

## Tal av Valter Sanches, generalsekreterare Industri All Global

Good morning, sisters and brothers. I am very glad to be here, it is a privilege and an honour. The history of cooperation between IF Metall and the prior organisation Svenska Metall with Brazil is a long-time history. I remember that this very union here was very important during dictatorship times in Brazil to the solidarity that granted for our then labour leader Lula. Later on in the new liberal times, IF Metall was very important to support the union movement in Brazil, especially CNM/CUT with projects in union education and several other issues. I am one of the generation of union leaders that had some union education that was supported by IF Metall and therefore I give thanks for this long-time solidarity with Brazil.

IF Metall has also been very important in our international organisation in several issues, especially playing a very active role in the Union to Union initiative that supports projects all over the world and we appreciate very much the role that IF Metall plays not only politically but also for the active solidarity supporting all these projects with lots of countries, regions and strategic goals with IndustriALL around the world.

I just wanted to remind you also of a very important cooperation that we had back in Brazil when we established a pre-agreement with the then president of IF Metall Stefan Löfven in CNM/CUT when Brazil was about to buy jet fighters and Saab Gripen was one of the contenders. That cooperation was very important to decide how the unions would cooperate in terms of transfer of technology, training and qualification of workers, displacement of jobs, and so on.

It is not so shocking that I am not a Nordic general secretary of IndustriALL, that has always been the history, but I am a fruit of this partnership that we have with the Nordics in a sense. We had our congress in 2016, and our congress took place in October, before the elections in the US. After that, everybody in the world asks themselves what is going to be. The fact is that we have lots of initiatives in the world, protectionist, populist in a bad way, that challenge workers' rights worldwide.

So we have to have a unified voice, which we had earlier this week when we met in the L20 summit, which is the labour leaders from the G20 countries, to make a statement and we delivered that statement to Angela Merkel, the prime minister of Germany who is the current president of G20. We want to have a unified voice so that G20 acknowledge workers' rights and trade union rights worldwide as a basic condition for us to improve working conditions worldwide.

Our five strategic goals that we decided on in the congress are very important for us in the fight for improvement of the working conditions of the workers worldwide.

First, defend trade union rights. We are bringing 40 countries to the attention of the ILO, International Labour Organization, because of systematic violation of trade union rights. There are lots of countries where they think that the only possibility for them to be competitive on an international level is by keeping the labourers' tenders as low as possible, keeping a union free environment. That is what we will not accept and we will fight to defend trade union rights.

Second, build stronger unions. Everywhere we have unions, the conditions of the workers are better. You are the best witnesses of that, because you have the highest union density in the world and we can tell the benefits for the workers, for the community and for the country.

Third, fight the power of international corporations, those corporations that still take over the order of the world and impose a process of concentration of wealth in the world in which eight white men have equal the wealth of 3.6 billion people in the world.

Fourth, fight precarious work. That means, all the forms of precarious work in the world. We have companies that use about 70 percent contract workers, from outside, in a downward spiral of workers' working conditions.

Fifth, fight for sustainable industrial policy. That means, a combination of initiatives for stronger unions but also influence on countries to have strong industrial policies so that we can create jobs and better jobs for all.

Of course I know that you are discussing the focus of the congress, to discuss the industrial work of the future, and we are pretty much willing to contribute to that, probably in October we will have a conference on this issue and we want the active participation of IF Metall.

To finalize, I would like to say that our job as an international global union, together with the other global union federations, is to bring unity and deliver solidarity. That is the most important role we have to play. Every time that I need, I can count on IF Metall for an active role, as we did in the campaigns recently, when some unions and workers were threatened in South Korea for example. Our campaign contributed so that the corrupt government of Park Geun-hye in South Korea could be impeached and now she is in jail. The next step is to free the KCTU leader, President Han.

That is the same thing we did when they challenged the attempt of the workers to improve the working conditions in Bangladesh. People that used to work 60 hours a week, to win 68 dollars a month. When the workers stood up to fight for a better living wage, they were repressed, leaders were put in jail, thousands of workers were fired, the offices of the unions were closed, and we made a very comprehensive campaign worldwide, in embassies, in the companies, and especially putting pressure on companies with which we have global framework agreements, among them H&M, that was fundamental to get all people reinstated, the union leaders freed from jail and charges being dropped in all the processes. And the unions were re-opened. This is the way we use.

We have the clear understanding that an injury to one is an injury to all and we will all stand together in solidarity.

Thank you very much and congratulations to the Congress and the new leadership.