



Global



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UGT in the fight for Decent Work and Employment

Protagonist in the fight to make progress concerning the rights of workers and the labour improvement of the working class, UGT actively participated in the 1st National Conference on Decent Work and Employment, that took place from August 08 to 11, in Brasília.

The Conference, that gathered representatives of workers, businessmen and from the government, ended with the approval, in the final plenary session, of proposals of reduction of working shifts, proposals of freedom and trade union autonomy as well as the fight against anti-unionist practices and equality of genders.

During the opening, the minister of Labour and Employment, Brizola Neto, emphasized that the Federal Government, through this initiative, searches for the strengthening of a dialogue in a tripartite way (between government, workers and businessmen), always aiming to advance in labour relationships.

The crowded auditorium showed the engagement and participation of all society in search of public policies that guarantee the principles of equality of opportunity, collective bargaining, health and security at work, among other issues that were discussed over the Congress.

According to the general secretary of the Civil House, Gilberto Carvalho, who represented the president Dilma Rousseff, decent work is related to two essential actions of the government: the eradication of poverty and the social dialogue. "Dialogue is the foundation of democracy in our country and fighting against misery is, above all, the search for a better income distribution, social protection, work and employment", he explains.

Discussions were developed everyday of the conference through an endless search of consensus proposals between workers and businessmen. Among the consensus proposals, some important points were approved, such as the respect to freedom and the exercise of trade union practices and the sympathetic responsibility for companies in cases of outsourcing.

There wasn't a consensus regarding the business part on the end of the use of prohibitory injunction as a juridical measure to prevent the legitimate exercise of strike, and the government suggested the removal of this item. However, workers did not agree and submitted the proposal to a vote of the audience, that rejected the suppression.

The next step is gathering the organizing committee of the conference to systematize the approved points and create the National Plan of Decent Work. Parallel to that, the government should rejoin the Group of Tripartite Labour to build this agenda. (Fábio Ramalho – from Brasília)



*Coordinated by UGT's Assistant Secretary of Trade Union Education, **Josineide de Camargo Souza (Josi)**, the group of UGT was composed by delegates that were elected in plenary sessions that took place all over Brazil.*

The trade union central also had a stand at the Conference where participants could get to know a little of the work performed by UGT in the fight for better working conditions.

All support to the strike of federal servants

Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, signed, along with presidents of other Brazilian trade union centrals, a note to support the strike of federal servants.

"The trade union centrals (CTB, CUT, Força Sindical, Nova Central and UGT) support the strike of federal servants that gathers dozens of classes, and fight for salary adjustment, as well as social and economic benefits.

The trade union movement understands that it is legitimate for workers to paralyze their activities to request for better conditions of life and work."



Meeting of trade union centrals preparing to the Conference on Decent Work

The trade union movement also supports the vote of the strikers regarding the regulation through law of ILO - International Labour Organization - Convention 151, that deals with labour relationships in public administration, especially the right to get organized and collective bargaining to solve conflicts and to exercise civil and political rights. It's just the absence of negotiation between parts - a position that was adopted by past governments - that gave room to a generalized discontent of servants, that have been submitted, for decades, to a policy of career disvaluation of servants and salary squeeze.

We understand, however, that substituting strikers for other workers will only increase the discontent of public servants. We repudiate all forms of authoritarianism while dealing with legitimate requests of workers of the public sector. Sympathetic to strikers, trade union centrals recognize that the way out of the paralyzation is in the disposition of parts to sit down and exhaustedly negotiate, having the perspective of a quick solution to the conflict, reducing, this way, the damage caused to the own servants and to the population.

Repudiation note to the decree number 7.777 signed by the president Dilma

UGT, through its National Secretary of the Department of the Public Servant, Lineu Neves Mazano, and also Secretary of Salary Policies and Economic Matters of the **Confederation of Public Servants - CSPB**, repudiates the Decree 7.777, July 24, 2012, edited by the Civil House, that allows the substitution of federal public servants on strike for state or municipal public servants.

Such decree deals with an act of exception, that impairs the Constitution, the fair requesting movement and the freedom of public servants to fight for their rights and the respect to the public administration.

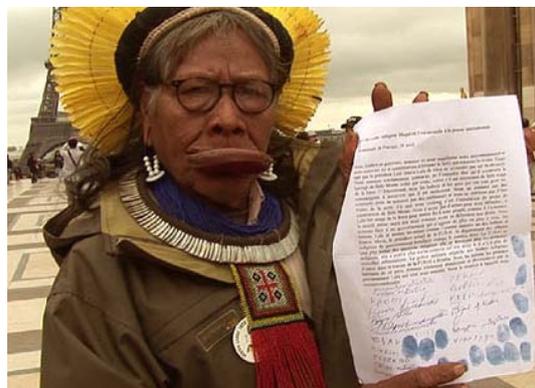
By trying and legislating through decrees, the government goes back to times of military governments, a sad memory to the trade union movement, to public servants and to workers of Brazil. The edited act, not only overcomes the Law and the rules, but also gives room to the government begin to rule independently of the legislative body, under an authoritarian and anti-democratic way, taking the population to situations of risk, since substituted servants are people that are prepared to perform their jobs, unlike their substitutes.

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

On August 9, occasion in which it is celebrated the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, UGT reiterates the recognition of their cultural value and, above all, as a social and political organization within the Brazilian nation.

We use this date to call out the Brazilians to value the permanence of Native American people and promote conditions so that they have their lands guaranteed and use them to their well being and preservation of their culture and the environment.

Raoni, representing Native American people of Xingu, asks for international support against the proposal of the Belo Monte dam.



Juan Somavia message for International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

"Indigenous media, Empowering indigenous voices" – the theme of this year's observance is a reminder that the voice and participation of indigenous and tribal peoples are indispensable in shaping a future that respects their dignity. The plight of many of the world's indigenous and tribal women and men testifies to the urgency of the need.

It is estimated that there are 370 million indigenous and tribal peoples in the world with half this population living in cities. Many indigenous women and men are still severely affected by poverty and discrimination and struggling to have their voices heard. Today new technologies and tools such as social media, mobile platforms and websites are proving to be effective means of sharing information and promoting awareness of their rights within their own communities in their own languages. They also open up avenues for communicating with others to overcome bias and inaccuracies that stem from a lack of understanding of indigenous cultures and beliefs. New technologies also offer powerful tools for effective organization which is fundamental to empowerment.

The ILO has had a long standing commitment to working closely with indigenous peoples in their efforts to strengthen their voice and expand their choices. We do so in the framework of a social justice mandate to promote decent work for all - also indispensable in establishing patterns of growth that are fairer and more sustainable.

The ILO's report "Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work: From commitment to action" discussed at the International Labour Conference in June 2012 depicts the challenges indigenous peoples face in gaining access to state institutions and the consequent weak enforcement of labour legislation; lack of awareness of their fundamental rights; the absence of a strong collective voice to defend their rights and interests effectively; and the prevailing high levels of poverty. The global youth employment crisis is even more acute for young indigenous women and men who are four times more likely to be unemployed than non-indigenous nationals in certain countries. They are also more prone to long-term unemployment and part-time employment, and a greater proportion is detached from the labour market.

At a time of global economic crisis which heightens vulnerability, the ILO has continued to develop innovative approaches to strengthen indigenous peoples' voices, including through partnerships within the UN family. The ILO has been pleased to engage in the pioneering United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership (UNIPP) along with the OHCHR, UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA.

UGT participated in the 13th International Energy Meeting

The president of UGT, Ricardo Patah, attended, along with the mayor of Sao Paulo, Gilberto Kassab, the opening of the 13th International Energy Meeting, at the Unique Hotel, in Sao Paulo, that took place on August 06. The participation of UGT shows the preoccupation of the trade union central with public policies related to sustainability.



During the two days that the meeting lasted, issues such as energetic geopolitics, electric energy, free market of electric energy, oil and derivatives and energetic efficiency were discussed. This event, that is yearly organized, has the goal of discussing the main topics of the sector. (*Secom and UGT newsroom*)

Protection fund in times of crisis



The **Federal Deputy and vice-president of UGT, Roberto de Lucena**, attended a meeting on August 6, along with representatives of the other trade union centrals and the General Secretary of the Civil House, Gilberto Carvalho, to deliver a combined proposal of the central suggesting, to the government, the creation of a fund that protects employment financed with part of the fee of the Social Security Fund, paid by companies whenever there isn't a fair dismissal.

Since 2001, companies pay a 50% fee on the balance of the Social Security Fund of the employee that gets fired, out of which 40% are destined to the worker and 10% are deposited on the fund, according to the Labour Ministry.

According to Roberto de Lucena, the proposal is that these resources are directed to the creation of a workers protection fund, guaranteeing, through the promotion of professional courses, employability conditions in case of economic crisis. Roberto de Lucena informed that, in the next days, a new meeting should take place, gathering government technicians and representatives of trade union centrals to deepen discussions in the elaboration of this proposal.

IAE - Institute of High Studies of União Geral dos Trabalhadores

Read the documents of the creation of IAE – UGT (all in portuguese)

[Instituto de Altos Estudos da UGT - Objetivos \(pdf\)](#)

[Instituto de Altos Estudos da UGT - Atividades \(pdf\)](#)

[Considerações sobre o financiamento público dos sindicatos no Brasil \(pdf\)](#)

[Manual de orientações para aplicação e registro contábil dos recursos oriundos da Contribuição Sindical \(pdf\)](#)

[O papel estratégico dos sindicatos de trabalhadores no desenvolvimento sustentável e na promoção de práticas corporativas sustentáveis \(pdf\)](#)



"The General Workers Union 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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