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Recession is not a solution

Ricardo Patah, national president of União Geral dos Trabalhadores -UGT

After the new economic staff was announced, we are sure that there will be a new path while conducting economy. It could not be any other way, since we face, and will face, a deepening crisis. As we have emphasized, UGT does not accept that solutions to the crisis are implemented at the expense of workers rights, of employment and wages.

First and foremost, the crisis seems to be mainly of thrust. In this sense, the establishment of a new staff, one that is concerned with the market, seems to provide a good contribution.

Next year will be, without question, a difficult year. The G20 meeting in Australia, one that was thought that could bring a much needed stimulus set for the global economy, brought loose results. The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) pointed out that the intended increase of 2% in the global economy will not be achieved because targets have not been established to stimulate demand through higher wages and new high quality jobs

O comunicado final da reunião do G20 em Brisbane reconhece a fragilidade das economias desenvolvidas, especialmente na Europa do euro, mas as medidas que prevê não passam do discurso e são contraditas por uma chamado neoliberal à "sustentabilidade fiscal", ou seja um chamada à austeridade, mais austeridade.

These very pronounced austerity measures were the ones that led European economies to the current dire situation. Unemployment among young people reached, for those that are 24 years or younger, 56% in Spain, 57% in Greece, 40% in Italy, 37% in Portugal and 28% in Ireland. For people aged between 25 and 30 years the rates are even higher.

In Brazil, cuts in government spending will be necessary, but what workers expect is that there are no cuts in social programs, in the health system or in education. The cuts must be sought in the areas of least social impact and at the same time, tax evasion and subsidies should be tackled. We do not accept that the fight against inflation is to be implemented through recession and through benefits cut .

Crises are "normal" in capitalist economies, which face cycles of higher or lower activities. These crises usually are expressed as excess supply. The Brazilian situation is different: we present a great demand in infrastructure, in machinery, in equipment and in domestic consumption.

Brazil still has pockets of poverty and a lot of poverty, although our society has greatly advanced in the solution of this problem.

The **União Geral dos Trabalhadores -UGT** will continue to fight to improve the situation of the Brazilian people in 2015, despite the economic difficulties. Brazil is a rich country and it is unacceptable that poverty persists. We will continue to fight for better wages, higher minimum wage and improved regional wage floors. We will fight for more benefits for pensioners and retirees. We firmly believe that this is good for the country in every way.

We will continue to fight for democracy and for dialogue. As we said, democracy is a fundamental heritage which the Brazilian people will not give up. And democracy flourishes and grows stronger in a healthy economic environment. This is another reason why recession is not a solution.

"We do not accept that the fight against inflation is to be implemented through recession and through benefits cut".

Regional Wage Floor is a fight of UGT

Ricardo Patah

Ricardo Patah, national president of União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT



Fighting for the implementation of a regional wage floor, not only in the State of São Paulo, but in all States of Brazil, is a longing to be reached by **União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT**. The differentiated wage floor is the best way to increase the purchasing power of workers who live at the margin of the wage hierarchy of our country.

The implementation of a regional wage floor, different from the current Brazilian minimum wage, is essential for the valuation of the working class, and contributes to heat the ongoing economy.

This is an issue that expresses the union of the entire trade union movement, which effectively tries to contribute to the development of projects for the States that aim at the improvement of the income distribution, since the increase of the rights of the working class is a set of actions higher than the ones performed in the relationship between capital and work.

Drivers demand annulment of decree

On November 19, in a meeting with Manoel Dias, Labour Ministry of Brazil, the Trade Union of Drivers and Workers of Urban Transportation of São Paulo requested the annulment of the decree 1.297/2014, which deals with hand-arm vibration in unhealthy professional activities.

The meeting with the Minister was requested by UGT and by the trade union. Participants included Canindé Pegado, UGT's secretary general, and José Valdevan 90 (ninety), president of Sindmotoristas.

The decree 1297/2014 amends Annex 8 - Vibration of Regulatory Standard 15, considering vibrations with acceleration higher than 2.5 m / s² for mediation and considerations on unhealthy professional activities and, in this context, drivers and ticket collectors are inserted. This decree goes against the technical studies carried out with the participation of the union.



President Ninety told the Minister that, after years of struggle, research, analysis and technical reports stating that the activity of the professional in transport is unhealthy, the direction of the union managed to include, this year, in the collective agreement of the class, the payment of unhealthy category for drivers and bus collectors. "The achievement of São Paulo conductors is unprecedented in the country," highlighted Ninety.

The union leaders pleaded two issues to the minister: the first was to suspend Decree 1297/2014 because it brings harm to workers; and the second issue concerns the resumption of the discussion on the Regulatory Standard as a whole.

Manoel Dias proved to be open to the demands of the representatives of transportation workers by deciding to start discussions on the Regulatory Rule 15. For this purpose, he appointed Rinaldo Marinho, director of the Department of Health and Security of the Ministry of Labor and Employment, to address this issue as well as with the installation of a committee with representatives of the union. Regarding the suspension of the decree, the Labour Minister was to analyze and, afterwards, he will give an opinion.

In addition to the president Ninety, the following people attended the meeting: Luciano, Chiquinho and Moleque, directors of the union, Dr. Juscelino (lawyer) and Prof. Sergio Latance.



UN begins actions of eliminating oppression

One in every three women have experienced physical or sexual violence; about 120 million girls have been forced into intercourse or other sexual acts; and 133 million women and girls have undergone female genital mutilation, according to data from the United Nations (UN).

This year, **UN Women**, an organization of the United Nations dedicated to gender equality, will light the building of this institution in Brasilia as well as the head office in New York, in orange. The lighting is one of the activities that will take place from November 25 to December 10, Human Rights Day, under the 16 days of activism against gender violence.

In Brazil, the programming is diverse. Today, November 25, there will be a graffiti exhibition, a workshop and a talk about violence against women in Rio de Janeiro. Tomorrow there will be a debate on the internet about the commitments made by countries to tackle violence, in addition to public policies to ensure women's rights.

On November 26 and 27, workshops and debates will be held in Brasilia and Joao Pessoa, with judges and other justice operators on the adaptation of the Latin American Protocol for Investigation of Deaths due to Gender Issues to the Brazilian law. The program will follow in December and can be seen in the UN Women website.

Nadine Gasman, representative of the organization in Brazil, points out that this year, the campaign also warns to the achievement of the Beijing Platform for Action, whose approval will complete 20 years in 2015. A result of the 4th World Conference on Women, this platform listed 12 work areas, such as Women and Poverty and Women and the Media, and made concrete actions that should be developed by the signatory countries to promote gender equality.

This year, as we near the 20th anniversary of the approval of the text, an historic two-thirds of countries have put laws on the books to stop domestic violence, due to proposals developed in Beijing, according to UN. These laws, however, have not been achieved in the evaluation of the organization. Besides, the goal of "preventing and eliminating all sorts of violence against women and girls" remain distant. (Brasil Agency)

Distribution of flyers marks beginning of the campaign

UGT embraces act for 16 days of activism as part of the campaign Count on Us

On November 25, UGT's Women's Department, through the National Forum of Women Workers (FNMT) of unions - formed by UGT, CTB, CUT, Força and NCST - took to the streets for the International Campaign "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence". And as the initial start, distributed leaflets in front of the train station Brás in Concordia Square, downtown São Paulo.

For nearly three hours, the Women's Department, with the support of affiliated unions, distributed 20,000 leaflets to warn society about the importance of discussing violence against women, focusing, this year, on the labour world.



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To Cassia Bufelli, Secretary of UGT's Women's Department, there is nothing worse than invisibility. "In these 16 days, UGT, unions and social movements struggle to give voice to women, as a way of relating gender-based violence to a violation of human rights. Women need to get out of these spaces of violence, whether if they are moral or sexual. There are several types. One is the wage gap, a form of classical sexist violence in our society, the other is the exclusion of women in power, and the importance of them while making decisions, at work, in the family or in social environments in which they circulate", she analyzes.

Sexual harassment is a form of abuse of power. Cássia raises the issue that in the labor market this type of harassment is still very strong. Not to mention the moral pressure, which hurts the dignity and the physical or psychological integrity. "Today many cases are taken to court, but when there is punishment, there is the exposure of the victim. It is necessary to stop this and report to the authorities" (Mariana Veltri - UGT's Press with information from UGT's Women Department).



**Beijing
Declaration
and Platform for
Action**





UGT attends UIL Congress in Italy

UIL's (Unione Italiana Del Lavoro, Italian Trade Union Central) XVI Congress took place on November 19-21, and was attended by UGT and by unionists from more than 50 countries.

Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, represented the central and assured that the relationship with UIL comes a long way, and that the partnership between the Brazilian and the Italian unionism has strong bonds, including the Bridge Brazil Italy, a partnership between the Commerce Workers Union of Sao Paulo, an institution affiliated with UGT, and the Italian unionism. Through this partnership, both institutions take care of more than 200 needy children, in a project at the Rio Pequeno slum, in Sao Paulo.



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To the president of UGT, attending a Congress of UIL, next to more than 1,500 unionists from several parts of the world, strengthens even more this bond and it is a proof that UGT has a strong international action.

Angra dos Reis Metalworkers elect board of directors

A slate coordinated UGT and headed by Mario Braga won the elections of the Trade Union of Metallurgists of Angra dos Reis.



The new board of directors, which will be empowered in February, will perform a 4 year tenure to put in practice a major part of the 34 proposals that were presented for the class during the electoral process.

"We know that the time is short, but we already have our priorities regarding our plans to administrate the union, since many of them have already been turned to laws and are not being achieved, for example, there are still workers who do not earn day care assistance, and many mothers do not have where to leave their children", Mario explains..

Another major challenge for this tenure is that the elected board of directors will have to strengthen the union, which was loosing its credibility with its class over the last years and getting this institution to regain its leading role in the fight for wage and labour improvements for workers of this sector.

INSPIR in the month of black awareness

Institute holds education workshop and launches new booklet



On November 10 and 11, INSPIR - Inter-American Trade Union Institute for Racial Equality - held the workshop of education of multipliers. This event also marked the launching of the new educational booklet of the institute, which is a tool to be daily used by trade union officers in the fight against racial discrimination.

One of the important facts that took place these days was the alteration of INSPIR's Social Statute, with the creation of the Youth Department, aggregating even more this will of fight..

On the occasion there was also the election of the board of directors, tenure 2015/2017. The new elected board of executives is composed of Francisco Quintino (Força Sindical) – President, Cleonice Caetano (UGT) – Vice President and Jana Silvemann (Solidarity Center/AFL-CIO).

INSPIR was created in 1995, from a political articulation between Brazilian trade union centrals, along with AFL-CIO and ORIT (TUCA-ITUC). Its main mission is "providing knowledge to trade union officers of its affiliated institutions for an efficient fight against discrimination, with ethics, human and social view, the perception of its role as multiplying agent, aiming at the construction of a developed, human, fair and diverse society" ..

O UGT Global é o Boletim de Informação Internacional da União Geral dos Trabalhadores.

A UGT é uma organização sindical constituída para defender os trabalhadores brasileiros através de um movimento sindical amplo, cidadão, ético, solidário, independente, democrático e inovador.

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