



## UGT in the fight for Decent Work

Since the presidential elections run-offs (October 03) and the World Day for Decent Work (October 07) are coming up, UGT emphasizes its demands that summarize "The Brazil that we Want".



The document, that was handed to presidential candidates, expresses our requests:

Brazil should consider a growth model that guarantee Decent Work, which is a productive and adequately remunerated work, performed under conditions of freedom, equity (that requires policies of accelerated increase in the income of the bottom of the pyramid), and security, without any kind of discrimination, tackling gender and ethnic inequalities and capable of guaranteeing a respectable life to every person that lives out of their work, as announced by ILO. In order to achieve such things, an agenda of a National Plan of Decent Work should be implanted.

### **Reduction of Working Hours for Shift Work without a reduction in salaries -**

We are in favor of people working less so that everyone is able to work. Successive rates of productivity growth that were recently originated allow its absorption by companies, without a decrease in competitiveness. Besides defending 40 weekly hour-shifts, we also defend that agreements and collective should be followed, especially those that have enacted the reduction and any modification under its clause will only be admitted towards the reduction of a negotiated shift.

**Youth** - Strengthening policies and programs of job creation focusing on youth, productively including young people in society, raising the potential of development and reducing the demand for compensatory or emergency policies."

**Eradication of Slave and Child Labour** - The fight for the eradication of slave work - and similar situations - and exploration of child labour should be ruthless, these practices that are inhuman, performed illegally and marked by authoritativeness, corruption, social segregation, racism, clientism and disrespect to human rights.

### National Conference of Employment and Decent Work



The 1st **National Conference of Employment and Decent Work - CNETD** will be held in Brasilia, from May 02 to 04, 2012, with preparatory pre-conferences starting on November 24, 2010, through the State Conferences of Employment and Decent Work.

Promoting Decent Work has been established as a commitment between the Brazilian government and ILO since January 2003, occasion in which the president of Brazil, Luís Inácio Lula da Silva, and the General Director of ILO, signed a Memorandum of Understanding that establishes a Special Program of Technical Cooperation to promote a national agenda of decent work.

**UGT** is part, under a tripartite figure, along with other centrals, of the National Group of Decent Work, which is responsible for the National Plan of Employment, responsible for the creation of the National Plan of Employment and Decent Work along with the Group of Inter-ministry Work.

The objective of the National Plan of Employment and Decent Work is implanting the ANTD by monitoring and evaluating the main impacts of the first programs and actions the government currently has on work, employment and social protection. *(Josineide de Camargo Souza – Secretary of UGT's National Department of Social Politics and member of the National Group of Employment and Decent Work)*

### World Day for Decent Work

Trade unions across the world are stepping up pressure for decent jobs and social justice, in the lead up to the World Day for Decent Work, October 7.

The special interactive website for the **World Day for Decent Work** has been launched, containing information from last year's events and first information on activities being organised this year.

Organisations planning events can upload their own information onto the multi-language site, which also features a "Twitter" feed, video and photo-galleries and other interactive functions.



"Working people are still paying a heavy price for the world economic crisis, as the banking and finance sector returns to business as usual. Governments pledged major reforms to the global economy at the G20 in 2008 and 2009, but have failed to follow through. The jobs crisis, especially for young people, is getting worse, economic stimulus has been withdrawn too early in several major economies, and vital public services as well as development aid are being cut back in the name of fiscal consolidation. Today's actions in France and India reflect the deep anger felt by people around the world, and will be followed by strikes and demonstrations in many other countries," said **ITUC General Secretary Sharan Burrow**.

"This year's **World Day for Decent Work** will be a peak moment in the global trade union movement's action for fundamental reform of the global economy. We will be holding political leaders to account on jobs, financial regulation and quality public services, and governments would be well advised to heed the trade union call," said **Burrow**.



### UGT demands 40 weekly hours

The main ideal of **UGT** and the Brazilian union movement is the reduction of the weekly workload, from the 44 hours established under the Constitution down to 40 hours. The fight for a reduction in shifts, adopted by union centrals, is not new. Since 1935 the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** defends 40 weekly hour shifts.

The PEC (Constitution Amendment Proposal) 231 is following legal channels under the Congress since 1995, and it was proposed by the ex-deputies and current senators Inácio Arruda (PCdoB party-CE) and Paulo Paim (PT party-RS), it was written by the deputy Vicentinho (PT party-SP), and it was already unanimously approved under a special committee of the Chamber of Deputies last June.

According to a study from Dieese, the reduction of extra hours might create 1 million formal jobs. "In several countries, such as Argentina, Uruguay, Germany and France, there is a year limitation to hours that workers are allowed to work overtime between 200 and 280 hours per year, around 4 extra hours per week", the study says. (*DIEESE*)

### 33% of workers have shifts higher than 44 weekly hours

In 2008, the Brazilian employed population works an average of 40,8 weekly hours. The information is in the book "Working time around the world: Trends in working hours, laws and policies in a global comparative perspective", launched by **the International Labour Organization (ILO)**.

Despite the fact that it is lower than the limit established by law (44 weekly hours), a percentage of workers surpasses this shift. More than 33% worked more than 44 weekly hours and 19,1% worked more than 48 weekly hours. On the other hand, 23,1% of workers worked less than 35 hours per week.

According to the book, written by the specialists from ILO Sangheon Lee, Deirdre McCann and Jon Messenger, men work more (44 hours) than women (36,4 hours). However, among the employed women that were researched, 87,8% were also responsible for domestic work. (*Agência DIAP, 08.09.2010*)

### Workers income increase despite the crisis

According to the results from the National Sample Survey of Households (Pnad) of 2009, publicized on September 08 by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), the average monthly real income of workers raised 2,2% from 2008 to 2009, reaching its highest level in 10 years (R\$ 1,111), despite the global economic crisis and the raise in the number of unemployed people in Brazil.

The growth level is higher than the one in 2007 and 2008 (1,7%), however, below the result of 2005 and 2006 (7,2%). The raise of income was stimulated by a growth in the number of formal workers, an amount of 32,4 million people, and improvements in the employment area. There are still some inequalities among men and women. Female workers made, in 2009, nearly R\$ 786, while men made R\$ 1,171.

According to the Institute, there was a real raise in the household growth over the last five years. IBGE has informed that, from 2004 to 2009, the family income raised 19,3%, at all social classes. The survey points out that the household income raised from R\$ 2.055,00 to R\$ 2.085,00, in 2008 and 2009.

### Unionists in politics:

### 47 parliamentarians will run for reelection



A survey made by DIAP shows that 47 out of the 61 unionist parliamentarians will run for reelection - 45 deputies and two senators. Unionists represent 10,27% of the politicians in the Congress.

In comparison with the last legislature, from 2003 to 2007, there were 74 unionists in the Federal Legislative Body. In the beginning of the current legislature (2007 to 2011), the bench was composed of 64 unionists, that is, 10% out of the entire parliament. The current bench, composed of 61 congressmen, will have to at least keep up with the previous number and try and enlarge its force, otherwise, the union movement won't be able to achieve the demands of workers in the next legislature.

That is why it is necessary to elect parliamentarians - Federal and State Deputies and Senators - to mediate conflicts, intermediate demands and create conditions to negotiated solutions to solve impasses. Otherwise, we might return to an era of conflicts and deadlocks and, even worse, without interlocutors, concerning parliamentarians, that supported the union movement prior to the government Lula (*DIAP*)

### Mercosur reaches 250 million people

Ministries of labour from Mercosur countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) approved a booklet named "How to work in MERCOSUR countries. It has complete information for citizens that intend to work in another nation of the group. Labour authorities from member countries intend to integrate and conciliate policies of inspection and professional capacitation.

The guide is a tool of researches and reading, with orientation on the national labour and migratory rules, just as the regional normative rules that establish migrations within Mercosur and the procedures that should be taken in order to workers be able to get their permanent residence visa and be able to perform their labour activities within the territories of the four countries that are part of the group.

"We are pleased to offer this booklet to this community of almost 250 million people", says a message from the ministers, in the introduction of the booklet. (*International Integration in the Americas Department/ Mônica da Costa Mata Roma/ Adjunct Secretary*)

### Social Labour Letter is approved in Santa Catarina

The Latin-American Association of Labour Lawyers (ALAL) and partner institutions discusses, last week, in Florianópolis- Santa Catarina, the Labour World, its consequences imposed by the neoliberal economy, searching for alternatives, ensuring labour, union and social security rights.

After these discussions, a proposal to a Social Labour Letter from ALAL was elaborated, and then it was submitted to the Brazilian Association of Labour Lawyers (ABRAT) and then it was approved. This Social Labour Letter will be a link between the two institutions (ALAL and ABRAT) in the fight for the right of free movement of workers, under the supra-national legislation within an international jurisdiction. (*Adital - 06.09.2010*)



"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

**World UGT – the International Newsletter of the UGT Brasil - General Workers Union**