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Strengthening democracy and dialogue

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

On November 15, the Brazilian republic celebrates 125 years. Years that went by with higher or lower levels of democracy and representation and with more or less dictatorship and authoritarianism. Our democracy greatly developed and we celebrate 30 years of continuous democracy, with free elections.

These 30 years of democracy constitute an important asset for our country, contributing to improve the lives of our population, to strengthen our culture and our highest penetration in the world. This is an important asset to be defended and preserved. Threats to our democracy constitute threats to our people, to our Brazil.



Soon the results of the October polls will turn into a new government. The message from the polls, the re-election, represents trust in the ongoing government program, but also brings an indication of change, a change request. Our President Dilma Rousseff understood this and is proposing dialogue and conciliation.

UGT greatly appreciates this intention and this proposal. UGT exercised its democracy and its internal plurality at its fullness in the course of the entire electoral process. The 21st Plenary Session of the Board of Executives reaffirmed, this week, these values as essential to the trade union central that rapidly heads to become the second largest trade union federation in Brazil.

The commitment, since our establishment, was to defend the interests of Brazilian workers, and it is with this same commitment that we will answer the proposal of dialogue of President Dilma.

First, it is no secret to anyone that the economic crisis that swells needs to be tackled. Faced with no measures that would make the working class and the Brazilian people pay for the crisis. This is not acceptable.

The G20 meeting that will take place in Australia can bring relief to the international crisis, the root of our problems. There is already a consensus that the world economy will not recover without a joint effort. The Brisbane Plan of Action, which is expected to be released at the meeting, can bring a path for our recovery.

On the other hand, the commitments of president Dilma in the October elections require concrete actions to restore confidence and to strengthen dialogue. It is essential that the next cabinet represents all the forces that brought the electoral victory, with the presence of representative names and articulation capacity. This ministry should clearly represent hands that are outstretched to dialogue.

The ambiance of trust and goodwill also requires the strengthening of governance measures (transparency and anti-corruption), by establishing links with civil society and especially with social movements. And mainly it requires close liaison with the National Congress.

UGT, even in the face of economic and political difficulties that await us next year, will do everything to preserve the achievements of Brazilian workers - employment, wage increase in real terms, respect for the labor law - and to extend these achievements, with the end of the social security factor, 40 weekly hour working shifts, etc.

Strengthening Democracy and Dialogue are essential for that to happen.

National Plenary Session reaffirms plurality

With a tribute to officer Arnaldo de Souza Benedetti, deceased last July, the 21st Plenary Session of the National Board of Executives of UGT began on October 30. This is the last plenary session of UGT, and this time the trade union central reaffirms its condition of plural institution beginning the discussion as for its position regarding the elected rulers, in State and federal spheres.

Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, highlighted the participation of all union officers linked to the trade union central in the electoral process. "I would like to congratulate all colleagues who, with such participation, have helped increase the plural perception of our institution."

According to Patah, the current time is the moment to define the actions to ensure the protection of projects and programs that interest the working class. Thanks to this action we can already be considered the 2nd largest trade union federation in this country.

Roberto Santiago, UGT's vice-president and federal deputy, emphasized in his speech, on the first day of the plenary session, the issue of reduction of the labor bench in Congress, noting that "this will require increased commitment of union members to get proposals that interest the working class approved in Congress".

UGT, which is about to celebrate eight years of its foundation, will hold its Ordinary Congress on June 17-18, 2015, at Anhembi, in São Paulo, and following instructions of President Ricardo Patah state branches will hold local congresses with debates similar to the national event themes.

In the base year of 2013, the union assessment conducted by the Ministry of Labor and Employment (MTE), UGT was in third among the largest Brazilian unions, as this next measurement, the center will be made official as the second largest trade union federation in Brazil. "We are celebrating with this news, but now we need to think ahead and take a step further to enlarge the central actions," said Chiquinho Pereira, UGT's National Secretary of Organization and Trade Union Policies. *(Joacir Gonçalves UGT Press / Photos FH Mendes)*



Arnaldo de Souza Benedetti

UGT makes a protest against Nissan at the Show

A group of workers connected to the the trade union central UGT, and also to CUT and Força Sindical, made a protest in front of the stand of the Japanese brand Nissan, at the Motor Show of Sao Paulo. In solidarity to the United Autoworkers - UAW, trade union of metallurgists of the United States, they wanted to draw the attention to the situation of workers of the American Nissan, in which workers are prohibited from joining the union.



The group of about 80 people, including employees of Nissan of the United States, regularly entered the motor show with tickets and, inside, dressed shirts with the sentence "Nissan does not respect the rights of workers." It is the first time in the history of the show, which takes place every two years and is in its 28th edition, in which a protest of workers took place.

To Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, the American Nissan workers must have the same rights as the company grants elsewhere in the world. "Discriminatory and anti-union practices can not be accepted. They are the first step to precarious work and the exploitation of workers. So we sympathize and support the fight of the UAW," concluded the union. *(With info from the newspaper Estado de São Paulo)*

G20 policies are considered inefficient

A new research of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) among members of Labor 20, which represents workers from G20 economies, concluded that 56% of policies of G20 were qualified as inefficient to improve conditions of those who work.

"More than half of the G20 policies failed to have a positive impact for employees to take weak action on issues that affect their lives, such as employment, decent wages and social protection," said Sharan Burrow, secretary general of the International Trade Union Confederation, on the eve of the annual summit of Labour 20 (L20) in Brisbane, Australia.



In 2013 more than 200 million people were unemployed, representing an increase of five million people over the previous year, according to the International Labor Organization.

"Governments are prioritizing policies that support the interests of big business and are not intended to alleviate income inequality and rising unemployment," Burrow said.

The economic model prepared for the L20 shows that a coordinated combination of wage and investment policies in the G-20 countries could halve the overall employment gap and encourage the increase of 5,84 % for the growth in the G20 countries rather than business as usual.

The results of the Global Survey 2014 ITUC among G20 countries reveal the following:

- 68% of people say their government cannot fight unemployment;
- 79% of people believe that the economic system favors the rich instead of being fair to the majority of the population; and
- 62% of people want their government to do more to control corporate power.

The follow-up survey results will be presented at the G20 Summit in Brisbane L20, November 14 and 15, 2014.

ILO asks for more equality with decent work

ILO Statement of Lima asks that the fight against inequality is to be done through decent work

More than 490 representatives of governments, workers and employers gathered under the 18th Regional American Meeting of the International Labour Organization (ILO), which took place from October 13 to 16 in the capital of Peru, approved a series of measures to promote the fight against informality and inequality in the region through decent work.

"It is very important we send, from the Americas to the world, a tripartite common message, showing that there is no development that deserves the adjective human without decent work, and that democracy is strengthened only if there are better jobs for all," said Guy Ryder, ILO Director General, in his closing speech of the meeting.



"We agree that the reduction of inequality promotes sustainable development and governance," said Fredy Otárola, Minister of Labour and Employment Promotion of Peru and President of the Conference.

The "Declaration of Lima" is a call to the fight against inequality is done through "integrated public policies, both economic and social, to promote social inclusion, decent work and productive employment, as well as enabling a sustainable environment for businesses". According to the final document of the meeting, "this includes public policies to face discrimination and violation of trade union freedom and freedom of association."

"In order to overcome the existing obstacles and advance in the creation of high quality jobs, it is essential that there is respect for fundamental rights at work, an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises and an effective social dialogue based on mutual trust between governments and organizations of employers and workers that are representative and independent", states the document.



Declaração de Lima



Protocol against the Forced Work



UGT attends congress in Lisbon

The VII Congress of the Trade Union Confederation of Portuguese Speaking Countries - CSPLP, which took place on October 30 and 31, in Lisbon, Portugal, was attended by UGT, represented by Wagner Souza, assistant secretary of UGT's International Affairs Department.



UGT / BRAZIL is a founding entities of CSPLP. The congress was attended by all entities that make up the Confederation: Angola: CGSILA / UNITA / Brazil: UGT / CUT / Força Cape Verde: CSSL / UNTC Guinea Bissau: UNTG Mozambique: CONSILMO / OTM Portugal: UGT / CGTP Sao Tome and Principe: ONTSTP / UGT-STP East Timor: KSTL Galicia: IGC / CCOO Macau: ATFFPM Sector institutions: CPLP SE.

The proposal of the Confederation in the debates was to ensure decent work defending the rights of workers and the promotion of opportunities for women and men, in order for them to have access to stable jobs, secure and properly paid, in conditions of fairness, freedom and safety. Besides ongoing themes in all continents, specific and urgent measures to combat epidemics such as Ebola and HIV / AIDS were debated.

There were elections in CSPLP for the biennium 2014/2016, colleague Lawrence Prado was re-elected Vice President and Deputy Wagner Souza as assistant Vice President, both Secretaries of UGT's National Board of Executives.

Against racism in university

UGT's State branch of Espirito Santo attends act against institutional racism at UFES and releases repudiation note

"Racists, racists will not be approved. Black youth will make a revolution", with this lyrics performed by the sound of drums, tambourines, high floor toms and rattles, and carrying posters, nearly a hundred students from the Federal University of Espirito Santo (UFES), occupied the rectory building to demand the exoneration of Manoel Luiz Malaguti, economy professor, denounced for racist practices inside the classroom.



Students gathered in the courtyard and, around 4:00 P.M., they went on a parade around the rectory. They entered the building and, while most remain in ground floor, singing wake-up calls against racism and against the professor, some went up and glued banners asking for the end of prejudice and genocide of black people.

UGT's State branch of Espirito Santo attended the act and publicized a repudiation note: "It is up to the Federal University to expurgate this true 'Cancer'".

"We, black workers from UGT's State branch of ES, along with the Municipal Forum of Cachoeiro de Itapemirim, come to vehemently REPUDIATE the racist attitudes of professor MANOEL MALAGUTTI from the Federal University of Espirito Santo - UFES, who, during a class, stated that "students who entered college via quota system diminish the quality of the university; he would hate to be served by a black doctor or lawyer" .

Project of Budget Law of the Union

The Technical Note 142 - General aspects of the Annual Project of Budget Law of the Union 2015 has the goal of developing a brief analysis of some of the main constituent elements of this law project. The proposal is offering elements that help in the understanding of the budget proposal, from its development until it follow legal channels in the Congress.



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The UGT Global is the Newsletter of International Information of the União Geral dos Trabalhadores do Brasil.

The UGT union is an organization formed to defend the Brazilian workers across a broad trade union movement, national, ethical, supportive, independent, democratic and innovative.

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