



Making progress in 2011:

Year of education and income distribution

Consolidating and increasing the victories that concern the Brazilian working class

by Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT



The Brazilian working family uses the turn of the year to evaluate the fights, the victories and to establish themselves concerning the challenges ahead. We went through an extraordinary year, the year of 2010, with several economic factors almost reaching a full employment. We've reached one of the lowest indexes of unemployment of the recent Brazilian history.

But we were also forced to live with extremely high levels of turnover, with a shy growth of the salary mass and with huge bottlenecks in education and qualification of workers.

As people under a permanent effort to survive, this need is essential in agendas and our determination searches to overcome our difficulties ahead. That is why UGT, that continues to be the trade union central that grows the most in Brazil, will mobilize its affiliated unions and their respective board of directors and professional classes to search for short-term political solutions for the education and qualification in Brazil.

A lot more than the visible challenges of the World Cup and the Olympic Games, we currently need to equation education as in the recent past, back in 1994, occasion in which we solved the inflation problem. We have many good job positions without properly qualified workers for them. Many Brazilians are willing to surrender in order to improve our economy, but, still don't have the opportunity to be properly qualified.

Education will have to be universalized. Since nursery school until universities. With a permanent search of adjustments that help every single Brazilian citizen to achieve a social, cultural and civil view of their actions. In order for us to participate in the construction of a Brazil that looks like us, with more social justice, much more income distribution, with the consolidation of our internal market, that will happen, as we were able to experience, with a significant improvement of the workers' income.

That is why we salute the year of 2011 that will come with the new elected president, **Dilma Rousseff**. UGT will be ready, and, as always, independent, to help and to search for the political and economic adjustments that were necessary, with a R\$ 580,00 minimum wage, with a reduction of working hours for shift work down to 40 weekly hours without a reduction in salaries and with the fact that Brazilian government signed a document of **ILO (International Labor Organization) Convention 158** to contain the bursting bleeding that the labor turnover imposes to the workers' income.

Prioritizing advances in education

Ricardo Patah

To UGT, education will change our social and economic reality, with direct reflections in worker's life quality, spreading itself all over the country and turning into a political mobilization such as the one that guaranteed us, for example, to control inflation.



Following the example of the Real Plan, UGT proposes a national plan of education, that should be a cultural and political reference to our people.

Since the elections are over, we are able to make progress beyond campaign speeches and demand, from the government, at all levels, that education should be a national priority, integrating education from child education, to junior high and high school and leading to a new university education, more human, more integrated, more Brazilian and universal.

If we are to take education seriously, at the point in which we achieve a national education plan, we must link investments to revenues. And the social funds from the pre-salt layer must, and should, finance education at all levels, directing part of the investments, for instances, to a technical and professional education.

This way we would solve one of the greatest social bottlenecks, which is the occupation of young people that live with unemployment rates three times higher than the adults levels. As well as we will be able to increase the occupation of these boys and girls and keep them studying and getting ready to get into the job market a little later, as what seems to happen in France and Germany.

We would avoid, this way, their exposure to criminal influences, that find a growing field in urban centers, with a high concentration of young people filled with energy and with no occupation.

The national education plan that **UGT** proposes will spread into all public policies, will make responsible and at the same time will mobilize all levels and structures of the powers of the country, the states and cities, compromising, with goals and results, all levels of power. It will also generate public policies that are much more interesting than electoral speeches.

We are tired, as Brazilians and workers, of living with an educational system that pretends to teach while inducing its students to pretend that they learn. That is why we are going to insist that criteria of efficiency linked to investments flows are established.

To **UGT**, education should be an investment on citizenship that starts when we are born, putting up resources on the implantation of a public system of day cares, with innovation on their services and management, involving parents and teachers.

The national plan of education will help us walk proudly in a world scenario in which Brazil will reach the place it belongs, as a link of cultural, academic and social development values.

Our people will not accept anymore the obscurantism of dictatorships, the brutality of income concentration and the exclusion of its citizens, no matter which race, region of the country, sexual or religious orientation they represent.

This is the Brazil we want.

Ricardo Patah is president of UGT and president of the Commerce Workers Union of Sao Paulo

Lula receives a union tribute

The **Trade Union Summit of the Southern Cone**, held in the triple border, ended with a tribute to the Brazilian president



Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva received a plaque from the delegation of the trade unions from the southern cone in recognition due to "the pride that workers from Latin America and the Caribbean feel for him", and due to "his conduct, coherence of life and loyalty to the working class".

Lula headed to the delegation of **CCSCS**, fraternally hugged all the trade union leaders and received, from the Argentinean **Adolfo Aguirre, general secretary of CCSCS**, the plaque signed by 13 trade union centrals.

A delegation of leaders from the 13 trade unions that are part of the Southern Cone Trade Union Centrals Coordinator (CCSCS) privately set a meeting with the president of Brazil prior to the meeting with presidents of Mercosur. Lula went to one of his acts as the president before he passes on his position on January 01 to Dilma Rouseff.

The final document of the trade union meeting was also delivered to him, as well as a t-shirt with the logo of CCSCS. Aguirre thanked on behalf of the trade union centrals, "the permanent support it provided to workers and to their fights, support that was always offered to workers anywhere in the world." Among the people that were present at the event, we may emphasize the presence of Rafael Freire, leader from the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA). (*Mariano Vázquez, CCSCS*)

UGT at the Mercosur Union Summit

The **International Department of Integration to the Americas**, represented by the colleagues **Mônica da Costa Mata Roma** and **Cícero Pereira da Silva**, were representing the Brazilian trade union centrals, and along with the **Technical Department of CCSCS**, organized the activities of the Mercosur Union Summit, that took place in Foz do Iguaçu, Paraná, from December 14 to the 16, 2010.



The first day was scheduled for meetings of the following committees: Energy, Construction, Education, Youth, Gender and Productive Development of the Coordinator, in which UGT had representatives in each one of them.

On December 15, the Union Summit Plenary Session took place, it had the participation of over 100 unionists from the Southern Cone.

The International Department was also delegated by Brazilian trade union centrals to participate, along with the Brazil Presidency and other social movements, in the Mercosur Social Summit, that began on this very day, with several events from several sectors, out of which, we may emphasize the meetings on migrations and human rights. These activities ended with the Migrant March (picture), an event organized by the Center of Support to the Migrant of Sao Paulo, supported by UGT and other Brazilian trade union centrals.

The Social Summit ended on December 16, with the participation of the president Lula, besides chiefs of State of other countries of South America. The Common Market Council - CMC - organized a meeting as well, in which **Valdir Vicente de Barros, secretary of UGT's Public Policies Department**, participated. UGT was also present at the meeting of the **consulting social and economic forum of Mercosur - FCES**.

Latin American solidarity

The strong rains that fell on Rio de Janeiro in January were responsible for over 600 deaths and dozens of missing people. The tragedy affected mainly the mountain cities of Teresópolis, Petrópolis, Nova Friburgo and Sumidouro.



This tragedy touched the public opinion and Latin American union leaders.

The Trade Union Confederation of the Americas sent a letter to UGT, regretting this tragedy. "We regret this accident and we sympathize with the pain that the victims of the rains who lost their

Trade union centrals from **Guatemala (CGTG)**, **Panamá (CGAP)**, **Chile (CUT)** and **Venezuela (CTV)** sent mourning displays towards the victims of floods and landslides.

This sad event is the biggest natural disaster in the History of Brazil and, according to UN, it's in the top 10 biggest disasters in the world. And the number of deaths might increase, once the authorities suspect that there are more bodies under the rubble.

Unions affiliated with **UGT** all over Brazil are mobilizing themselves to help out victims of this tragedy.

Rio + 20

The Trade Union campaign begins

It finally seems, as time approaches, that Rio+20 is setting off into motion. Last January 10 and 11 a intersectional preparatory meeting was held in New York, and will be followed by the second of three intergovernmental preparatory meetings – PrepCom 2 – held on March 8 and 9, right after the Commission for Sustainable Development.



Up to now, in general little commitment on the part of governments, a lack of leadership with regard to initiatives and little ambition for some time have been seen in all multilateral negotiations. In this sense, Rio + 20 could run the risk of being just another summit.

Nonetheless it would not be very responsible of us to let the opportunity pass to revise sustainable development policies and their governance.(...) The trade union movement is being set into motion, we already have **a resolution that calls to action**; more and more social movements are beginning to get organized; the Brazilians have created a "Civil Society Facilitating Committee for Rio+20" as the hosts and have launched a **call for participation to civil society organizations from all over the world**.

- for national objectives for the creation of green and decent jobs
- for a social protection floor and social security improvements
- for a financial transaction tax that reduces speculation and guarantees resources for climate change and the fight against poverty (...)

ILO's 17th American Regional Meeting

ILO's 17th Meeting defines agenda to make progress on the way to decent work in the region. UGT participated in the meeting represented by its directors **Arnaldo de Souza Benedetti (in the picture)**, **Cássia Buffeli** and **Laerte Teixeira da Costa**.

Governments', workers' and employers' representatives from more than 30 countries in the Americas concluded the 17th American Regional Meeting of the International Labour Organization (ILO) with a call to strengthen efforts towards advancing decent work in the continent.

In particular, delegates highlighted the need to move forward - through a more effective use of social dialogue - in the following areas:

- The creation of new decent and productive work opportunities through the promotion and development of sustainable enterprises.
- Enhanced respect for freedom of association and collective bargaining.
- The promotion for ratification of ILO Convention 102 on social security.
- The promotion of economic competitiveness together with social cohesion, preserving and respecting fundamental rights at work.
- The strengthening of labour market institutions.



Davi Zaia takes on the Labor Department in S Paulo

Davi Zaia, vice president of UGT, will be the new labor secretary of the government of Sao Paulo

The **vice president of UGT, Davi Zaia (PPS party-SP)**, was nominated by the elected governor of Sao Paulo, Geraldo Alckmin (PSDB party), to take on the Department of Labor and Work Relationships.

Zaia is president of the Federation of Bank Workers of Sao Paulo and Mato Grosso do Sul, an institution affiliated with UGT, and had the role of repositioning the agenda along with the union movement.

Davi Zaia was reelected in 2010 for the Legislative Body of the State of Sao Paulo with 68.658 votes.

SERT answers for several employment programs, such as "Employ Sao Paulo", PAT (Workers Center), Young citizen, labor movement, among others, it's also responsible for the program of the Bank of the People of Sao Paulo.

In defense of diversity

David Zaia received the visit of **Marcos Afonso, national secretary of UGT's communication department**, on January 17. He was with José Ibrahim, political consultant, and Dojival Vieira, secretary of UGT's Diversity Politics Department.

Afonso, on behalf of the president of the trade union central, Ricardo Patah, asked the new secretary to work with the governor Geraldo Alckmin, aiming to make a transference to the Labor Department of the Diversity Stamp, originally instituted by the city hall of Sao Paulo.



The stamp has the objective of stimulating companies and organizations of the civil society to execute good practices and adopt inclusion policies, aiming to overcome the serious problem of racial and gender discrimination in the job market in Sao Paulo.

Tribute to workers

A monument will bring back the dignity of outsourced workers in the area of urban cleaning and conservation in Sao Paulo.



On January 25, 457th anniversary of the city of Sao Paulo, outsourced workers in the area of urban cleaning and conservation will be praised with the "Monument to the Workers of Urban Cleaning and Conservation".

The memorial, composed of four bronze pieces, in natural size (an average of 5,4 feet high), was donated by **Siemaco-SP, affiliated with UGT**, to the Sé Sub City Hall and represents the street sweepers, servants, cleaning assistants and gardeners. The monument will be placed in downtown Sao Paulo.

According to **Moacyr Pereira, president of Siemaco**, besides paying a homage to the workers of this class (street sweepers, servants, cleaning assistants and gardeners), the monument will also have the role of revitalizing the Marechal de Deodoro square, that will have a preserved and rebuilt space at the disposal of citizens from Sao Paulo.

Mercosur workers are entitled to informative booklet

The Ministry of Labor and Employment is releasing a booklet to orientate Mercosur workers. This publishing was a joint development of the labor ministries that are part of the bloc (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay). The goal is offering important information on employment to workers in the Mercosur countries.

The booklet **Como Trabalhar nos Países do Mercosul** (How to work in the Mercosur countries) talks about labor legislation, social security, unionization, health rules and safety at work. It has a chapter for each one of the four countries with details of the bureaucratic procedures that workers should adopt, with addresses and telephones.



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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