



Sao Paulo ends cycle of State plenary sessions

On the way to the 2nd Congress of UGT

With the participation of over 600 delegates, UGT ended, on June 10, in Praia Grande - State of Sao Paulo, the cycle of State plenary sessions towards the 2nd National Congress of the institution, that will take place on July 14, 15 and 16, in Sao Paulo.



UGT promoted, since April, starting in the Northeast states, plenary sessions in all the Brazilian States, including the Federal District, with the goal of discussing the proposals and the paths to be defined by the trade union central, based on the resolutions of its 2nd National Congress.

Besides directors from the National Board, the plenary session of Sao Paulo was attended by all presidents of UGT's State branches.

To the **national president of UGT, Ricardo Patah**, thanks to this expressive participation, the "plenary session of Sao Paulo consolidated, under an emblematic form, the set of proposals that will be evaluated at the 2nd National Congress. The president made a special mention to the high participation of women in the plenary session of Sao Paulo. "Of the 600 participants we have here, 150 are women". Rural workers, fishermen and informal workers were also mentioned as priorities in the actions that are going to be developed by UGT.

Patah also warned about the need to valorize union issues as the reduction of working hours for shift work without a reduction in salaries, as well as the end of the social security factor. "The reduction of the working hours has to happen by the end of this year. Because it means the inclusion of those that are out of the job market, and at the same times it means a possibility of free time for the workers, so that they can use it for a professional qualification", stated Patah. "As for the social security factor, we are the only trade union central that doesn't accept any other option rather than its end", stated Patah, who ended by saying that "we must elevate all workers to the middle class, and we will only be able to do so once education is the priority number 1 all over our country".

Roberto Santiago, federal deputy and vice-president of UGT, argued that there are issues that have been dragged for several years, and "we must start thinking and discussing strategies so that we don't continue to complain for other decades. We have, in the National Congress, 513 deputies, however, only 80 are connected to workers. Do you know what we will be able to approve there? Nothing. Cause when the time to vote comes, the workers voted on the employer". To the deputy, it is time we started building a new path, and that is what UGT is doing with these plenary sessions on the way to the 2nd Congress.

Protection to Domestic Workers

100th ILO annual Conference decides to bring an estimated 53 to 100 million domestic workers worldwide under the realm of labour standards

The government, worker and employer delegates at the **100th annual Conference** of the International Labour Organization (ILO) on Thursday, 16 June adopted a historic set of international standards aimed at improving the working conditions of tens of millions of domestic workers worldwide.



The delegation of UGT, that was present in the event, participated in all the debates concerning this issue.

Lourenço Ferreira do Prado, national vice-president of UGT, reminded that since its foundation, UGT has, in its agenda, changes in the constitution to guarantee equality of rights to domestic workers. Lourenço affirmed that, in Brazil, this will be a fight ideal of UGT. "We are going to demand a commitment of the governors when it comes to equalizing the rights of Brazilian domestic workers and all workers", concluded Lourenço.

"We are moving the standards system of the ILO into the informal economy for the first time, and this is a breakthrough of great significance," said Juan Somavia, ILO Director-General. "History is being made."

Conference delegates adopted the **Convention on Domestic Workers (2011)** by a vote of 396 to 16, with 63 abstentions and the accompanying **Recommendation** by a vote of 434 to 8, with 42 abstentions. The ILO is the only tripartite organization of the UN, and each of its 183 Member States is represented by two government delegates, and one employer and one worker delegate, with an independent vote.

The two standards will be the 189th Convention and the supplementing 201st Recommendation adopted by the Labour Organization since its creation in 1919. The Convention is an international treaty that is binding on Member States that ratify it, while the Recommendation provides more detailed guidance on how to apply the Convention.

The new ILO standards set out that domestic workers around the world who care for families and households, must have the same basic labour rights as those available to other workers: reasonable hours of work, weekly rest of at least 24 consecutive hours, a limit on in-kind payment, clear information on terms and conditions of employment, as well as respect for fundamental principles and rights at work including freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining.

Delegation of UGT, headed by the president of the institution, **Ricardo Patah**, celebrated the promising victory of the class.

"Domestic workers have been deprived of their rights to equality of salaries and opportunities for a long time. Maids, housekeepers, gardeners, cooks, babysitters are part of this class, those that offer their services daily, in the residences of other people, in the companies of their employers, for hours and hours, and that do not have a legislation that answer their needs. The Constitution, anchored in patterns that are still archaic, strongly supervises formal jobs, the social security, but leaves aside domestic workers. It´s a huge majority, that currently achieves their rights and the value of their professions", stated Ricardo Patah.

Trade union centrals launch fight calendar

Through a meeting that took place at the head office of UGT, in Sao Paulo, the 5 trade union centrals (UGT, Nova Central, Força, CGTB and CTB) released a calendar of national mobilization regarding the combined agenda that concern the Brazilian workers to the press.

UGT and trade union centrals requested the reduction of working shifts (40 weekly hours), the end of the social security factor, the approval of ILO (International Labor Organization) conventions 151 and 158, the agrarian reform, negotiation for a salary valorization and regulation of outsourced workers among other items of the agenda.

With the goal of mobilizing social movements in favor of workers, trade union centrals guided the institutions from all the Brazilian States to gather with their respective bench of deputies from each region to reinforce the unified labor agenda and, therefore, step pressure on the National Congress.

Starting on July 04, nearly 100 union directors will be in front of the National Congress every Tuesday and Wednesday to step pressure on deputies and senators in order to get them to vote on law projects related to workers rights.



Meetings in several regions will be organized, the high point will take place on August 03, in Sao Paulo, with a gathering that has the goal of joining 100 thousand people in a large parade at the Paulista Avenue, regarding the combined agenda of workers and supporting the Landless Workers Movement (MST), whose mobilization will take place on August 23", states Canindé Pegado, general secretary of UGT.

The idea of the parade is gathering trade union centrals, workers, social and student movements, among other social areas, each one defending their respective ideal, the so called Coordination of Social Movements (CMS), in which are part the National Union of Students (UNE), Conan, Black Movement, Movements in Defense of Women, among others, to step pressure on the National Congress and also on the government to make progress in the negotiations that have already began and that made a commitment to the working class", ends Pegado.

Unemployment in Latin America Falls

The strong economic recovery of Latin America and the Caribbean will make it possible to bring down unemployment significantly from 7.3% in 2010 to between 6.7% and 7.0% in 2011, according to ECLAC and ILO.

In the latest edition of the joint publication "[The Employment situation in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)" that was released on Tuesday, the two United Nations agencies analyse labour trends in the region, as well as the countercyclical policies implemented by some countries during the recent international crisis. They recognize that, in many cases, such policies helped to reduce economic vulnerability, which in turn facilitated a faster economic upturn.

In the foreword to the document, Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean, and Elizabeth Tinoco, ILO Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, state the following "This crisis saw greater concern for maintaining people's employment and income levels. Many of the measures adopted represented a way for increased fiscal spending to reach people as much as possible, which reflected a concern for equality".

Times of Fight and Glory



Bakers from Sao Paulo release book "Times of Fight and Glory" (Tempos de Luta e Glória) that talks about the 80 years of history of their union.

Through a solemn session at the Municipal Chamber of Sao Paulo, the book "**Times of Fight and Glory**" was released on June 20, that describes 80 years of the Union of Bakers of Sao Paulo.

The solemn session, based on an initiative of the city councillor Cláudio Fonseca, makes reference to the celebration of the Bakers Dav. celebrated on June 13.

Partnership with CSC from Belgium

The fight of UGT to struggle against informality, increasing social inclusion and decent work in Brazil, got an important support from the Confederation of Christian Unions of Belgium (CSC).

With a proposal of achieving a project of union exchange among the institutions, Thomas Missen, in charge of international and Latin Americans affairs of CSC, visited the head office of UGT in Sao Paulo and explained the work that the Belgium institution accomplishes around the world and the work that is going to be developed in Brazil.

"In Sao Paulo, a cooperation work between both institutions will be developed, aiming towards social inclusion and against the informal economy and, simultaneously, we will work on a project in Manaus where we will capacitate and educate local workers", said Thomas.

To José Artur Aguiar, from UGTs Department of Workers in the Informal Market, Freelancers and Micro-business workers, the partnership with CSC comes in a good moment and surely it will help joining efforts that UGT has been achieving to develop this important sector of the Brazilian economy.

I National Meeting of Small Fishermen of UGT

The **I National Meeting of Small Fishermen of UGT** will be held on July 1, 2 and 3, in Praia Grande (state of Sao Paulo), with the goal of gathering small fishermen and aquaculture workers, so that, together, we might be able to debate and build a plan of action and fights that makes possible the access to public policies looking forward to overcoming inequalities.



To **Ricardo Patah**, the meeting brings joy and hope: "Joy, despite numerous difficulties we found while achieving our organizational work in the sector, and little by little, we have overcome all obstacles and we are getting closer and closer to small fishermen and aquaculture workers. "

"And it also brings hope, since we believing that all the efforts of directors and advisors from UGT, allied to the action of small fishermen, made possible the construction of several proposals of political actions, that, combined, provide us a safe path to the representation of all settlements and associations towards the achievement of more and better rights and benefits to everyone", Patah ended.



"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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