

Main fields of work and action

• Climate and Energy

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• Disarmament

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• Condition of research and of the scientific workers

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• UNESCO

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Affiliated Organizations

Syndicat National des Chercheurs Permanents	Algeria
Féd. nationale des enseignants du supérieur, de la recherche et de l'éducation	Algeria
Conseil National des Enseignants du Supérieur	Algeria
Syndicat national des enseignants universitaires	Algeria
Federación de Sindicatos de Docentes Universitarios de America del Sur	Argentina
National Trade Union of Employees of Academy of Science of Belarus	Byelorussia
China Association for Science and Technology	China
General Trade Union of Education, Science and research	Égypt
Asociación del Personal Investigador del CSIC	Spain
United States Federation of Scientists and Scholars	United States
Syndicat national de l'enseignement supérieur	France
Union générale des ingénieurs, cadres et techniciens CGT	France
Syndicat national des chercheurs scientifiques	France
Vehivavy, Siansia, Fampanandroana	Madagascar
Associação de Bolseiros de Investigação Científica	Portugal
Federação Nacional dos Professores	Portugal
Organização dos Trabalhadores Científicos	Portugal
Trade Union of Scientific Workers of the Russian Academy of Science	Russia
Syndicat autonome des enseignants du Sénégal	Senegal
Syndicat unique et démocratique des enseignants du Sénégal	Senegal

Other organizations we have relationships with

Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de la Ciencia	Cuba
Japan Scientists Association	Japan
Syndicat national de l'enseignement supérieur	Morocco
Fédération des Travailleurs de la Connaissance	Italia
Academia Oamenilor de Stiintax	Romania
Fédération Générale de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique	Tunisia
Syndicat nat. des maîtres de conférence et profs. de l'enseignement supérieur	Tunisia

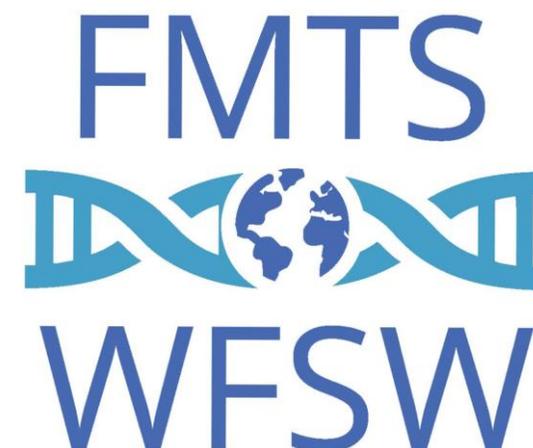
Presidency

President	LAINÉ Jean-Paul	France
Vice-president of the E.C.	CARVALHO Frederico, ..	Portugal
Vice-presidents	JUYAL Shreesh,	Canada
.....	VDOVINE Vyacheslav,	Russia
.....	YUASA Seiji,	Japan
.....	ZHAO Zhongxian,	China

International Secretariat

Jean-Paul **LAINÉ**, Smati **ZOGHBI** (Secretary General), Pascal **JANOTS**, (Treasurer), Frederico **CARVALHO**, Shreesh **JUYAL**, Elies **MOLINS**, Cheikhou **SYLLA**, Vyacheslav **VDOVINE**.

Fédération Mondiale des Travailleurs Scientifiques



World Federation of Scientific Workers

IDENTITY

The World Federation of Scientific Workers (WFSW) is a non-governmental international organization, an official partner of UNESCO. It was founded in 1946 at the initiative of very high level scientific personalities and a British Trade Union, the British Association of Scientific Workers.

The existence of the WFSW constitutes above all a call to the entire scientific community to contribute to placing science and technology at the service of the well-being of mankind. This is why the WFSW is a group of either professional or trade unionist organizations and of individual scientific personalities. By acting together with its affiliated organizations to obtain a Recommendation by UNESCO in 1974 on the condition of scientific researchers, the WFSW helped enable scientists to conduct emancipated professional activity.

Today scientific knowledge has become decisive in most human activities. Scientific workers, men and women, whether they are researchers, teachers, engineers or technicians, are increasingly challenged about their responsibility for the impact of their knowledge and research on the future of society and sustainability of its development. Faced with the feeling that science is all-powerful in both a positive and negative sense, we assert that the orientation of the development of society is not a purely scientific matter. Science alone is powerless to fight against poverty, inequalities, hunger, wars, the destruction of natural resources, threats to the environment. The most vital factor is the will of the peoples, the political will of the established powers.

Science, scientific research, the use of discoveries, innovation are all placed, like the rest of the economy, under the domination of the market, in particular the world financial market. Scientific workers aspire to be freed from this burden while at the same time wishing to respond to the needs and questions of mankind. They feel the need to act in accordance with their ethics. While respecting academic freedom and individual responsibility, the scientific community, civil society, and more broadly all citizens should participate in defining priorities. This is a democratic demand.

This is the meaning that the WFSW gives to the idea of social responsibility. It is in this framework that the WFSW engages in struggles for peace and disarmament, solidarity between peoples, social and sustainable development, and for a world economic order.

The WFSW maintains relations with all the NGOs concerned by the social role of science.

HISTORY

Two types of concerns converged to create the WFSW in 1946: prevent another Hiroshima, and make science serve human well-being.

When the WFSW was founded it was a small organization with fewer than 10 national organizations, trade unions and non-trade union associations agreed to join. They were in Great Britain, France, the Netherlands...some were just observers. The division of the world into two blocs and opposition to the arms race strongly marked the first years of the WFSW. One of the particularities, however, of the WFSW is that it resisted the wave of splits, especially in the trade union movement, caused by this division which began in 1947. Some of its international meetings fostered unofficial discussions between scientific experts in both blocs when the purpose was to specify the mechanisms for verifying compliance with agreements, in particular the ban on underground nuclear tests.

In 1969, under the combined influence of affiliated French and British organizations, the WFSW structured itself so as find support both among high level scientific personalities and organizations. The WFSW remains nonetheless heavily involved in the question of the role of science in the arms race. It is also present at major international meetings on the theme of development, in particular the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development. (UNCSTED) in August 1979 in Vienna, and the Rio Earth Summit (Rio de Janeiro, 1992).

In the wake of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the affiliated organizations for which the WFSW was mainly a bridge between the blocs moved away from it. Some fifteen countries remained faithful to the WFSW in particular due to its action in UNESCO. Indeed, this was the occasion for the WFSW to redefine its field of action: science, ethics and society in connection with the working conditions of scientists. The 1992 General Assembly in Dakar endorsed this orientation and made it the theme of a major symposium at UNESCO in September 1996. Starting in 2002 contacts were gradually re-established and achieved a considerable growth at the General Assembly in 2013.

ORGANIZATION - ACTIVITY

The WFSW is made up of affiliated organizations and individual members. Its highest governing body is the General Assembly, which is held every four years. The General Assembly sets the direction for the 4 following years and elects the Executive Council, which is the governing body between the General Assemblies. This council now includes 31 members. The General Assembly also elects an International Secretariat which includes the President, the Treasurer, the General Secretary and other executive functions. The Executive Council meets once a year in one of the countries represented. The secretariat meets through a teleconference each month.

The WFSW has a Web site, www.fmts-wfsw.org, and publishes a newsletter with the main texts adopted by the Executive Council, among

others. It organizes or co-organizes seminars or conferences with its affiliated organizations.

Activities are handled mainly by the International Secretariat and the working groups, which are either theme-based (disarmament, energy, climate, access to drinking water, research conditions and conditions of research employees, science and democracy), or are focused on one function (work at UNESCO – including science and ethics – and at the UN, follow-up of Social Forums, new members, treasury).

The WFSW and 'UNESCO : the Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers (1974)

The development of the 1974 Recommendation was guided by two earlier documents: "The Declaration on the Rights of Scientific Workers", adopted in 1969 by the World Federation of Scientific Workers (WFSW); and the "Recommendation Concerning the Status of Teachers" adopted by the Special Intergovernmental Conference on the Status of Teachers in 1966. The general orientation of the 1974 Recommendation is shaped by this emphasis not on science as an abstract category – though general considerations at this level are included in the preamble – but on science as a concrete, institutionalized sphere of activity defined to a large extent by the professionalization of its participants.

One excerpt: The civic and ethical aspect of scientific research

14. Member States should seek to encourage conditions in which scientific researchers, with the support of the public authorities, have the responsibility and the right:

(a) to work in a spirit of intellectual freedom to pursue, expound and defend the scientific truth as they see it;

(b) to contribute to the definition of the aims and objectives of the programmes in which they are engaged and to the determination of the methods to be adopted which should be humanely, socially and ecologically responsible;

(c) to express themselves freely on the human, social or ecological value of certain projects and in the last resort withdraw from those projects if their conscience so dictates ;

(d) to contribute positively and constructively to the fabric of science, culture and education in their own country, as well as to the achievement of national goals, the enhancement of their fellow citizens' well-being, and the furtherance of the international ideals and objectives of the United Nations;

It being understood that Member States, when acting as employers of scientific researchers, should specify as explicitly and narrowly as possible the cases in which they deem it necessary to depart from the principles set out in paragraphs (a) to (d) above.