



## UGT on the struggle for Decent Work

For the fourth year in a row, trade unions and labour rights organisations across the world will mobilise again on 7 October in favour of Decent Work. Last year saw 430 actions in 98 countries, and expectations for this year are just as high.

The union movement of the Americas is one of the most mobilized for **World Day for Decent Work (WDDW)**, which will be marked in more than 40 countries throughout the world on October 7.

The UGT and the Brazilian union centers (CUT and the Força Sindical), are organizing state, regional and preparatory conferences for the **national congress for Decent Work to be held in 2012**.

While actions in different countries will cover a wide variety of issues, the primary focus this year is on tackling precarious work and promoting global regulation of the finance sector.



Precarious work refers to forms of work characterised by atypical employment contracts, limited or no social benefits and statutory entitlements, high degrees of job insecurity, low job tenure, low wages and high risks of occupational injury and disease. Young people and women are disproportionately represented amongst those who only have access to such uncertain and unpredictable forms of employment.

With unemployment being the highest ever reported with as many as 205 million people out of a job, support for sustainable solutions including social protection is more important than ever. On current predictions, a further 45 million young people will join the ranks of the unemployed in the coming decade.

**UGT** is still running its campaign against the high interest rates that are charged in Brazil and against the predominance of the financial system against the real economy.

**UGT** launched, this year, an important campaign of fight for decent work in the Soccer World Cup and in the Olympic Games. **UGT** actively supports the fight of construction workers that are working in the necessary repairs for these mega events.

**UGT** also fights against precarious and semi-slavery work in the sewing of clothes and in the fashion industry. To **Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT**, "the workers that build the huge infrastructure sports work and the workers that sew and trade sports and fashion articles, deserve a respectful salary and full respect concerning their labor rights".

To **Othon Mata Roma, secretary of UGT's International Relationships Department**, "the **World Day for Decent Work (WDDW)** brings a great opportunity to stimulate the fight for respectful work in Brazil".

## G20 Labour Ministers

The international trade union movement said Labour Ministers have set the standard for Finance Ministers and Leaders to follow as they prioritized employment and endorsed the social protection floor and rights for workers after their two day meeting in Paris.

**ITUC General Secretary Sharan Burrow** said that Labour Ministers have shown themselves to be champions of workers and the real economy where workers and employers are the actors, not bankers and rating agencies.

**Now the G20 Leaders and Finance Ministers must follow suit.**

**The Labor Minister Carlos Lupi attended the meeting of the ministers of the G-20**



"G20 Labour ministers have shown their Leaders the way to go. Now the Leaders must send the right instructions to their Finance Ministers, so that spending for jobs is increased while the G20 finally bring the financial markets under control as they promised to do when the crisis first broke three years ago.

"Complacency by G20 governments has meant no regulation of the financial sector and no action to meet the jobs crisis.

"We know that only workers will drive the world out of the crisis, not the bankers or the ratings agencies," said Sharan Burrow.

## 110 million jobs by 2015 are needed

### 22 Million New Jobs a Year Needed to Overcome Jobs Emergency

Billions of dollars is being lost in purchasing power, which could drive growth and recovery as unemployment figures surge, warns the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC).

The IMF will today release its World Economic Outlook outlining the state of the world economy and is expected to downgrade growth forecasts.

110 million jobs by 2015 are needed just to return G20 countries to pre-crisis levels, according to figures from the OECD and ILO. That is 22 million new jobs every year.

**ITUC General Secretary Sharan Burrow** said "The IMF gave completely the wrong advice to countries to start on fiscal cuts. Their challenge now is to undo the damage inflicted on millions of workers who have lost their jobs."

"Stretching from China to Chile we're seeing the longest unemployment line the world has ever seen.

"The queue is only growing longer, while governments are shutting the door in the face of jobs seekers.

"IMF policies saved the jobs of the billionaires; now we need to create jobs for teachers, nurses and construction workers who are the beating heart of the real economy. Workers, not bankers, will drive the world out of the economic crisis.

"If we don't create good jobs with decent wages, with rights for workers, we are sitting on a social and economic time bomb," said Sharan Burrow.

### Regional Conferences for Decent Work

**Salvador hosted the first regional conference and UGT actively participates in the State Conference on Decent Work. ILO values the effort of Brazil in favor of decent work.**

The regional director of ILO for the Latin America and the Caribbean, the Venezuelan Elizabeth Tinoco, valorized the "effort and the commitment" of the Brazilian government in favor of policies towards decent work, that ILO strongly stimulates.

Tinoco participated in a conference on decent work in Salvador, capital of Bahia, that was the first of 27 conferences that will be held in each capital of Brazil, with the participation of governmental authorities, unionists, businessmen and groups of the civil society.

"In any other country of the world such effort of social dialogue might be found, focusing on the search of a consensus to put in practice policies that are guided towards the creation of more and better jobs", said the regional director of ILO.



The concept of decent work was proposed in 1999 by the director general of ILO, the Chilean Juan Somavia, and it is related to the creation of opportunities so that every men and women ascend to a job in conditions of freedom, equality, security and human dignity.

The conference in Salvador was also helpful while providing a starting point to a larger national meeting on decent work that the Brazilian government intends to organize for May 2012.

Tinoco guaranteed that ILO intends to follow up the process that is being developed in Brazil from the start, "to support it and also to learn from it", and take this breakthrough experience to other countries of the region.

### 1st Conference for Decent Work in Joinville

**UGT State branch of Santa Catarina presents project during the 1st Regional Conference on Employment and Decent Work in Joinville.**

UGT-SC Northern Region presented a project of regulation and fight against precarious work during the 1st Regional Conference on Employment and Decent Work, that was held on September 27, in Joinville.

The event was attended by union directors from UGT-SC Northern Region, from the affiliated institutions that represent health, security, commerce, bank and temp workers, teachers, outsourced workers, workers of condos and from the textile industry, with the participation of UGT/SC, represented by the State Council of Employment and Income and member of the Organizing Committee on Decent Work.

On the opportunity, the UGT-SC Northern Region presented at the Workgroup Perspective 1 - Principles and Rights, a regulation project and fight against precarious work, that was approved by a tripartite process to be discussed at the State Conference.

The proposal has the goal of sending, to the national congress, a law project that was negotiated with the trade union centrals in order to regulate outsource work and aiming to fight against precarious work, by the end of 2011. By 2015, the project intends to: a) extend, to outsourced workers, the same level of social and labor rights, of social security rights belonging to the formal workers; b) establish the solidary and independent responsibility of guilt to the public and private administration that hired the outsourced workers to fulfill the labor and social security legislation.

### José Dirceu gives a lecture at the head office of UGT

Giving continuity to a series of lectures, with personalities from the national political scenario, that take place at the head office of UGT, José Dirceu, ex-minister of the Chief of Staff Office, participated, on September 19, in the debate "Aspects of the Brazilian Conjuncture". The event gathered nearly 120 people in the auditorium of UGT, among unionists, political and union militants.

Dirceu began his lecture by congratulating the initiative of UGT in organizing speeches as this one, regardless of political or partisan ideology, lecturers contribute to strengthen the action of the trade union central in the creation of public policies that are orientated to the growth of Brazil.

"I believe in the union pluralism and UGT is in the right path", explains the ex-minister.



Regarding the situation of international politics, José Dirceu was incisive while affirming that the ghost of a new crisis combined with the unemployment in Europe is an extremely serious situation, and that, depending on its level, it might affect Brazil. José Dirceu also stated that an exchange rate war of enormous figures is in process, but this situation might be favorable to the growth of the country. "Brazil must face its challenges and use the crisis to leverage the growth of a country that has already advances a lot in the last years", he added.

### Roberto Santiago stands out in the Congress

**Rep. Roberto Santiago, vice president of the UGT**, it highlights once again the national list of the main articulators of the National Congress in poll released by the DIAP - Inter-Parliamentary Advisory Department.

Roberto Santiago is the writer of a committee that studies the project on outsourcing in the job market and recently was chosen to be the writer of a project that establishes rules for the use of internet in Brazil. Recently, he was one of the best parliamentarian that stood out most in the defense of the consumers rights, being even nominated by a renowned group of journalists, supported by the National Union of Federal Supervisors of the Agriculture and Husbandry Sectors, to receive the congress prize in 2011.

### UGT in Europe

UGT exposes to Europeans unionists the importance of the Brazilian union movement



On September 15, UGT started its participation in the series of lectures and seminars "Decent Work for a Decent Life", in Europe. The visit of UGT to cities in Austria, Bulgaria and Romania, was enabled through a project developed by the trade union central ÖGB and the NGO Südwing, and had the goal of presenting data on Brazil, the reality of workers, the Brazilian union structure and the actions of the institution and the union movement concerning the promotion of decent work in Brazil.

Gustavo Garcia and Poliana Duarte, representatives of UGT, have witnessed the importance of the international union solidarity to fight the evil of globalization, with statements of people from several areas of the world that shared their view of globalization and the effects that it had over employment and on the life quality of workers and their families.



"The General Union of Workers (UGT) 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

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GWU Communications Secretary: Marcos Afonso de Oliveira