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Fourth National Conference on Gender, Race and Youth

## UGT grows throughout Brazil

Ministry of Labor confirms the fact that UGT is the second largest Brazilian trade union center

At the beginning of March, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTP) published the measurement of trade union centers in the Official Gazette and pointed out UGT as the second largest trade union center of Brazil, through calculus that consider the number of affiliated members of each trade union and the quantity of trade union institutions affiliated with the centers, in a period measured until the last day of the previous year.

The civic, ethical and innovative unionism of UGT, focused on the human being and able to offer answers and proposals to national problems, has showed that this is the new path of the Brazilian unionism.

On March 21, Élio Neves, president of the Federation of Rural Salaried Employees of the State of São Paulo – Feraesp, affirmed that UGT is a trade union center with the possibility of enabling new horizons for the Brazilian working class. Feraesp, which is based in Araraquara, aggregates more than 100 affiliated trade unions throughout the State of São Paulo.



FERAESP was received by the management of UGT

The measurement of the ministry, which was a result of the work of a tripartite group, in which there are representatives of the MTP, of the Inter-union Department of Statistics and Socio-Economic Studies (DIEESE) and of each trade union center, verified that UGT aggregates 1,277 trade union institutions, from a percentage of 11.38% of the total amount of affiliated trade unions.

To many observers and researches of the trade union movement, the success of the path taken by UGT is due to the incorporation of new fight ideals – on race, diversity, urban problems, which are beyond a traditional fight in defense of salaries.

Among the fight ideals defended by UGT there are: workers rights in Brazil; gender equality; inclusion; immigrants; health and security; social justice and decent work and sustainable development. UGT, by representing workers from all professional segments, consolidates its position also as the major trade union center in the area of commerce and services.

The union of all workers is essential to develop the fight for decent work and for better living conditions, especially in Brazil, where a blatant inequality rules.

UGT, which was founded on July 19, 2007, believes in Brazil and will continue with its civic, ethical and innovative unionism sure it will continue with the same growth it has had over these nine years of existence.



## Everyone together against the mosquito

UGT and São Paulo city hall together to fight the Aedes aegypti

On March 22, UGT received the visit of the Sé Sub-prefecture, which has, through the municipal secretary, mobilized institutions and the population in the fight against the mosquito.

UGT, in turn, has already started this campaign to fight the mosquito with its affiliated trade unions. They are institutions that represent commerce workers, bakers, motorcycle couriers and several classes that are together to eradicate this disease agent. According to data from Sé sub-prefecture, downtown São Paulo has a very high concentration of these mosquitoes and Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, made a plea to everyone get together in this cause.

“We decided some guidelines during this first meeting, which are related to form a major team of unionists who will take it to the streets to raise awareness on the population over the conditions and the importance to tackle dengue fever, zika virus and chikungunya. We will use the structures of our new trade unions to inform the population and the city hall of São Paulo will contribute with courses to graduate multiplying agents prepared to guide”, Isabel Kausz, secretary of the **Women Department of the Commerce Workers Trade Union.**



Situation in Brazil  
02/2016

This action will also be performed by São Paulo’s State Center of the SDG (Sustainable Development Goals), program of the United Nations that has, among its goals, improve the life quality and health of people. Cristina Palmieri, coordinator of UGT’s Sustainability Committee and its articulator in this movement, emphasizes that this is a problem that reach us all, and it is necessary to fight for prevention, so that we have control of this situation, which is growing in a disorderly way.

The SDG 3 specifically ensures healthy lives and well being for all at all ages. The SDG movement joins this cause to combine forces. “There is a need of each one of us being an actor, a key player in the fight against this mosquito. We are vulnerable. What can we, together, do to minimize this impact and not being hit? We must also think of the social well being,” Cris Palmieri highlighted. (Mariana Veltri – UGT’s press)

## Water is life. Do not let this source dry!

UGT supports the SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals as a way of saving the planet!

On March 23, the World Water Day is celebrated. The major source of life comes from the water and we currently experience such an enormous water crisis that urgent measures have been taken to save the world we live in. According to data from the United Nations (UN), Brazil is the 12th country that most waste water in the world.

UGT supports the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), through a partnership with 192 member States, which had the goal of eradicating hunger and misery until 2015, and believes that a new world is possible, and it is the only trade union center to embrace the Millennium goals.

Out of the 17 SDG, there are 4 directed to ensure the health of the planet and water protection. They are: Goal 6 (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all); Goal 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts); Goal 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development) and Goal 15 (Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and

Each one can do their part! Participate!

Get to know the National Movement for the SDG.



National  
Movement for  
the SDG

## Mercosur's Confederation of Commerce Workers

Commerce workers prepare founding Congress of Mercosur's Confederation. The new trade union institution aims to defend and unify the workers rights in commerce.

Commerce officers had a meeting on March 18, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to deal of the preparation of this organization for the founding congress of Mercosur's Confederation of Commerce Workers Trade Unions. The meeting took place at the head office of Faecys (Argentine Federation of Employees of Commerce and Services), founded in 1932, one of the strongest and most active trade union institutions of Argentina.



UGT was represented by its national president Ricardo Patah and by its secretaries Leocides Fornazza (Anti-unionist practices and Labor relationships); José Cloves Rodrigues (Workers of the Commerce Area); Julio Atanasio Gevaerd (Commerce Workers from Brusque); José Carlos Neves (Commerce Workers Union of Foz do Iguacu – SINECOFI and Decent Work Observatory) and Avelino Garcia (UGT's General Secretariat).

Ruben Cortina, president of UNI America and Faecys' secretary of international affairs, emphasized: "Mercosur has nearly 14 million commerce workers, the majority of them is in Brazil. So, we have a significant strength of the commerce area organized with strong trade unions at national, state and city levels."

According to Ruben Cortina, this would be the first trade union confederation of the commerce area in Mercosur. The founding congress will take place in September. Date to be determined.

### Letter of solidarity to bank workers of Argentina

**União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT** shows solidarity to bank workers of Argentina, wrongfully dismissed by the Central Bank of Argentina and the Bank of the Province of Buenos Aires. In a protest against the terminations, unionists are camped in front of the head office of the Argentine Central Bank for over 30 days.

## Decent Work in Multinational Companies

On March 21 and 22, União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT) attended the seminar "Controlling the Entrepreneurial Power in Value Chains," in El Salvador, which has the goal of covering labor relationships in multinational companies.

This event aims to strengthen a Latin American coordination to organize and unify the fight of workers who are employed in multinational companies.

Vitor Báez, secretary general of TUCA (Trade Union Confederation of the Americas), and Sharan Burrow, secretary general of ITUC (International Trade Union Confederation), among other trade union officers from Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Dominican Republic, attended the event.

Josimar Andrade, UGT's director, who is also secretary of trade union relationships at the Commerce Workers Trade Union of São Paulo, represented UGT, as well as the journalist Fábio Ramalho, and made a presentation on the activities that the trade union center develops in pro of the rights of multinational employees.

UGT emphasized the lawsuits against Zara, actions against slave work, confrontation with McDonalds, Walmart and Carrefour for better working conditions and respect to valid labor laws in Brazil, support to North American Nissan employees, for the right to trade union freedom or the activities related to the Fair Play Campaign, which deals with labor conditions of people involved in the manufacture of sports equipment, aiming at the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games.

During the seminar, a survey on the 50 largest multinational companies was made and the participants elected the three companies that disrespect workers the most. The result was: Coca-Cola, Walmart and McDonalds.

UGT develops activities in defense of workers in two of these companies, since Walmart and McDonalds are constantly caught disrespecting Brazilian labor laws.



Observatory of Decent Work will lift transborder data



## UGT's State Branch of Bahia holds seminar on women

"Women in the 21st century, advances and challenges" was the motto of the 1st Seminar on Women of UGT's State branch of Bahia, on March 19, in Salvador. The [Maria da Penha Law](#) and its main social and legal aspects, as well as entrepreneurship focusing on women were some of the highlights of the activity that was coordinated by Magno Lavigne, president of the State branch.

The teacher Adelmo Queiroz paid a tribute to women. As for **Maria Nilda, UGT's trade union representative of women**, talked about policies for women and problems that they face in the labor world.

"Our job included the fight for women empowerment, so that not only will they achieve their space in the labor world, but when they increase their rights and are listened more", she said.



Captain Ana Paula Queiroz talked about the advances and particularities of the Maria da Penha Law. Another important participation was made by teacher Ednelson, who contributed to debate on the current women reality in society. As for Sueli Conceição, activist of the black movement, gave a lecture on women and entrepreneurship.

## UGT attends plenary session of the National Health Council



On March 18, Francisco Claudio, director of UGT's State branch of Rio, attended a plenary session of the National Health Council in Brasilia

This was the 278th monthly meeting of the council, which had an extremely diversified agenda, going from issues such as the fight against *Aedes Aegypti*, legal submission of constitutional amendments 01 and the Senate Law Project 200, both from 2015. According to the UGT's officer, the issue of a participative planning of the council was also discussed.

## Water and jobs

Water stimulates job creation and economy growth, says new UN report. The 2016 World Water Development Report: Water and Employment was released to mark the World Water Day.

"Water and employment are inseparably connected at several levels, in the economic, environmental or social perspectives. This issue of the UN Report innovates by relating water and job positions from a point of view that hasn't been covered in any other previous report," said Irina Bokova, UNESCO director general.

This report was released on the World Water Day and within the context of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and shows the essential role performed by water resources on the transition to a green economy



World Water Development Report



**More information on the Fourth National Conference on Gender, Race and Youth >>>**

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

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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