



UGT delegation on COP 16

In defense of decent work and a fair transition

The 16th meeting of the United Nations on Climate Changes (COP 16) counted on the participation of delegates from 184 countries in Cancun, Mexico, and was held at the same time as the 6th meeting of the Kyoto Protocol.



The strong international union delegation participated in the meeting to step up pressure on governmental authorities towards the need to include the fight for decent work and fair transition in the agenda and discussions in Cancun.

The delegation of **UGT** had an expressive participation in **the Worker Pavilion of the COP-16** meeting. UGT agrees with the declaration of the **International Trade Union Confederation** on the results of the meeting.

"Unions greet the final agreement achieved in **the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun**, that includes union demands for a fair transition, but they request that all governments, and especially the most developed countries - to raise their expectations for the next meeting in Durban, South Africa, within a year".

"We want that developed countries, in particular, are committed to make high reductions on their gas emissions as part of a legally linking framework. The financing of climate should answer to the needs of the poorest countries of the world", said **Sharan Burrow**, **general secretary of ITUC**.

"Millions of workers and their families face the destruction of their lands and subsistence means as a result of disasters that were caused by extreme climate events and nearly 220 million people are unemployed and desperately looking for a safe, decent and green job".

Unions are especially satisfied with the references in the final text to a fair transition that create decent job positions and high quality employment, an essential concept that covers the support of workers to any action on climate. "At the same time, governments should raise their goals", said **Sharan Burrow**.

"They should go back to the negotiation table as soon as possible and correct the imbalances and persistent omissions after Cancun."

UGT will organize a seminar called "**On the way to COP 17**" next year, probably in the Amazon, that will evaluate the results obtained in Cancun and start discussing the participation in Durban, South Africa, in 2011 and in Rio+20 - United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, that will celebrate 20 years of the Earth Summit of 92.

UGT has a special participation in Cancun

The delegation of UGT had a remarkable participation in the Workers Pavilion of the COP-16 Meeting in Cancun/Mexico.

TUCA requested that the Brazilian UGT would summon up its environmental and climate change policies and the actions that it has made so far over these three years since it was founded.

Cristina Palmieri and Gustavo Garcia described the experiences of UGT.



"The most important thing was that UGT made an incredible presentation, among many presentations made by the present Brazilian trade union centrals", evaluates Fátima Cristina Faria Palmieri, adjunct-secretary of UGT's National Department of Environment and Sustainable Development, emphasizing that after the presentation, the audience was interested on brochures and literatures on UGT-Brazil.

The presentation of UGT started with a short historic overview of its foundation and emphasized the different proposals based on a participative, innovative, solidary and transparent democracy, an institution with no political bonds.

Climate changes will damage growth

UNECLAC: Climate change will cost a lot to Latin America

The growth in Latin America and in the Caribbean will be conditioned by climate changes and the costs of a lack in the reduction of gas emissions that cause the global warming will represent 1% of the the gross domestic product (GDP), said UNECLAC, through a report presented at the UN Conference in Cancun.

"The impact is growing and the costs will be realized in the second half of the century", said Luis Miguel Galindo, author of the report, that considered that negotiations aiming towards a global agreement on the reduction of gas emissions are "complicated".

He warned that "climate changes are more and more determining the growth due to the economic expenses of extreme events and by mitigation, that we should do in order to reduce the emissions".

As he specified, the region "would reach the second half of the century with a production of only two tons per capita in CO2 emissions, which would mean changing the patterns of production, distribution and consumption". "And what I have been observing is that, if we have to live with two tons of emission per citizen, societies will have to be more equalitarian, because it is impossible to have someone with so much and others with so little", said the head of the unity on climate changes of UNECLAC.



[Read the report in full \(pdf\)](#) (spanish)

UGT supports ITUC declaration on the

International Day of Human Rights

Essential human rights are threatened all over the world, in particular the respect towards workers rights is being reached, once workers are more and more impelled to deal with the outcome of the global economic crisis, a clear violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other UN and ILO tools.



Living this day - the **International Day of Human Rights** - under an absolute dictatorship continues to be the reality of dozens of millions of people in Myanmar, North Korea and many other countries, while the international community is not able, or doesn't have the will, to turn human rights and democracy into truly universal facts.

Unionists are still targets of detentions, arrests and attacks with a huge 30% raise compared to the previous year, in the number of unionists murdered that were documented in the most recent **annual report of ITUC**.

In Colombia, that once again is distinguished by the highest number of murders of people that defend the workers rights, unions had a meeting, in Bogota and other cities, to demand respect towards union rights and other human rights.

Defenders of workers rights, in the Philippines, Guatemala, Guinea, many Gulf states and other countries, face a constant repression and violence. The brutal repression of the legitimate union activity remains normal in Iran, where, on May 09, the unionist teacher Farzad Kamangar was executed along with four other unionists.

The union movement, with its strong commitment with democracy, solidarity, equity and the full expression of human rights is in the leading role of the fight against repression, discrimination and exploration. Through its actions, and working with other people that defend rights, unions all over the world reaffirmed their determination on this international day of human rights to raise the defense of the universal respect towards essential human rights to every woman and man, with no exception.

Report on Human Rights analyses progress in Brazil

For the 11th year in a row, the "Annual Report on Human Rights in Brazil" was released. The document, published by the **Rede Social de Justiça e Direitos Humanos**, has the participation of over 30 union organizations that make an overview of the Brazilian scenario concerning civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Agrarian politics, land demarcation, the right to work, to a childhood, public security, slave work, the LGBT issue, affirmative actions to African-Americans and education are just a few of the topics that were analyzed in 26 articles that are part of the Human Rights report. This publishing, released in Portuguese and English, also overviews the situation of reproductive rights last years and also analyzes the four years of the Maria da Penha law.

The report brings historical data of fights in Brazil, but, according to Maria Luisa Mendonça, journalist and coordinator of the Social Network on Justice and Human Rights, the articles are restricted to 2010, showing challenges, advances and pendent objectives of Brazil.

"This year, one of the advances of the popular fight was the connection between several subjects, the articulation of unity of fights. This issue was worked to get to show that human rights are on our daily lives and thus, change the idea that still remain in people's minds that the human rights are only meant for criminals. Another advance was being able to take human rights to the core of political decisions". (*Natasha Pitts*) (*Adital*, 08.12.2010)

Paraguay: chairpersons in hunger strike

What motivated the strike were the systematic violations of collective agreements and violation to the freedom of affiliation

The **secretary of social policies of TUCA and vice-president of UGT, Laerte Teixeira da Costa**, sent a letter to the minister of Justice and Labour of Paraguay, Humberto Blasco, and to the president of Paraguay, Fernando Lugo, expressing the preoccupation of the union movement in the Americas towards the serious situation of the hunger strike in the companies Frigomec Frias.

"We were informed of the dramatic determination that the colleagues Miguel Zayas Martínez and Jorge Alvarenga, general secretaries of CNT and CUT in Paraguay, had, to start a hunger strike since November 22", says



According to Laerte, the chairpersons made this decision sympathizing with the strike that was evoked by labor unions related to the cold storage companies Frigomec Frias, that are shutdown for 60 days. Union chairpersons suspended the hunger strike due to a request of the labor ministry of Paraguay and they continue to negotiate with the company.

UGT sympathizes with the fight of the Paraguayan brothers.

"Migratory profile of Brazil 2009" is released



The book '**Perfil Migratório do Brasil 2009**' (pdf), shows a migration historical overview of the country, social-economic indexes, profiles of immigrants, data on Brazilians that live in other countries, data on refugees, immigration and analysis of the legal mark of the migratory policies in Brazil, among other information regarding this subject.

The event in which the book was released, had the participation of **Carlos Lupi**, Ministry of Labor and Employment, **Paulo Sérgio de Almeida**, president of the National Council of Immigration (CNIg) of the Ministry of Labor and Employment, and councilmen, teachers and other collaborators that helped elaborate the book.

This publishing was elaborated by the Ministry of Labor and Employment, by the National Committee of Population and Development (CNPD) and by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

"The General Union of Workers (UGT) 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. "
" Ricardo Patah – UGT's President

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