

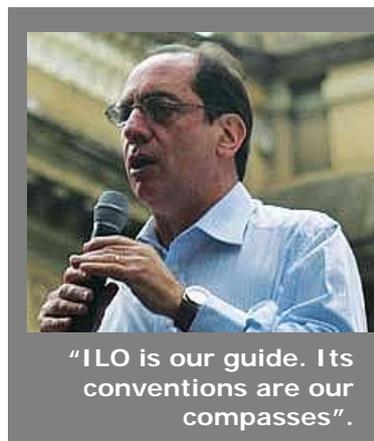


UGT represents Brazilian workers at ILO

"We are worried about famine, poverty, violence and social injustices", Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, said, at a speech in the International Labour Conference on June 14..

UGT represents workers from Brazil on the 99th edition of the International Labour Conference, organized by the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**, in Geneva, Switzerland.

The conference, that happens every June, hosts representatives from 183 countries. Each country is represented by a delegation consisting of two government delegates, an employer delegate and a worker delegate.



Patah, in his speech, made clear his origins. *"I'm a citizen from the south. I come from the tropics. I come from an unfair country, as well as all in my region, Latin America, although our government is making a huge effort to diminish the existing inequalities. I am a worker. A Brazilian worker."*

He emphasized the representability and the unitary process that created UGT. *"My institution is UGT from Brazil. It represents millions of people, most of them earning low wages and without an adequate social protection. We are plural. We believe in unity. And that is why we are affiliated with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and with the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA). We believe in the mission of the International Labour Organization. ILO is our guide. Its conventions are our compasses."*

Patah also emphasized our fights. *"UGT/Brazil has worries that should have ceased to inflict mankind for quite some time. We are worried about famine, poverty, violence and social injustices. We are worried about the economic and financial crisis. Crisis that is also social and environmental, product of a civilizing project exclusively based on market laws, that created, as a result, a raise in exclusion and exploration of men by men"*.

And he emphasized our goal, that should consist of *"building a socially and environmentally fair system, capable of assuring guarantees of life and labour quality to all citizens."* And concluded, optimistically: *"UGT-Brazil believes and wants to help building a better world. A better world is possible."*

[Read the speech of Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, at ILO, in full](#)

Second Congress of the International Trade Union Confederation

UGT participates in the **Second Congress of the International Trade Union Confederation - ITUC**, that took place in Vancouver, Canada, from June 21 to 25. **ITUC**, the largest union institution in the world, gathers nearly 400 national institutions and representatives from nearly 200 countries, summing up nearly 1.400 union leaders.

*"This is a great opportunity to **UGT** show its positions and ideas on the most important union issues, common to all workers in different countries"*, **Ricardo Patah, National President of UGT** observed.

A significant delegation with 20 unionists represents UGT in the congress that has as its motto "Now the people - from the crisis to global justice".



Ricardo Patah talks at a plenary session of the 2nd ITUC Congress

The congress will have the participation of several personalities. The following people are expected to attend the event: **Dominique Strauss-Kahn**, director of the International Monetary Fund; **Pascal Lamy**, director-general of the World Trade Organization; **Helen Clark**, head of the United Nations Development Programme; **Cristina Fernández de Kirchner**, president of Argentina; and **Kari Tapiola**, Executive Director of ILO.

Sharan Burrow, president of ITUC, said that unions had already warned the responsible parties on global decisions of dangers represented by global unbalances and due to lack of regulation to face corporate cupidity way before the world financial system was about to collapse in 2008.

"Political leaders recognize, at a first moment, the need to rebalance the world economy and prioritize employment on top of economic recover, but over the last months, an European government after the other is precipitating under a premature way and committing suicide while implanting austerity measures to pacify fearful financial markets".

She repulsed the approach of those that want to get back to wasted policies from the "Washington Consensus" in the eighties and nineties; instead, she strongly supports alternative political options presented to the global union movement that consist of a growth based on salaries, on a higher social protection, on green jobs, on investment in education and research and on the protection of workers rights.

Ricardo Patah talked at a plenary session of the congress through an intervention towards employment and social inclusion. He was extremely applauded. The president of UGT pointed out that there is the example of Brazil and wanted to give everyone the same motivation, considering that the social area should be valorized and issues related to social inclusion should be emphasized".

UGT organized special meetings with other national institutions, such as **CGIL** (Italian), **CSC** (Belgian), **CCOO** (Spanish), **CGT** (French), **UGT from Spain** and other important institutions. **Ricardo Patah** said that, "despite being quite new, UGT-Brazil is making an effort to insert itself into the international movement of workers, trying to exchange informations and ideas to strengthen the union action".

ITUC has 311 affiliated organizations besides **UGT**, and represents 175 million workers from 155 countries and territories. **ITUC** was founded 4 years ago and it is, undoubtedly, the global voice of the working force in these times of social and economic crisis.

Collective Bargain in public service

UGT participated in ratification of ILO Convention 151 and presents complaints

Wagner José de Souza, 1st Secretary of UGT's International Relationships Department and co-president of União Union along with **Arnaldo Benedetti**, secretary of UGT's International Relationships Department, participated, on June 15, at ILO's (International Labour Department) head office in Geneva, Switzerland, in the legal ratification solemnity of the Convention 151, that deals with collective negotiation in public service.



...**Arnaldo de Souza Benedetti, Wagner José de Souza, Ministro Carlos Lupi and Ricardo Patah, at ILO**

Wagner delivered a complaint to ILO in which disobediences from the Justice Court of the State of Sao Paulo and the government of the state are on record, paying reference to the strike of justice assistants (servants from the Justice Court of the State of Sao Paulo) promulgated since April 28.

The complaint was also delivered to the Human Rights Committee, that deals with lack of humaneness from the President of the Justice Court that did not allow the entrance of food to servants of João Mendes court that remained in the inside part of the building in protest from June 9 to June 11, being deprived of water supply, many of them got sick with no medical assistance.

ILO Convention 151

Brazil formalized on June 15, during the International Conference of the International Labour Organization - ILO, in Geneva, Switzerland, its support to **ILO's Convention 151**. The formalization was made by the minister of Labour and Employment, **Carlos Lupi**. The Convention 151 establishes guidelines to the union organization of public servants and their action in the process of collective negotiation. With this formalization, the Brazilian government should regulate, in up to a year, the guarantees fixed in the international rule.

To **Wagner**, the formalization signed by Brazilian representatives of the legal ratification of that international rule is very important, since it benefits more than four million Brazilian people connected under a direct or indirect way to the public service, regulating several important topics, especially, the right of public servants to go on strike. "But it took a long time to happen. Since the 1988 Constitution, Brazil lacked a position towards such important issues as these ones", he pointed out.

Ricardo Patah, National President of UGT, has the opinion that, since the foundation of UGT, there were fights for the legal ratification of the Convention 151. "Now there is the possibility for public servants to count on the right to claim, there is a establishment of effective rules that guarantee the juridical and union legitimacy to labour relationships. It is not just about regulating the right to go on strike...it is much more than that", the National President of UGT said; due to the importance of this issue, he accompanied the minister Carlos Lupi in the legal ratification of the Convention 151.

However, **Patah** regrets that the **Convention 158** - that contains articles that prohibit the arbitrary dismissal of the employee by the employer - has not been legal ratified yet. "But we are going to keep on trying. This is an election year and we will try and sensitize our parliamentarians towards the importance of this convention, that would avoid the absurd treatment given to the workers, as if they were a mere piece that could be replaced, at any moment...It is necessary to recognize the value of people. We are engaged in this fight, for the legal ratification of Convention 158, as soon as possible", Patah concluded. (*Marcos Alexandre Oliveira, UGT*)

UGT against Social Security Factor

The following trade union centrals **UGT**, CUT, Força Sindical, CTB, NCST and CGTB are together in the fight for the end of the Social Security factor.

The centrals, that were gathered in Sao Paulo on June 22, reaffirmed their position onto the end of the Social Security Factor, malign mechanism that punishes workers. "We equally emphasize that we are against any proposal that establishes a minimum age to retire. Based on these conventions, we stress out that we will search, uniquely, the Federal Government and the National Congress, with the goal of finding solutions that concern the working class, that guarantee the end of the factor, despite the presidential veto, and the permanent valorization of retirements."

Dieese College is approved by MEC

Dieese College of Labour Sciences will offer courses and intend to operate starting in 2011

The Inter-union **Department of Statistics and Social Economic Studies (Dieese)** accomplished an approval from the Ministry of Education (MEC) to open a college.



On June 9, the Federal Government signed a 10-year concession, of a building that belonged to the Union, in downtown Sao Paulo, that will work as a head office of Dieese School of Labour Sciences. According to the institution, the school will provide graduation and post-graduation courses, besides specialization subjects to union chairpersons.

According to **Clemente Ganz Lucio, Technical Director of Dieese**, there will be a 3 year graduation course in labour science. Besides that, he mentions post-graduation courses in a special program to union chairpersons. *(DIAP)*

Aboriginal people from Canada salute congress attendants



Delegates that were present at **ITUC Congress** in Vancouver, Canada, were saluted with "O siem!" shouts, a inuit tradition.

The opening session had the presence of some of the best aboriginal artists of Canada, among them the voice and the complicated inuit dance with bows.

Rose Point, from the **Musqueam Indian Band**, welcomed delegates to the territorial region of people from Coast Salish, on June 21, opening day of the congress and that was also celebrating Canada's National Aboriginal Day.

"I know all of you are here with your open minds and hearts, working to future generations so that we may learn how to live in peace and harmony", she said.

Ken Georgetti, president of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), reminded the delegates about "the active and proud history of unionism in British Columbia". **CLC**, that represents 3,2 million workers, is the host of the congress.



"The **General Union of Workers (GUW)** 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

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