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UGT gathers National Board of Executives

The 18th meeting of the plenary session of UGT's National Board of Executives began on August 12, in Sao Paulo, and was attended by directors of UGTs from all Brazilian States.



Many challenges were discussed during the meeting: immediate challenges of the Brazilian trade union movement, the relationship with grassroots trade union, with the Labour Ministry, with the National Congress and with the Executive branch of government, especially aiming towards an analysis on the current political and economic conjuncture and on the protests that took place in June, as well as the new Brazilian political scenario.

According to **Ricardo Patah**, national president of UGT, this meeting is essential to UGT so that it might strengthen its actions in pro of building up alternatives for the main problems related to public policies.

"In June, a message was given on the streets that the population demands changes and we need to know how to listen to this clamor and lead these changes", Patah explains.

To the **deputy Ademir Camilo**, the movement of the streets surprised all movements, especially the trade union movement, since the demands of the streets are already in the agenda of the working class.

Roberto Santiago also commented on the popular mobilizations and emphasized that it is necessary to receive all the support, since it is a display of democracy, however, it is necessary to face cases of vandalism, since they are political measures that aim to demoralize ongoing governments in several States.

President Patah reiterated that UGT supports all and any form of protest that represents the strengthening of the Brazilian democracy, and recalled that, on July 11, trade union centrals held a day of fight and paralyzation in all Brazilian States, with the goal of making progress on the agenda of the working class which is a set of proposals handed to president Dilma back in her presidential campaign, and that back then already considered demands that came up on the streets during the June protests.

"It was an important act that served its role of stepping pressure and reopening debate with the government."

UGT against racism in the job market

UGT's **National department of Human Diversity Issues** held the release of the Educational Booklet to Debate and Face Racism at Work.

The release took place during the **2nd National Plenary Session of Institutions affiliated with UGT**, in Sao Paulo, on August 13 and 14, was essential to face discriminatory practices, since this tool to tackle racism was directly referred to UGT's directors from several Brazilian States.



According to **Ana Cristina Duarte, UGT's Human Diversity secretary**, the moment to hand in booklets within the trade union central could not be better. "This was the best opportunity to launch this booklet, since today we come out of this event as winners because we are presenting the text to unions that are affiliated with UGT at a national level. This set of informations in the hands of trade unions directors will be an important tool to promote affirmative actions in the workplace."

This document is an outgrowth of a partnership between UGT, **Inspir (Trade Union Inter-American Institute for Racial Equality)** and **Solidarity Center**, a nonprofit organization connected to **AFL-CIO** and to other Brazilian trade union centrals.

Its official launching took place at the Legislative Assembly of Rio de Janeiro, in early August, and the creation of the booklet had the goal of being used as a tool in defense of African American workers.

"The booklet has a simplified dialogue to inform workers in a way that they are able to understand, identify and get to know which measures they should take if there face any case of discrimination, whether related to sex, religion or social class. People might find information on specific legislation on the booklet, as well as on ILO (International Labour Organization), as well as contemplating, in full, the Racial Equality Statute", explains **Ana Cristina**.

Collective on Health and Security at Work

With the goal of identifying and supporting actions that have already been developed, aiming to stimulate the health and security at work in several Brazilian States, UGT created a workgroup that will try to strengthen these activities and, through periodic meetings, will build specific actions for every State and class.

The creation of the workgroup happened during the 2nd National Plenary Session of Institutions that are affiliate with UGT, an event that took place on August 13 and 14, in Sao Paulo, and gathered institutions from all over Brazil.

"All over Brazil there are people who do this kind of work, but in an isolated way that has not achieved an adequate visibility. I realized that if we combine such knowledge we would be able to cover a much larger area, since we count on good people in this area in all of our trade unions," explains **Cleonice de Souza Caetano, secretary of UGT's Health and Security at Work Department**.

According to the director, with this collective it will be possible to value people that already do such work and, whenever necessary, contribute to the creation or strengthening of workgroups in other Brazilian regions. "It is a lot better to work separately per region, since each place has its needs and particularities, we want every State to be able to develop their own work, with problems that only they know", said the secretary. (*Fábio Ramalho – UGT*)

Slowdown worries UGT

Results of the General Record of Employees and Unemployed (Caged), with the creation of only 41.463 formal jobs in July, worry UGT. This result is the lowest for such month since 2003, occasion in which the series without adjustment recorded the creation of 37.233 vacancies.

While mentioning the drop of the index of jobs in July, the **president of UGT, Ricardo Patah**, said that "it is very bad and that it greatly worries us especially because there is a conjunction of negative factors that might aggravate the situation".

Patah recalled that the scenario expresses a higher exchange rate, an increase in the Selic rate, a reduction in the economic growth and the consequence always reaches workers.



The president of UGT emphasized that such data may not remain in such bad level. "Traditionally, after next month, it might rain cats and dogs, that even with the continuity of a negative perspective, commerce reacts by hiring due to the end of the year. And so," he continued, "it is possible that the levels classified as full employment might continue".

For next year, however, Patah considered that everything will depend on policies that are implemented on valuation of production. He added that the Soccer World Cup and elections in 2014 might favor the creation of jobs and positive perspectives.

Patah condemned changes in the correction of the unemployment check. "We are indignant at this change", vented Patah to the news agency Estadão. He also emphasized that the index of adjustment of the benefit could not, "in any case", be reduced and "there was no adequate adjustment of the unemployment check values, which were below inflation".

Women from UGT debate gender equality

UGT's Women Department participated in the global conference organized by the Solidary Center, whose motto was "Strengthening of Women, Gender Equality and Workers Rights: Changing the Scenario", which took place on July 30 and 31 in Sao Paulo.

Cássia Bufelli, secretary of this department, was representing UGT and talked about the tools that this institution uses to increase the participation and the leading role of the Brazilian woman in the trade union movement. In order for that to happen, the Letter of Principles and UGT's Statute stipulate the participation of at least 30% of women in all activities of the trade union central, including in the composition of the board of executives. However, their presence is not all it takes, that is the reason why Cássia reinforced the importance of the education and capacitation of these women so that they are included in these processes and are even present in collective bargaining.

On the opportunity, Cássia also talked about the importance of the participation of trade union centrals in the Special Department of Women's Policies, in which they were able to jointly create the law project on equality, which searches for parity among men and women in the labour world.

The conference had the participation of female unionists, organizations of workers rights, scholars and civil rights activists of at least 20 countries. In the invitation, Shawna Bader-Blau, executive director of the Solidary Center, said she was very pleased to be able to hold the event in Brazil, "a country in which the workers movement has been marked by the protection of women's rights and in the advance of gender equality as a pillar of workers rights and social and economic justice". (*Giselle Corrêa, UGT's newsroom*)



Movement in defense of commerce workers

With more than 150 deputies, senators and guests, the Parliamentarian Movement was launched on August 21, in Brasilia, in defense of commerce workers.



The proposal of this movement came from **Roberto Santiago** (PSD party-SP), president of the Committee on Labour, Administration and Public Service (CTASP) of the House of Representatives, federal deputy and vice-president of UGT.

This act was attended by **Ricardo Patah**, president of the **Commerce Workers Union of Sao Paulo** and president of UGT, a trade union central that gathers the highest number of commerce workers unions of Brazil.

This movement in defense of commerce workers counted on the membership of 252 deputies and 22 senators, one of the largest movements ever created. To the president Ricardo Patah, this is extremely important, especially in a moment in which president Dilma Rousseff signed the regulation of the commerce worker profession, a fact that benefited 12 million workers all over Brazil, the same moment in which the Congress creates a movement with the goal of defending rights and desires of Brazilian commerce workers, that currently represent the largest professional contingent in the country..

Solidarity to Nissan workers in the USA

The **Commerce Workers Union of Sao Paulo**, in a partnership with UAW United Auto Workers, the largest union of the automobile industry in the United States, distributed leaflets in Nissan dealerships, reporting the bad working conditions and anti-unionist practices adopted by this company in its factory in the USA. This act of Brazilian and American unionists took place on August 21, in Sao Paulo.

The goal is warning Brazilian workers on how Nissan should behave in other countries, as well as avoiding that similar attitudes take place in Brazil, where the company is increasing its capacity of production and whose chairman is the Brazilian Carlos Ghosn.

III World Conference on Child Labour

Since August 08, people from all over the world might use the virtual platform **Diálogos sobre o Trabalho Infantil** (Dialogue on Child Labour) main channel of contribution to the debate of the III World Conference on Child Labour.

The event, that will take place in Brasilia, from October 8 to the 10, should gather nearly 1,5 thousand people.

The platform is organized in five theme rooms and there is a room intended for the participation of children and teenagers. In order to participate, people that are interested should identify themselves through a valid email or profile in social networks, such as Facebook and Google+.



Dialogues will count on a translation tool that will allow the instant translation of content to over 70 languages.



"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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