

IndustriALL Resolution On the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement

Submitted to the Executive Committee by the North American Region

The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) was signed on 5 October 2015 by twelve countries: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the USA, and Vietnam. If ratified, it would cover 40% of the world's economy and set the foundation for trade and investment conditions that will have a profound impact throughout the economy and society of the nations concerned.

The TPPA was negotiated behind closed doors away from democratic scrutiny, allowing powerful corporate lobbies to advance their agenda without being subject to authentic and rigorous democratic procedures. National Parliaments have been side-lined.

IndustriALL, along with other Global Unions, human rights groups, environmental groups and public advocacy organizations, believes that the TPPA as negotiated potentially threatens democracy, public regulation, labour rights, public health, and environmental protection. Our specific concerns are as follows:

The controversial **Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS)** mechanism is at the heart of the TPPA. ISDS undermines national sovereignty by empowering secret legal panels to challenge the social and environmental legislation of member states, reverse domestic policies, and impose heavy financial penalties on governments. ISDS shifts the rules of the global economy in favor of corporations and against workers.

The TPPA **Labour** Chapter references the ILO Declaration of Principles but falls short of requiring member states to comply with fundamental worker rights as defined in the core Conventions and interpreted by the ILO supervisory bodies, raising serious questions about its enforceability.

The potential negative impact on **employment** has not been taken into account. The TPPA will put pressure on the global labour market through increased competition. It will lead to further restructuring, outsourcing and subcontracting, hence raising concerns on job security, terms and conditions of employment and achieving a living wage.

The **environment** chapter is weak and not enforceable. The TPPA does not mention climate change and would not allow governments to regulate on the basis of climate protection. The TPPA would actually undermine the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and COP21 decisions and jeopardize the implementation of the existing Multilateral Agreements on the Environment.

The TPPA has far-reaching implications for the rules of the global economy. The EU is already saying that Europe should not be left behind and is pushing to speed up on-going talks on TTIP. The approval of TPPA would most certainly increase pressure to sign more trade agreements without due regard to workers' interests.

For these reasons, IndustriALL opposes the TPPA in its current form. We call on our affiliated unions and their members to demand a public and democratic debate in the 12 countries concerned and to use their influence and power to mobilize public opinion.