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UGT in Berlin

From May 23 to 27, UGT attended, in Berlin, Germany, the 3rd World Congress of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), an institution to which we are affiliated with since our foundation.



ITUC is the product of two other international trade union confederations and it is the largest trade union institution of the world, representing 325 national trade union centrals from 161 countries.

The delegation of UGT, led by its president Ricardo Patah, gathered with more than 1,500 unionists to discuss "building workers' power", the main topic of the congress and to elect the new board of directors of this institution.

Frank Walter Steinmeier, German minister of Foreign Affairs and **Helen Clark**, administrator of the United Nations Program of Development attended the opening of the event.

In his last speech as president of ITUC, **Michael Sommer**, said that "we want a global governance that respects dignity of work" and described the austerity measures adopted after the global financial crisis as the "wrong recipe in response to errors of diagnosis."

While speaking out, **Frank Walter Steinmeier**, German Minister for Foreign Affairs, said that "inequality is a threat to security and its counterweight are strong unions. Helen Clark, administrator of the UN Development Programme, said, to the audience, through a video message, that trade unions are essential in the fight for a more just world.

The delegation of UGT had a dynamic and disciplined participation in the discussions of the congress and elected three representatives in the general council and one continental vice-president and contributed to the election of Nilton Neco, from Força Sindical, in the General Council. The union of the Brazilian trade union centrals was essential for the election of João Felício, from CUT-Brazil, to the presidency of ITUC.

The approved statement includes three guidelines of fight: the growth of trade unions, the achievement of rights and sustainable jobs, which will guide the action of ITUC in the next four years. Sharan Burrow, from Australia, was reelected for the position of secretary general of this institution.

In the end of the meeting, João Felício accepted, on behalf of the Brazilian delegation, a flag signed by all delegated of this congress, in which they urge FIFA to make a new election to replace Qatar as the host country for the World Cup 2022 in solidarity to migrant workers of that country.

Besides its active participation in this congress, officers from UGT also attended the march for decent work and in support of workers of Deutsche Telekom.

This fight is part of the campaign that UNI is holding with its affiliated institution CWA (Communications Workers of America) from the United States, in defense of T-Mobile workers. T-Mobile is a company of Deutsche Telekom in the USA.



UGT was represented by Cássia Bufelli, Neila Tatiane, Josi Camargo, Márcia Adão, Elimar, José Paulo, Sidney, and by Nilson Duarte Costa, president of UGT's State branch of Rio de Janeiro, who defended workers while giving a speech.



Motta will preside UGT's branch of Sao Paulo

In a Congress with more than 650 participants, which gathered 266 trade unions representing 40 professional classes, UGT's State branch of Sao Paulo was founded on May 23. **Luiz Carlos Motta**, officer from Fecomercários, was elected to preside this branch..



UGT's State branch of Sao Paulo is the result of a wide work developed throughout this State, through the creation of coordinating departments in eight regions. Through this action of approaching its grassroots, the construction of this State branch took place, and its creation already counts on almost 300 affiliated trade unions.

"This is the proof of the growth and political maturity of UGT, which is featured as the most combative, democratic and pluralist trade union central of Brazil", affirmed Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, which recalled that, since its foundation, UGT is distinguished for representing those that are excluded as well as those that are in the bottom of the pyramid. "That is why we fight for public policies in education, health, security, housing, among others. We fight for the defense of democracy and sustainable development with valuation of labour", stated Patah.

Roberto Santiago, federal deputy and vice-president of UGT, drew the attention for the awareness of workers on the importance of having unionists as their representatives in the National Congress. "Thanks to the leadership of Ricardo Patah UGT achieved this expression it currently has, and now we must keep on searching for new paths for the trade union movement", the deputy declared.

Chiquinho Pereira, secretary of UGT's department of Organization and Trade Union Policies, mentioned the great responsibility of UGT's State branch of Sao Paulo and also the solidarity of UGT with the Trade Union of Drivers of Sao Paulo. "They want to demoralize unionism, and we cannot allow that to happen", he affirmed.

Luiz Carlos Mota, the elected president of UGT's State branch of Sao Paulo, said that he came to add up and that his work on behalf of UGT will not only be directed to commerce workers, but to all professional classes represented by UGT. He also emphasized the growth of this trade union central, recalling that it used to be the third largest trade union central in Brazil and it is currently the second one", commenting on the growth of UGT. Mota also highlighted the need of this growth being reflected on the workers parliamentary bench in the House of Representatives.

Senate approves proposal on slave work

Senate approves proposal of constitutional amendment on slave work. An important step towards the eradication of this crime

On May 27, with 59 favorable votes in the first round and 60 in the second one, senators approved the proposal of constitutional amendment (PEC) 57A/1999, which established the expropriation of lands in which it is observed the practice of slave work.

This is a great victory for institutions that, as well as UGT, vehemently fight against one of the most cruel crimes against human kind.

"It is a meaningful victory for the Senate and for all the Brazilian society", stated Renan Calheiros, president of the Senate.

This proposal now follow legal channels towards its promulgation, which is scheduled for May 29, ending a 15 year cycle, period in which it was following legal channels in the House of Representatives.

From now on, it is essential to increase the actions against the Senate Law Project (PLS) 432/2013, which disciplines the expropriation of rural and urban properties involved in the use of slave work.



103rd Conference

ILO debates employment, slave and informal work

From May 28 to June 12, 2014, in Geneva, Switzerland, the 103rd International Labour Conference at the Palace of Nations.



With the motto "Building a future with decent work", nearly 180 member States and 3,000 officers will discuss slave work (strengthening action to end forced labour), out of which a protocol should be signed, since there is already a convention, and this protocol will have the goal of strengthening the prevention, protection and compensation to the victims, aiming at the end of forced labour.

As for informal work, it is possible that a recommendation is to be approved on the "transitioning from the informal to the formal economy and decent work". It is worth it to emphasize a key element and to create a regulatory environment concerning the phenomenon of informal economy at international and national levels, and laws and practices adopted by constituents, aiming at strategic goals of ILO (principles and essential rights at work, employment, social protection and dialogue).

At last, a discussion on the strategic goal of employment within a declaration of ILO on social justice for a fair and equitable globalization, as well as including political work and technical cooperation. The impact of the ongoing financial and economic crisis will be examined, so will be the timid and irregular job markets and the recuperation of work in different groups and regions, especially among young and female workers. Globalization will be taken into account, as well as the technological transition, inequality of income, climate change, the new context of demographic imbalance between supply and demand, qualifications and gender disparities.

The Brazilian Tripartite Bench, with the presence of minister Manoel Dias, previously debated the topics listed above on May 08, and established strategies for discussions in Geneva, and UGT was represented by the colleagues Lourenço, Wagner and Levy. Out of those, Wagner was the one who made a lecture, and he exposed the topic on the strategic goal of employment and security in employment.

Forced labour generates US\$ 150 billion profits

ILO says forced labour generates annual profits of US\$ 150 billion

Forced labour in the private economy generates US\$ 150 billion in illegal profits per year, about three times more than previously estimated, according to a new report from the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The ILO report, *Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour*, said two thirds of the estimated total of US\$ 150 billion, or US\$ 99 billion, came from commercial sexual exploitation, while another US\$ 51 billion resulted from forced economic exploitation, including domestic work, agriculture and other economic activities.

"This new report takes our understanding of trafficking, forced labour and modern slavery to a new level," said ILO Director-General Guy Ryder. "Forced labour is bad for business and development and especially for its victims. Our new report adds new urgency to our efforts to eradicate this fundamentally evil, but hugely profitable practice as soon as possible."

The new figure is based on ILO data published in 2012 that estimated the number of people in forced labour, trafficking and modern slavery at 21 million.

Significantly, the new estimate indicates that more than half of the people in forced labour are women and girls, primarily in commercial sexual exploitation and domestic work, while men and boys were primarily in forced economic exploitation in agriculture, construction, and mining. (*ILO News*)



Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour



UGT in a course in the Dominican Republic

A great delegation of UGT's Department of Youth attended an education course organized by UTAL (University of Workers of Latin America), from May 11 to 17, in the city of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in which issues related to youth, organization and human rights were discussed.



To **Gustavo Walfrido**, secretary of youth, this course was extremely important. Gustavo explained that, since last year, there have been actions to strengthen the bonds of a youth collective in UGT and events like this one contribute to increase this learning".

Workers health is a right of everyone

The IV Macroregion Conference of Workers Health (4th CNSST), phase Florianópolis, Santa Catarina, took place on May 14 and 15, in Ponta das Canas, and reached its goal by electing delegates for the State phase.

UGT's State branch of Santa Catarina participated in all levels of construction of the 4th CNSST, which has been discussing important issues for the implementation of the National Policy of Workers Health under SUS (Unique Health System).



After two days of intense debates and lectures, a document was elaborated with proposals, resolutions, principles and guidelines and it will be evaluated and debated in the State meeting that should take place in the end of June 2014.

"We have been present since the construction of the different phases of this project in tables of discussion, giving lectures and contributing with our ethical and civic point of view, socializing the actions and ideals that guide our trade union central in the State of Santa Catarina. We must be involved from the start in the construction of effective policies, their application and their result, so that our proposals are respected and our demands are fair", stated Derli Muzzo, president of SINFREN - Trade Union of Workers of Gas Stations of the Great Florianópolis Area, an institution affiliated with UGT.

Orientation for green projects

The built environment and the labour world: elaboration of projects and studies on issues related to the labour world in the greening process of the built environment: an orientation guide.



This guide offers orientation to ILO unities and offices in Brazil that wish to get involved in studies and projects related to the issue of greening the built environment.

At first, it provides relevant basic data that might be used as inputs in studies and projects; afterwards, it offers a step by step guide to develop initiatives of this nature.

[O ambiente construído e o mundo do trabalho \(pdf\)](#)

"The União Geral dos Trabalhadores 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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