

All about Congress



This booklet brings together all the practical information you will need for the ITF's 42nd Congress, in a format intended for you to be able to keep with you and refer to.

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PART 1: Quick Reference

Congress Provisional Agenda

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Address by Host Organisations and Distinguished Guests
3. Presidential Address
4. Election of Tellers and Ballot Scrutineers
5. Adoption of Standing Orders
6. Election of:
 - (a) Credentials Committee
 - (b) Resolutions Committee
7. Report on Activities 2006-2009/Organising Globally
8. Strong Unions – Sustainable Transport
9. Motions and Amendments to the Constitution
10. Financial Statements and Auditors' Reports (2007 to 2009)
11. Affiliation Fees
12. Election of Governing Bodies, Auditors, General Secretary, President and Vice-Presidents
13. Location of Headquarters
14. Reports of Women's and Section Conferences



PART 2: How Congress works

Timetable

Date	Time	Meeting
Tuesday 3 August	08.30 to 10.30 09.00 to 17.00 11.00 to 19.00	Registration for EB & Young Workers' Conference Executive Board Young Transport Workers' Conference
Wednesday 4 August	08.00 to 09.30 09.30 to 17.00 15.00 to 19.00	Registration for Climate Change Conference Climate Change Conference Registration of Congress Delegates
Thursday 5 August	08.00 to 10.00 10.00 to 17.30 12.30 to 13.00 12.30 to 13.00 13.00 to 15.00 17.00 to 18.00 19.30 to 23.59	Registration of Congress Delegates Opening Plenary Session Credentials Committee Resolutions Committee Press Conference Resolutions Committee ITF Congress opening party
Friday 6 August	09.00 to 17.00 09.00 to 17.00 09.00 to 17.00	Road Transport Section Conference Civil Aviation Section Conference Seafarers Section Conference
Saturday 7 August	09.00 to 13.30 09.30 to 17.30 09.30 to 17.30 14.30 to 18.00	Inland Navigation Conference Dockers Section Conference Railways Section Conference Fisheries Section Conference
Sunday 8 August	09.30 to 17.30 09.30 to 17.30 09.30 to 12.30	Urban Transport Conference Joint Seafarers/Dockers Conference Tourism Conference
Monday 9 August	09.30 to 17.30	Women Transport Workers' Conference
Tuesday 10 August	09.00 to 17.00 17.00 to 18.00 18.00 to 19.00	Plenary Electoral Groups Resolutions Committee
Wednesday 11 August	09.00 to 17.00 17.00 to 18.00	Plenary Session Electoral Groups
Thursday 12 August	09.00 to 13.00 11.30 to 12.30 13.00 to 14.00	Closing Plenary Session Executive Board Press Conference



PART 2: How Congress works

Your Congress folder received at registration will contain your documents and others will be distributed during Congress

What power does Congress have?

Congress is the supreme authority of the ITF. It elects the President, Vice-Presidents, General Secretary and Executive Board, decides the location of ITF headquarters and makes the policy of the Federation.

Who attends Congress?

Delegates of paid-up affiliated unions, who may be accompanied by non-voting advisers; observers from non-affiliated organisations, including the other Global Union Federations (GUFs) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC); guests of honour; staff of the ITF Secretariat and the host unions. Plenary sessions are open to the press and public, with the section conferences meeting in closed session.

Registration

All participants – delegates, observers, visitors and guests (including accompanying persons) wishing to enter the Congress venue or attend receptions - must register with the ITF Secretariat before Congress.

Registration will take place in the Convention Centre from 08:30 to 10:30 on 3 August, from 08:00 to 09:30 and 15:00 to 19:00 on 4 August and then from 08:00 to 10:00 on 5 August. While registering you will need to indicate if you are replacing someone else at the last minute. All participants will receive an official credential.

How is Congress organised?

The conduct of Congress is governed by standing orders, which are adopted at the beginning of the proceedings. The opening session is followed by plenary sessions and by section conferences, each of which appoints a rapporteur.

Why is there a debate on the Report on Activities?

This is the point on the agenda, which gives delegates the opportunity to comment on what the ITF has been doing. There will be a special debate on “Strong Unions – Sustainable Transport” which continues the programme focused on building union membership and strength in the international economy.

Who presides at the Congress sessions?

The ITF President chairs the plenary sessions. The elected section and committee chairs preside over the section conferences and Women’s Conference.

Who can speak in debates?

Delegates and advisers (with the permission of the head of their delegation) can speak.

What is the process if you want to speak in plenary?

Complete one of the “request to speak” cards you will find near the podium and hand it to the President or a member of the ITF Secretariat. You will then be added to the list of speakers. When you are called, speak from the rostrum at the front of the hall.

Please remember that your words are being translated simultaneously into other languages. Unless you have made alternative arrangements, you must speak in one of the languages made available by the ITF.



PART 2: How Congress works

Keeping to the following rules will ensure what you say is clearly understood by all:

- Avoid jargon and spell out the full titles of organisations etc. They may not have the same set of initials in every language.
- If you intend to speak from a written text, even if it is handwritten, please give a copy to the ITF Secretariat in advance so that copies can be made for the interpreters.
- Keep your speech short. The President has a right to limit speeches and is likely to restrict them to five minutes or less. If your intervention goes beyond the time limit, you will be asked to stop.

Credentials Committee

In order to ascertain the status and voting rights of delegations and delegates, the Credentials Committee will meet to examine ITF records and will verify the strength of each delegation. You should note that your union's voting strength is based on the affiliation fees paid to the ITF for 2010, and you should check with your own union before you leave home on your union's paid-up membership figure. Any questions on this should be addressed to the ITF Secretariat. If your union has not paid fees in accordance with Rule XVI (4) of the ITF Constitution you will not be entitled to sit as delegates or to vote.

How is the voting conducted?

Motions, constitutional amendments and reports are normally first put to the vote by show of hands. Only accredited delegates can vote by raising their registration cards. If the show of hands does not produce a clear majority, then the President may call for a membership vote, based on the voting strength of each delegation (defined in Rule IV, paragraph (9)) of the ITF Constitution.

A membership vote may also be requested from at least three different countries. Head of delegations are handed sets of ballot papers for the membership votes as soon as the report of the Credentials Committee has been adopted in the plenary session in the afternoon of Thursday 5 August. You will be given more detailed information on what to do if a membership vote takes place.

How are resolutions adopted?

Motions are submitted by affiliates up to four months before Congress, and amendments to those motions up to four weeks before. Congress can debate these motions, together with any emergency motions. Separate guidance on resolutions is given on page 7. A Resolutions Committee is elected at the beginning of Congress and makes recommendations on whether motions are to be debated by the plenary or referred to one or more section conferences and can make redrafting proposals. The committee may also recommend that a motion be remitted to the Executive Board for further consideration. Emergency motions may be submitted to the Management Committee (acting as the standing orders committee) which will decide to put them before Congress only if they relate to major developments that have come about since the date for submission of ordinary motions.



PART 2: How Congress works

How is the ITF leadership elected?

Congress elects the Executive Board on the basis of nominations submitted by the various electoral groups, which are based on the ITF's regional groupings.

Congress elects the President, Vice-Presidents and General Secretary on the basis of recommendations made by the Executive Board.

Who can take part in the section conferences?

Any delegate or adviser can attend section conferences, but in the case of a vote, only delegates from unions that have declared membership in the section in the annual membership questionnaire to the ITF have the right to vote. If a membership vote takes place in a section conference, voting will be based on membership figures declared in the section concerned.

How does the Women's Conference function?

The Women's Conference is part of Congress, and while women delegates and advisers will be given priority speaking rights over male delegates by the chair (who is the chair of the ITF Women's Committee), any delegate or adviser can attend. If a membership vote is needed it is carried out using the total membership figures of each union.

What are the main functions of the section conferences and Women's Conference?

The main functions are:

- To elect the chair and vice-chair(s) of the section committee, women's committee and other committees;
- To review the Report on Activities;
- To debate issues related to "Organising Globally";
- To review the Congress theme document;
- To approve a specific work programme;
- To debate motions referred by the Resolutions Committee.

Each conference may choose to transact other business if it wishes, time permitting.

Each conference appoints a rapporteur (often the chair) who then presents the report to the plenary.



Draft guidance for Congress Motions

1. Motions are the draft texts submitted to ITF Congress containing policy proposals for decision. If approved by Congress, they gain the status of resolutions.
2. According to the ITF Constitution, each ordinary Congress must have an agenda item for motions.
3. Congress resolutions guide and form the work of the ITF over the inter-Congress period. The Executive Board acts as steward of the Congress resolutions once they have been approved, by monitoring their implementation.
4. The ITF Constitution says that:

“Motions for consideration by an Ordinary Congress shall be submitted so as to reach the General Secretary at least four months before the Congress begins. The final agenda of an Ordinary Congress shall be issued to affiliated organisations at least two months before the Congress begins. Emergency motions may be presented to an Ordinary Congress, but shall only be discussed if the Standing Orders Committee decides that they are truly of an urgent character and could not have been submitted with the notice prescribed above”

“Amendments to motions placed on the agenda of an Ordinary Congress shall reach the General Secretary at least four weeks before the Congress begins”

Motions to amend the constitution are handled in the same way as the other motions – the only difference being that they must be submitted to a membership vote and must receive at least two thirds of the valid votes cast to succeed.

5. This means that, for the 2010 Congress, which opens on 5 August, the deadline for Congress Motions is 5 April and the deadline for receipt of amendments is 8 July. The Secretariat needs to carry out a lot of work – including translation work - in this short period to ensure the motions are clear and practical, and understandable by all.
6. For this reason, the Secretariat is recommending to affiliates very strongly that motions be submitted as soon as possible, i.e. not immediately before the deadline.
7. ITF will lay out these deadlines as clearly as possible in its communications with affiliates to aid the process. However, in addition, the ITF Executive has adopted some guidance for unions in submitting motions to make it easier for all.

Format and language.

8. Affiliates are asked to consider the following in submitting motions:
 - a. Where possible, affiliates are asked to restrict the texts of motions to two pages.
 - b. Where possible, each motion should cover only one subject, or strongly related subjects. Where two diverse subjects are covered, two motions should be submitted.



Draft guidance for Congress Motions

- c. Individual affiliates should try to limit themselves to a maximum of three motions.
- d. While affiliates may submit Congress motions in different languages, the English text will be the authentic version in all matters relating to their interpretation.
- e. Where possible, it will aid the work of the working party if motions are submitted in languages habitually used by the ITF.

Content guidance

- f. Congress motions should generally cover major issues relating to the transport industry, as opposed to more restrictive technical issues (which can be dealt with by other forums e.g. section meetings).
- g. Congress motions should generally ask the ITF or a constituent of the ITF (e.g. section and region) to take some kind of action (e.g. campaigning, lobbying, public condemnation etc.)
- h. Congress motions should be practical and achievable within reason over a four-year period.
- i. Congress motions relating to national disputes should only be submitted if they raise major strategic or trade union rights issues.

What happens after my union has submitted a motion?

After a motion has been submitted, in this case to be received by the ITF before 5 April 2010, it will be considered by a resolutions working group which has been set up by the ITF Executive Board. This working group will consider all the motions which have been received and make recommendations to the April 2010 Executive Board on the motions.

The group will work to ensure a coherent set of motions. If a motion you have submitted needs to be redrafted, you will be contacted. For example, editorial changes may be suggested, meanings sometimes need clarifying with the mover, or several resolutions are received from different unions on the same subject that can be usefully drawn together. It is envisaged that re-drafting will be proposed at this stage and included in the report to the Executive.

After the working group has reported to the Executive Board, the approved results will be circulated to all affiliates giving them the opportunity to submit amendments to the redrafted motions. Original texts will be circulated for information only. It is envisaged that this will happen at the beginning of May 2010.

An additional document bringing together all the amendments submitted by 8th July will be prepared for the Congress.

The Congress will, as normal, elect a Resolutions Committee at its opening session, which will be comprised of accredited Congress delegates. The Committee will take as the basis of its work the working group report and the amendments document.

The Resolutions Committee will report its recommendations to the Congress plenary session.



PART 3: Getting there

Arrival Formalities – Passport & Visa

The information contained in the tables below is the latest available to the ITF and correct at the time of going to print. All participants should reconfirm processing times and application requirements with their local Mexican consulate as far in advance as possible to ensure that their visas are issued in good time.

All participants should ensure that they have at least 6 months validity remaining on their passport from their date of departure from Mexico.

Please note that you will clear immigration and customs at your first point of entry into Mexico. The ITF will have airport representatives available from 1-5 August to meet participants on arrival at Mexico City who will be able to assist with baggage delays and making arrangements for your hotel transfer. Payment for your transfers can be made in advance using the online credit card form or directly to the ITF's representative (IVI) once you have arrived.

No visas are required for holiday and business visits by citizens of the following countries unless applicants have been specifically advised that their visa exemption has been withdrawn:

Andorra	Denmark	Liechtenstein	San Marino
Argentina	Estonia	Lithuania	Singapore
Aruba (*)	Finland	Luxemburg	Slovakia
Australia	France	Macau (**)	Slovenia
Austria	Germany	Malta	South Korea
Bahamas	Greece	Monaco	Spain
Barbados	Hong Kong (**)	Netherlands	Sweden
Belgium	Hungary	New Zealand	Switzerland
Bulgaria	Ireland	Norway	United Kingdom
Canada	Iceland	Panama	USA
Chile	Israel	Paraguay	Uruguay
Costa Rica	Italy	Poland	Venezuela (***)
Cyprus	Japan	Portugal	
Czech Republic	Latvia	Romania	

(*) Netherland Territory

(**) Special Administrative Region

(***) 30 Days Only



PART 3: Getting there

Countries Requiring a Visa

The countries listed in the table below require a visa to enter Mexico.

NB: You are advised to submit your visa application as soon as is possible to ensure that you are able to travel. Should Mexico not have consular representation in your country, your application will need to be submitted to the country listed beside it in brackets:

Afghanistan (Iran)	Libya (Algeria)
Albania (Italy)	Macedonia (Serbia)
Algeria	Madagascar (South Africa)
Angola	Malawi (Angola)
Antigua & Barbuda (St Lucia)	Malaysia
Armenia (Russia)	Maldives (India)
Azerbaijan (Turkey)	Mali (Morocco)
Bahrain (Saudi Arabia)	Marshall Islands (Philippines)
Bangladesh (India)	Mauritania (Algeria)
Belarus (Russia)	Mauritius (South Africa)
Belize	Micronesia (Philippines)
Benin	Moldova (Greece)
Bhutan	Mongolia (South Korea)
Bolivia	Namibia (South Africa)
Bosnia & Herzegovina (Serbia)	Nauru
Botswana (South Africa)	Nepal (India)
Brazil	Nicaragua
Brunei Darussalam (Singapore)	Niger
Bulgaria (Hungary)	Nigeria
Burkina Faso	Oman (Saudi Arabia)
Burma (Singapore)	Pakistan
Burundi (Kenya)	Palau (Philippines)
Cambodia (Thailand)	Palestine
Cameroon (Nigeria)	Papua-New Guinea (Australia)
Cape Verde (Angola)	Peru
Central African Republic	Philippines
Chad	Qatar (Lebanon)
China	Russia
Colombia	Rwanda (Kenya)
Comoros	Sao Tome & Principe
Congo (Angola)	Saudi Arabia
Cote d'Ivoire (Morocco)	Senegal (Morocco)
Croatia (Hungary)	Serbia
Cuba	Seychelles (Kenya)
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Sierra Leone (Nigeria)
Djibouti (Ethiopia)	Solomon Islands
Dominica (St Lucia)	Somalia
Dominican Republic	South Africa
Ecuador	Sri Lanka (India)
Egypt	St Kitts & Nevis (St Lucia)
El Salvador	St Lucia
Equatorial Guinea	St Vincent & the Grenadines (St Lucia)
Eritrea (Kenya)	Sudan (Egypt)
Ethiopia	Suriname (Trinidad & Tobago)
Fiji (Australia)	Swaziland (South Africa)
Gabon (Morocco)	Syria (Egypt)
Gambia	Taiwan
Georgia (Turkey)	Tajikistan (Pakistan)



PART 3: Getting there

Ghana (Nigeria)	Tanzania (Kenya)
Grenada (St Lucia)	Thailand
Guatemala	East Timor (Indonesia)
Guinea (Nigeria)	Togo
Guinea-Bissau	Tonga
Guyana	Trinidad & Tobago
Haiti	Tunisia (Algeria)
Honduras	Turkey
India	Turkmenistan (Turkey)
Indonesia	Tuvalu
Iran	Uganda (Kenya)
Iraq	Ukraine
Jamaica	United Arab Emirates (Lebanon)
Jordan (Egypt)	Uzbekistan (Pakistan)
Kazakhstan (Turkey)	Vanuatu
Kenya	Vietnam
Kiribati	Western Samoa
Kuwait (Saudi Arabia)	Yemen (Saudi Arabia)
Kyrgyzstan (Pakistan)	Zambia (Angola)
Laos (Thailand)	Zimbabwe (South Africa)
Lebanon	
Lesotho (South Africa)	
Liberia (Nigeria)	

Note on assistance towards cost of attendance

The Constitution states that the ITF shall not contribute to meeting the costs of a delegation's attendance at a Congress unless, in special cases, the Executive Board decides otherwise. Congress is the ITF's most important democratic body and the only one in which all paid-up affiliates have the right to participate. However, many ITF members do not have sufficient means to do so, so the Board has traditionally dedicated a proportion of the total Congress budget to support assisted delegates.

On this occasion the board has decided that assistance should be subject to a number of conditions, as follows:

1. That the union concerned should not be in arrears with its affiliation fees;
2. That unions should try to meet part of the costs involved;
3. That priority is given only to those unions that cannot afford to send even one delegate;
4. That, if more than one union in any one country is seeking help, they should first explore the possibility of pooling their own resources and sending a delegate empowered by proxy (see Rule IV, paragraph 7 of the ITF Constitution) to represent organisations other than his/her own;
5. That country-based grants may be made in this instance (4), where cooperative endeavour is clearly demonstrated;
6. That a percentage proportion of Congress assistance budget should be set aside to support female delegates, and that this proportion should be 20 per cent;
7. That exceptions may be made to facilitate the participation of young workers, women or delegates from the host region who would otherwise be unable to attend.

Affiliates wishing to apply for assistance must write to the General Secretary not later than 4 January 2010.



PART 3: Getting there

Number of delegates

The ITF Constitution states that number of Congress delegates to which affiliated organisations are entitled shall be as follows:

Paid-up Membership Delegates		Paid-up Membership Delegates	
Up to 5,000	1	200,001 to 250,000	13
5,001 to 10,000	2	250,001 to 300,000	14
10,001 to 20,000	3	300,001 to 350,000	15
20,001 to 30,000	4	350,001 to 400,000	16
30,001 to 40,000	5	400,001 to 450,000	17
40,001 to 50,000	6	450,001 to 500,000	18
50,001 to 75,000	7	500,001 to 600,000	19
75,001 to 100,000	8	600,001 to 700,000	20
100,001 to 125,000	9	700,001 to 800,000	21
125,001 to 150,000	10	800,001 to 900,000	22
150,001 to 175,000	11	900,000 or more	23
175,001 to 200,000	12		

Organisations shall aim to ensure that the number of women delegates shall be at least proportional to their share of the union's membership. Nevertheless, each delegation consisting of more than three persons shall aim to include at least one woman delegate.

Provided written notification of its action is given to the General Secretary, if possible at least four weeks before the beginning of Congress, an affiliated organisation may nominate the delegation of another organization to act on its behalf at a Congress, but no delegation may represent more than three organisations in addition to its own.

An affiliated organisation may add a reasonable number of advisers to its delegation, provided that the advisers are members of, or otherwise closely associated with, that affiliated organisation



PART 4: “Viva Mexico!” – An introduction to our host country

Mexico has often been thought of as a gateway country, and in recent times this has been reflected in much of its art, literature and cinema. But Mexico is much more than a borderland: it covers nearly 2million square kilometres; is the eleventh most populous country in the world, with 109 million citizens; and has the 11th largest economy, making it the only Latin American country to sit on the OECD.

Below Mexico lie Guatemala and Belize, above are the US and Canada. In recent years the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between Mexico and these two countries has had a major, though much contested, impact on the Mexican economy. Mexico’s economy is expected to shrink by 7% this year, making it one of the countries hardest hit by the global banking crisis. Clearly, the impact of all this on workers and their families poses large challenges for the unions.

Transport Industry

Mexico’s geographical location and character has, inevitably, determined the way the country’s transport industry has evolved. Surrounded by the sea - the Pacific to the South and West; the Gulf of Mexico to the East; and the Caribbean Sea in the southeast – there is a vital shipping industry with 76 seaports. Of these, four major ones, Altamira and Veracruz in the Gulf of Mexico; Manzanillo and Lázaro Cárdenas on the Pacific Ocean, are responsible for handling 60% of the country’s cargo. Inland the country is traversed by two large mountain ranges, the Sierra Madre Oriental and Occidental, which made road building a difficult and expensive task: most of the highways are tolled.

The railways were privatised in 1997 and as these are still used primarily for freight; it has been left to regionally privatised bus companies to carry most of the country’s domestic traffic. Those wanting to travel from city to city use the mass transit system. The capital, Mexico City, also has its own underground system, elevated train and suburban link; Guadalajara, too, has a commuter rail link and Monterrey, an underground and an elevated Metro. Mexico City International Airport is the biggest in Latin America carrying over 21 million passengers a year. Elsewhere in the country there are over 1,000 airports but only 200 or so have paved runways.

Recent History

In 1821 Mexico gained its independence from Spain but, as in many post-colonial countries, the wealth continued to be controlled by foreigners who owned the transport system and many of the factories and mines. A small indigenous elite owned most of the land while the majority of the population lived in profound poverty. Under the leadership of General Porfirio Diaz the gap grew larger and when Francisco I. Madero led strikes across the country over unfair wages and conditions, the dictator was forced to hold elections. Threatened by the significant number of votes Madero received, Diaz had him imprisoned. But the effect of Madero’s mobilisation was felt throughout the country; inspiring two of Mexico’s greatest folk heroes: Pancho Villa in the North and Emilia Zapata in the South. Between them they led insurgencies against the army, gaining control of their respective regions. Diaz resigned in 1911, fleeing to France. Madero took control of the country but was opposed by Zapata who disapproved of the timidity of his land reform programme. The country fell into Civil War and in the ensuing battles many large haciendas and



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ranchos were destroyed. In 1917 Venustiano Carranza became president and a constitution drawn up by revolutionary leaders, that was strongly pro-union and had land reform at its centre, was accepted by Carranza. This constitution is still in effect. Today nearly half of Mexico's farmland is run by farm cooperatives that resulted from the land redistribution instigated during the revolution.

The revolutionary period lasted until 1940. In 1934, Cárdenas was elected; he furthered the land redistribution programme and nationalised Mexican oil. In the Seventies the price of oil rose and Mexico's debt increased; by the Eighties inflation was endemic and the times were made harder for workers by severe increases in the price of gas, food, and electricity. Then in September 1985 an earthquake hit Mexico City killing 8,000 and causing billions of dollars worth of damage. At about this time the flow of undocumented workers into the United States began to have a major effect on the domestic economy.

Trade Union Rights

The battle between company, or 'yellow' unions, and independent trade unions has been particularly marked in Mexico. ITF affiliates, however, have led a renewal of the progressive trade union movement in Mexico, taking the lead in the country's developing union movement.

These radical unions have fought hard battles for workers' rights nowhere more so than in the 'Maquiladoras' in which a million Mexicans work. The Maquiladoras are factories, operating under NAFTA, that import duty-free materials and equipment, assemble goods and then re-export them (the term 'maquiladora' refers to the practice of millers charging a "maquila" for processing other people's grain.) Most Maquiladoras are located along the United States-Mexico border but the companies are mainly foreign-owned. Despite this, as of 2006, they still account for 45 percent of Mexico's exports. The majority of workers in the maquiladoras are women.

Edo Fimmen

Edo Fimmen, ITF General Secretary from 1919 until his death in 1942, and one of the most important figures in the history of the ITF, died in Mexico. His impact on the international union movement, and on the ITF in particular, was twofold. He was among the first to see that an increasingly international economic environment meant unions, too, needed to act on a trans-national basis and he encouraged unions to act boldly and decisively. Under his leadership the ITF was transformed from a European organisation into a global one.

In the inter-war years Fimmen built regional organisations in other continents, responding to issues of colonialism and underdevelopment. Throughout the 1930s he visited North Africa, and then China and Japan, establishing an ITF secretariat for the Far East. During the Second World War he campaigned with the ITF in support of anti-fascist resistance movements. This included the construction of an illegal resistance network of transport (mainly railway) unions in Nazi Germany, and assistance to the republican forces in the Spanish civil war. But in 1938, after the ITF congress in Luxembourg, Fimmen collapsed. He recovered enough to oversee the move of the ITF from Amsterdam to London during the Second World War, but finally consented to go to Mexico to convalesce. He died in Cuernavaca in December 1942.



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The Environment

As everywhere else in the world the environment has become an increasingly hot topic in Mexico, not least in Mexico City itself, notorious for its high levels of pollution. This is why the ATM (the Alianza de Tranviarios de México, an ITF affiliate) is working to implement a radical new public transport programme to cut carbon levels in the city. The ‘Zero Emissions Corridor’ has been developed by the ATM’s General Secretary, Benito Bahena Lomé, in conjunction with the mayor, Marcelo Ebrard, and the city’s Minister for Transport, Armando Quintero. A main artery of Mexico City, stretching 36.6 kilometres, will be operated by electric trolley buses which will transport tens of thousands of the city’s inhabitants every day. The organisers argue that this to a safe, quiet and clean transport system will decrease levels of pollution, not only contributing to a reduction in global warming but increasing the health of the city’s inhabitants and workers.

The participants are hoping the ‘Corridor’ will act as a flagship for the city’s ecological intentions, promoting the idea of environmental awareness and standing as a model that other countries can reproduce in their own countries. “‘The Zero Emissions’ Corridor’ is a clear move towards a greener, healthier and safer city.” Bahena Lomé has said: “trade unions have to promote the implantation of more ecological corridors, we need to act now or we will compromise the future of the next generation.”

Practical Information

- Electricity: 110 volts, AC 60 Hz. Two-pin flat blade attachment plugs are standard.
- International Dialling Code: The international access code for Mexico is +52. The outgoing code is 00 followed by the relevant country code (e.g. 001 for North America).
- Mexico emergency numbers: 060 and 080.
- Time: Local time is GMT –6 (GMT –5 between the first Sunday in April and the second last Saturday in October).

Language: Spanish is the official language. Some English is spoken in the large cities and tourist areas.

Climate

The climate of Mexico varies according to altitude. The low-lying coastal areas are typically tropical, hot and humid, but the weather in Mexico City, which is at an altitude of 2,300 meters above sea level, is far more moderate. Mexico City has pleasant summers and mild winters, with an annual average temperature of 64 °F (18 °C). Seasonal variations in temperature are small, but May is the warmest month of the year, and January the coldest. Mexico City has a high average annual rainfall, most falling in summer, the wettest month being July, and the driest month February.

Banking Facilities

Banks are normally open 09:00 to 16:00 Monday to Friday; banking facilities and an ATM are located at the Congress venue.



PART 4: “Viva Mexico!” – An introduction to our host country

Money

Mexican currency is the Peso (MXN) divided into 100 centavos. Credit cards are widely accepted particularly Visa, MasterCard and American Express. Travellers cheques are generally accepted, but cannot be cashed on Sundays. ATMs are available in most cities and towns and are the most convenient way to get money, but for safety reasons it is recommended that they only be used during business hours. Foreign currency can be exchanged at one of many casas de cambio (exchange bureaux), which have longer hours and offer a quicker service than the banks.

Health

Those entering Mexico from an infected area require a yellow fever certificate. There are no specific vaccination requirements for visitors to Mexico; however visitors should take medical advice if travelling outside the major tourist areas. A small malaria risk exists in some rural areas but not on the Pacific or Gulf coasts and in the summer dengue fever is on the increase. Sensible precautions regarding food and water should be followed and visitors are advised to be cautious of street food and stick to bottled water. It is strongly recommended that adequate medical insurance is taken to cover participants for their visit. Please note that the inscription ‘Agua No Potable’ means water is not drinkable.

Tipping

Generally waiters and bar staff should be tipped 10% to 15% if a service charge has not already been added to the bill.

Personal Safety

Participants should be aware that Mexico City, like most large cities, has areas in which security can be a problem. Travellers should be vigilant and alert at all times and it is recommended that participants use authorised taxi services from taxi ranks or hotels.

Travel



The ITF has appointed Mexicana Airlines (MX) as the official airline for its 42nd Congress.

For discounted flight reservations please contact Jane Wilson at Dovetail Foks (the ITF's travel agent), telephone + 44 20 7025 1515 / fax + 44 20 7025 1519 / e-mail: ITF@dovetailfoks.com. Dovetail Foks will be available 24 hours a day in order to service Congress participants' flight enquiries and we would urge you to make reservations as far in advance as possible in order to reduce your travel costs.

Tours/Excursions

The ITF has appointed IVI as its local agent for tours and excursions and has negotiated special rates on behalf of Congress participants. IVI offers a range of tours in and around Mexico City and also trips further a field to other parts of



Mexico and its neighbouring countries. A full list of the tours available can be found by following the links on the Congress web pages or by contacting IVI

IVI will have a desk based at the Hilton Mexico City Reforma for the duration of the Congress but should you wish to pre book tours, please follow the links on the Congress web pages or contact Lilia Peñaloza at: telephone +52 55 5605 3003/4566, e-mail lpenaloza@ivimexicocitydmc.com and lpenaloza@ividmc.com

Childcare

Crèche facilities will be available for the duration of Congress. Further information will be available in the near future. If you are interested in the crèche facilities, please tick the appropriate box when registering and include the details of the child/children concerned.

Airport Transfers

The ITF has negotiated reduced rate airport transfers through IVI. Arrival transfers can be pre-booked by following the links on the Congress website. Alternatively, a welcome desk will be located at Mexico City airport. Please proceed to the desks on arrival that will be located on exiting the customs areas. The return transfer from Mexico City Airport to the ITF appointed hotels will cost US\$32.00.

Lunches and Refreshments

Light lunches, refreshments and drinks will be available for sale at the Congress Centre. All food items are pork and alcohol free, and the menu is varied. Although there are a variety of cafes and restaurants in the surrounding area, the ITF advises all Congress participants to use the facilities in the Congress Centre, which are both reasonably priced and of good quality. Reservations for restaurants are recommended.

Tax

Value Added Tax (VAT or IVA) is charged on most items. Tourists arriving by air or sea will be able to recover the 15% IVA / Value Added Tax they spend on goods exceeding 1,200 Pesos / USD \$115 as they depart the country. Visitors who cross the border by land will not be able to receive VAT refunds.

Goods must be purchased with credit or debit cards issued outside of Mexico and visitors must present passports at the time of purchase, and get a receipt and official VAT Refund Form from the store.

For those who qualify, half the VAT will be refunded immediately in pesos, to a maximum of 10,000 Pesos/USD \$995, and the balance will be credited to the credit card used within 40 days.

Customs

Non-residents are allowed to bring in duty-free products and goods to the value of US\$300 without incurring duty fees. Prohibited goods include fresh food products and the import of canned food. The export of archaeological artefacts is strictly forbidden.

PART 4: “Viva Mexico!” – An introduction to our host country



PART 4: “Viva Mexico!” – An introduction to our host country

Mutual Respect

The ITF is committed to creating and maintaining a working environment based on dignity and mutual respect. In all organisations there should always be vigilance to ensure that all participants feel they are able to operate in an atmosphere in which they feel comfortable and safe. This should apply to meetings, socialising and all the events around ITF activities.

The ITF has a mutual respect policy for the benefit of all meeting participants. The text of this policy is available on the ITF website (www.itfglobal.org/about-us/respect.cfm). If you have concerns about behaviour which may contradict the policy, please address these in the first instance to Stuart Howard, Assistant General Secretary.



ITF 42ND CONGRESS
MEXICO CITY 2010

ITF Recommended Hotels

Please do not book accommodation directly with any hotel.

The hotels listed below have been inspected by the ITF for the purpose of Congress participants' comfort together with their proximity to the Congress venue. All the hotels have been recognised for their quality of service and value for money.

The rates quoted are in US dollars and exclude maid service, porters tips and taxes unless otherwise stated. Please note that tips for maids and porters form part of the employees' CBAs and represent a large part of the salary paid to them. Unless there is reason for real dissatisfaction with the service they provide, we would ask Congress participants to consider these charges as part of their room rate.

Participants with internet access should reserve their accommodation when registering online via the Congress website www.itfglobal.org/congress2010 or by using the hotel reservation form attached to the invitation Circular. All reservations must be made through the ITF Travel and Events department via the web pages or using this form.

ITF Congress participants (non-residents of Mexico) are exempt from paying 15% VAT on certain parts of their hotel bills (namely accommodation and inclusive breakfast), provided their bill is paid with an international credit card or prepaid from abroad by bank transfer. Additionally, and in order to qualify, participants must provide the hotel with a copy of their passport together with a copy of their stamped immigration card on check-in. Please note anyone not making reservations through the ITF Travel & Events Department will not qualify for the VAT discount.

Hilton Mexico City Reforma Hotel (formerly known as Sheraton Centro Histórico)

Address: Avenida Juárez 70, Colonia Centro, Mexico City 06010

Tel: +52 (55) 5130 5300

Fax: +52 (55) 5130 5285

Web: www.mexicocityreforma.hilton.com

The Hilton Mexico City Reforma is situated in front of Alameda Park at the main entrance of historical downtown Mexico City and is also within easy reach of the city's financial, business and cultural centers. Hotel facilities include a 24-hour business center, wireless high-speed Internet access, fitness centre, indoor pool, restaurants and a lobby bar.

Rates

Rates are quoted in US dollars on a room only basis and include maid and porter tips as well as complimentary internet and gym access. 2% lodging tax and 15% VAT are additional:

Single / Double Occupancy

Run of House Rooms: \$169.00 / \$170.00

Luxury Suites \$265.00 / \$265.00

Note: Late cancellations (within one month of arrival) or reduced stays may carry severe cancellation penalties at this hotel. Any participant checking into the hotel and reducing the number of nights, will be charged for the full duration of their stay as originally booked.



ITF Recommended Hotels

Fiesta Americana Reforma – 5*

Address: Avenida Paseo de la Reforma 80, 06600 Mexico DF
Tel: +52 (55) 5140 4100
Fax: +52 (55) 5140 4140
Web: www.fiestaamericana.com

The Fiesta Americana Reforma is conveniently located in the Paseo de la Reforma and is also within easy walking distance of the historic downtown area, the traditional Zona Rosa and the Bellas Artes. Hotel features include two restaurants, (Fonda de Santa Clara and Café Reforma), two bars (featuring live music), 24 hour room service, spa (no pool) and gym. The air-conditioned guestrooms are spacious and have an internet connection.

Rates

Rates are quoted in US dollars on a room only basis and include maid and porter tips. 2% lodging tax and 15% VAT are additional:

Run of House Rooms: \$77.00 Single or Double occupancy
Rates for superior room types are available on request

Sevilla Palace Hotel – 5*

Address: Avenida Paseo de la Reforma 105, Colonia Tabacalera, C.P. 06030, DF Mexico
Tel: +52 (55) 5705 2800
Fax: +52 (55) 5703 1521
Web: www.sevillapalace.com.mx

The Sevilla Palace is a comfortable hotel with air-conditioned rooms and suites providing a full range of modern facilities and comforts (writing desks, wireless internet, iron, cable TV, mini-bar, safe) Other features of the hotel include two restaurants, 24 hour room service, business centre with secretarial assistance and a rooftop pool deck and gym.

Rates

Rates are quoted in US dollars and include breakfast - 2% lodging tax and 15% VAT are additional. Furthermore there is a US\$2.00 porter charge per person as well as US\$2.00 per room per day for maid service.

Single Rooms: \$85.00
Double Rooms: \$90.00
Junior Suite: \$110.00

Casa Blanca Ciudad de Mexico – 4*

Address: Lafragua 7, Colonia Tabacalera, 06030 Mexico DF
Tel: +52 (55) 5096 4500
Fax: +52 (55) 5096 4520
Web: www.hotel-casablanca.com.mx

The Hotel Casa Blanca Ciudad de Mexico is a few steps from Avenida Paseo de la Reforma and the Monument to the Revolution in the heart of the financial, economic and cultural center of Mexico City. Although a little older in style this hotel offers a good standard of accommodation and excellent value for money.



Rates

Rates are quoted in US dollars based on room only and are subject to 2% lodging tax and 15% VAT. Additionally there is a US\$2.00 porter charge per person as well as US\$1.50 per room per day for maid service.

Single Rooms:	\$62.50
Double Rooms:	\$76.00
Double Superior Rooms:	\$87.00

ITF Recommended Hotels



ITF Congresses 1898 -2010

ITF Congresses 1898 – 2010

London	1898
Paris	1900
Stockholm	1902
Amsterdam	1904
Milan	1906
Vienna	1908
Copenhagen	1910
London	1913
Amsterdam	1919
Christinia	1920
Geneva	1921
Vienna	1922
Hamburg	1924
Paris	1926
Stockholm	1928
London	1930
Prague	1932
Copenhagen	1935
Luxembourg	1938
Zurich	1946
Oslo	1948
Stuttgart	1950
Stockholm	1952
London	1954
Vienna	1956
Amsterdam	1958
Bern	1960
Helsinki	1962
Copenhagen	1965
Wiesbaden	1968
Vienna	1971
Stockholm	1974
Dublin	1977
Miami	1980
Madrid	1983
Luxembourg	1986
Florence	1990
Geneva	1994
London (centenary)	1996
New Delhi	1998
Vancouver	2002
Durban	2006
Mexico City	2010



ITF 42ND CONGRESS
MEXICO CITY 2010

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INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION

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