Caribbean