



# Global



UNIÃO GERAL DOS TRABALHADORES

Sindicalismo Cidadão, Ético e Inovador

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## Trade union centrals want the end of the Social Security Factor

A União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT e as demais centrais sindicais, Força Sindical, CUT, CTB, CGTB, e NCST, repudiaram, em carta aberta à população, a "não votação do Fator Previdenciário na sessão de 28/11/2012 na Câmara dos Deputados", conforme acordado.

This open letter continues ...

..."the agreement is one of the main priorities of the workers agenda that has been defended and negotiated by trade union centrals with the government over the last years, through a perverse figure of the current factor, that harms the working class after years and years of contribution and work.



We would like to recall that the discussion and negotiation of the Social Security factor have been dragged since mid 2007. And despite the fact that we proposed several alternatives to solve the deadlocks that arose and after we came to an agreement on the formula 85/95, the government has systematically blocked the vote of this matter under the House of Representatives.

Being aware of our role to defend the working class and also aware of our responsibility with the Brazilian social security system, our proposal considers the need of achieving sustainability of the system and not just simply ending the formula of the calculus.

In this sense, we do not understand the reason of insisting in keeping a blockade to the vote of this request that is so important to the Brazilian workers, who have been victims of this unfair mechanism, which contributes to exclusion - the Brazilian social security system is one of the most important tools of income distribution and tackle against inequality. The attitude of the government does not do justice to the motto that "a wealthy country is a country with no poverty".

That is why trade union centrals requested that the government is willing to sit again with negotiating tables to unblock the vote at the House of Representatives by the end of 2013, considering that this topic was previously agreed to.

We are doing our part and we will maintain our mobilization and pressure so that deputies vote, as soon as possible, the end of this injustice against Brazilian workers by signing this agreement.

**UGT, FS, CUT, CTB, CGTB, e NCST**

## President of UGT participated in Forum in Bogota

On November 29, the national president of UGT, Ricardo Patah, made a speech on an Alternative Model of Development, at the International Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in Bogota, Colombia.

This forum was attended by trade union leaders from 30 countries in Latin America and China, and it discussed, from November 29 to 30, the integration of the Latin American community. The president Ricardo Patah and the national vice-president of UGT, Laerte Teixeira, are participating in the forum as special guests and the lecture of Patah was one of the busiest ones.

## Climate Change discussed in Doha, Qatar



The **União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT** is in Doha, capital of Qatar, participating in the UN Conference on Climate Changes (COP 18) - which will take place until December 07.

"COP 18, a world event, debates climate changes, the large quantity of polluting gases emitted, sharing technologies - since it does not exist, the creation of a green fund, as well as the creation of a group to coordinate such work", explains Francisco Claudio de Souza Melo (in the picture), representative of the National UGT at the COP 18 and president of the Trade Union of Pharmacists of the State of Rio de Janeiro.

Emerging countries ask developed countries to comply with what was proposed in Rio, 1992. "They are requesting a financial mechanism for the creation of a green fund towards climate, they want immediate results since there are countries that are suffering from enormous losses, either financial as human. That is why they ask for the creation of an independent department so that this fund is developed", explains Francisco Claudio.

COP is held to define and guide the process to be achieved, from the goals that should be followed to the commitment of participants and of those that do not participate. "What will be done from now on is beginning the process of choosing an executive director, as well as the institution that will look after the fund. A US\$ 100.000.000 yearly quota was proposed so that the fund is able to help needy countries, Algeria and Australia are expected to be part of this group", informed the director of UGT Rio. . *(Mariana Veltri)*

## New paths for Mercosur

**Valdir Vicente de Barros, secretary of UGT's Public Policies Department**, participated in the seminar "Mercosur: new perspectives", organized by the minister of Foreign Affairs, in Salvador, on November 23.

In this event, the topic related to the paths that Mercosur has taken, concerning the integration process, was discussed. The Venezuelan accession to the bloc was one of the issues that were discussed. Enlarging the channels of participation of social movements and institutions that represent the civil society were other subjects that were debated during the day.

While lecturing, Valdir emphasized that it is essential for governments to listen to the civil society and consider the contributions that their representatives have in the bloc. Stressing the importance of asserting the Mercosur Citizenship Act and the Strategic Plan of Social Action of Mercosur - PEAS.

"If the Mercosul Citizenship Act were in fact applied, this bloc would grow a lot and the most sensitive problems of integration would be solved. In the social-labour area, for instances, both the Act and the PEAS present necessary guidelines that would solve a large part of the problems". To Valdir, reducing bureaucracy of migratory procedures that allow the free movement among people will contribute to the necessary strengthening of the bloc, including while facing the crisis.

## UGT in the fight for Racial Equality

Secretary of UGT's Diversity Department is empowered as CNPIR council

UGT, through its Human Diversity secretary, Ana Cristina dos Santos Duarte, represents the civil society in the National Council of Policies to Promote Racial Equality (CNPIR). Members who were empowered on November 27 will work from 2012 to 2014.



During the ceremony, Luiza Barros, Racial Equality minister, swore in the new board thanking the efforts of an entire team that fights for equality as a fundamental tool for achieving a fairer society.

This board is a collegial body which aims to propose policies promoting racial equality with emphasis on the black population and other racial and ethnic groups nationwide.

**Sergio Pedro, CNPIR executive secretary**, highlighted the last two years of work councils and emphasized the contribution of the staff to the Multiyear Plan (PPA 2001/15), the participation in the Ibero-American Meeting of the International Year of African Descent People (African XXI) and in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20).

To Ana Cristina, UGT is a leading institution in the fight to advance in the workers rights in Brazil and, since it has in its roots the ideal of building a civic, ethic and innovative unionism, it has, over the years, increasing actions that search for a more equalitarian society for all Brazilian citizens. *(Fábio Ramalho – UGT's Newsroom)*

## UGT stands out on the Black Awareness Day in Rio

The schedule of government institutions and social movements to celebrate the Black Awareness National Day was opened with the activities of the Rio Zumbi Agenda 2012, in the monument to Zumbi of Palmares, at Praça XI.

Nearly 150 people from UGT participated in the activities with the exhibition of a capoeira group, which was a highlight due to its contagious excitement of some of its members. Besides, members from UGT who were spread all over distributed the last issue of the Human Diversity booklet, released on this occasion.

Being the only trade union central of workers to join the official agenda of the State government, through the State Council of African American Rights (Cedine), UGT, in the opinion of Paulo Roberto dos Santos (Paulão), president of the council, marked its firm position in the fight for racial equality.



"UGT, from the beginning, was with us to help organize the event. This partnership is just the beginning of a future filled with achievements. I have no doubts that UGT has been, to all workers, an important reference in Rio de Janeiro and in Brazil, in discussions on the racial issue", he stated, he also talked about the nomination and election of UGT to join the National Council for the Promotion of Racial Equality (CNPIR): "the nomination crowns the competence and engagement of this institution", he stated.

Nilson Duarte Costa, president of UGT Rio de Janeiro, commented on this date: "today is an important day to celebrate freedom. We live in a country whose production and economic growth depend on the labor of a predominantly black population. So we have to praise respect and the end of racial, religious, sex, gender and sexual orientation discrimination" *(Luiza Felix, Press UGT-RJ)*

### Trade Union Integration Argentina - Brazil

UGT promotes meeting between Brazilian unionists and president of UNI Americas

On the morning of 22 Finally, the headquarters of the General Union of Workers (UGT) hosted a meeting between Brazilian and Argentine unionists during a meeting with Ruben Cortina, President of UNI-Americas and international secretary of the Argentine Federation of Trade Employees (FAECYS).



This meeting tried to expand the partnership between commerce workers from Brazil, who are affiliated with UGT, and FAECYS, as well as increasing the possibility of an agreement with other categories represented by the federation.

According to **Adriana Rosenzvaig**, Regional Secretary of UNI Americas, the goal of the international federation is to build strategic power for workers in Latin America. "This meeting is crucial because the strengthening of the South American trade union movement can only happen through this exchange of ideas and projects aimed at a fighting unit."

She also emphasized, among the classes that were mentioned, workers from trade multinational companies from dairy and clothing sectors, due to the fact that, UGT, in a partnership with the Commerce Workers Union of Sao Paulo, developed several actions to maintain and expand labour rights, professional recovery and qualification, labor improvements, among other acts.

**Ricardo Patah**, UGT's national president, recalled that capitalism has no boundaries or limits, thus, the battle of the working class can not have as well. When an action against multinational companies that are represented in Brazil is embodied, the working class searches for the adequacy of this institution to the Brazilian labor laws, but above all, it aims to open a permanent space for dialogue between the employer and the working class

To **Ruben Cortina**, this is the differential that makes trade union movements in Brazil and Argentina become so representative, since both search for a strengthening of their foundations through professional classes and, this way, they increase the representativeness of workers during collective bargaining.

Rubens also emphasized that UGT, which is already the third largest trade union central in Brazil and has a leading role in several fights to increase the rights of the Brazilian working class, plays a key role in the strengthening of UNI actions towards international trade unionism. "A greater involvement of UGT in UNI is very important because we are talking about an institution that has shown to be fundamental in the Brazilian trade unionist reality. This happens due to the fact that UGT's representation regarding service workers is enormous and so we see a huge potential for UGT to spread international unionism globally and sectorally to these workers", said the president of UNI-Americas.

This meeting was also attended by several trade union leaders from institutions related to UGT, from several areas, such as: sports; cleaning and conservation; commerce workers; health; among others; it was also attended by Oscar Guillermo Rojas, president of the Union of Workmen of Maestranza Argentina. At the end of the meeting the affiliation of these institutions with UNI was discussed. (*Fábio Ramalho – UGT Newsroom*)

## UGT National Board of Executive has a meeting in Curitiba

16th Plenary Session of UGT's National Board of Executives points out actions to 2013 [\(watch the video\)](#)



## Secretary of UGT is elected Secretary General of CSPB



With great joy and excitement Linnaeus Mazano, National Secretary of UGT's Public Servants Department, was elected with 98% of the vote, Secretary General of the Confederation of Public Servants of Brazil (CSPB).

The vote took place on November 20, at the 23rd Congress of the Confederation of Public Servants of Brazil, at the special meeting for the election of new members of the Executive Board and the Supervisory Board of the Confederation.

The slate named "A better world is possible ... through fight!", adds big names from CSPB, among them John Dominic, who achieved his reelection vividly and was pleased with the election results. CSPB is in several states and counts on more than 500 union leaders, most of them present here today, which enriches quality debates proposed by this Congress. Linnaeus Mazano is hopeful that in the next five years the authorities will move further towards a true legal social State.

## Schedule of World Cup games worries National Union of Athletes

He is worried about the physical safety of athletes, and raises the question of the matches being played at 13 hours, since Brazil is a tropical country and in regions such as north and northeast, depending on the day, temperatures easily reach 35 to 40 degrees Celsius in the shadow.

"There is no point in holding football matches under these conditions. It is dangerous for players who are at risk of suffering injuries due to dehydration", explains Martorelli, who ends: "It is funny how the doctor who authorized such games lives in Zurich, Switzerland".

To Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, it is essential that Brazil organizes a grand show, however, it is necessary to emphasized on the workers health, who will support the achievement of the World Cup. "It is inhuman to think of thousands of people, many of those who are not used to the Brazilian weather, must face the time of most intense solar light, to follow the matches". *(Fábio Ramalho – UGT's newsroom)*



**"The General Workers Union reaffirms its historic commitments to the working class, while seeking to expand its methods of action, with ethics, courage and the certainty that Brazil can be better and more just. " Ricard Patah – UGT's President ]**

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