



Everyone against corruption



Brazil has, at this moment, a great opportunity to fulfill the dream and the wish of its entire population, that can't stand the continuity of the historical contamination of the Brazilian State by the plague of corruption.

That is why **UGT**, representing more than a thousand unions and nearly 7 million workers, publicly shows total support to initiatives that aim to investigate and exemplarily punish all of those that use their public positions to divert resources, that should be spent in schools, hospitals, police stations and infra-structure works, services that are essential for the national development and that lack such resources.

All the severity of the law should be forced on corrupts and corrupters. This is what the Brazilian people is calling for. This is what the nation expects from State agents, committed to the fulfillment of the necessary clean up, that should be done within the boundaries of the legal State and respecting the constitutional guarantees. At this moment, UGT supports the president Dilma Rousseff and all the organs that are engaged in rescuing the dignity and morality in the management of public resources in Brazil.

Ricardo Patah

National President of UGT

Play Fair Campaign

The fight for Decent Work

Although there's a whole atmosphere of glamour involving sports events, that heat up the national market, stimulate tourism and project the image of Brazil, there's another side that's not on the midi. What is not seen and not heard is that, in this process, several companies profit millions of dollars at the expense of the work of many workers that usually are poorly remunerated, and work under precarious conditions of health and security at work.

To us, it is essential that this picture is changed, and that the workers rights are guaranteed. We must be aware to the process that involves the production of these "Mega events". We know the possible negative impacts that such urban interventions cause on the host cities of the Soccer World Cup and the Olympic Games. UGT is by the side of workers and it is against repair work that might dislodge and evict people out of their homes and residences, or, degrade our environment.



UGT is present and active on the strike of construction workers that were renovating the Maracana Stadium, where the last game of the World Cup 2014 will take place. The strike mobilizes workers that are requesting better working conditions, and was caused, among other reasons, after an accident at work that happened there.

UGT is still in search of a consolidation of safe and decent working conditions on the repair work at the Maracana. We know that the achievements and labor guarantees have an immediate impact on the workers lives, that come and realize the work that is done regarding the protection of their rights and the defense of better working conditions.

Besides the strike in Rio, **UGT** was actively involved, along with the Commerce Workers Union of Sao Paulo and the **Trade Union Confederation of the Americas - TUCA**, in a protest at the Oscar Freire Street, against companies that trade luxury clothes and that have, in their productive chain, suppliers that use a type of work similar to slavery, especially of South American workers, that work in precarious conditions, with no labor rights, with no formal rights and with an extremely low remuneration, compared to the value that the companies charge on their clothes.

UGT reaffirms its uncompromising defense of the Decent Work Agenda, especially in the context that our country will host, in July 2012, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

This conference, which is being called Rio + 20, will be used to deepen a discussion on a new model of production, distribution and consumption that respect the limits of the planet and guarantee an increase of social rights of all workers.

We encourage all our colleagues to embrace this fight, and to mobilize their bases to fight in favor of Decent Work and Dignifying Employment, not only in the World Cup 2014 and Olympic Games 2016, but everywhere and all the time.

**Otton da Costa Mata Roma, secretary of UGT's International Relationships Department
President of the Commerce Workers Union of Rio de Janeiro**

Mônica da Costa Mata Roma, adjunct secretary of UGT's International Relationships Department

Wagner José de Souza, first adjunct secretary of UGT's International Relationships Department

Lorenço Ferreira do Prado, vice-president of the National UGT

Play Fair Campaign

Workers fight at the Maracanã Stadium

On August 30, payday, the consortium of the construction companies Andrade Gutierrez, Odebrecht and Delta, should have paid the R\$ 160,00 basic needs assistance, established to be paid on September 1, and the medical assistance cards should have been sent as well: two achievements from the first strike that workers done in August, and were not done. Through a protest, workers are on strike again.

"The consortium only paid a R\$ 110,00 basic needs assistance, and nothing has been said about the health insurance that had already been agreed and signed through a responsibility term, along with the justice court", explains Nilson Duarte Costa, president of the Union of Workers in the Industry of Heavy Construction (Sitraicp) and president of UGT's State branch of Rio.

The National UGT immediately sympathized with workers. Through a note that was signed by its president, Ricardo Patah, the trade union central reminds "what's at stake at the Maracana stadium is decent work, while renovating it for the Soccer World Cup 2014". And he added: "we are not going to allow that contractors are to disrespect labor rights, keeping workers from working safely, from getting a decent meal, without a proper health insurance and, especially without fulfilling the agreements that were signed by the parts".

After a 19 day strike, workmen went back to work on September 19, after the Labour Court of Rio de Janeiro classified the strike as "abusive". The union and the workers will negotiate, once again, with the employers. UGT is still attentive to the situation of these and other workers, that fight, in several Brazilian states, for better working and living conditions.

World Youth Fight

World Youth Demand Strong Measures to Overcome Unemployment

Young trade unionists from all over the world are meeting in Singapore today and tomorrow to discuss the dramatic situation of young people looking for a job.

The ITUC Youth Committee is a body set up by the ITUC General Council, equal in its composition, with men and women under 35 years old from each region: Asia-Pacific, Africa, Americas and Europe.



"Young people are still suffering from the economic crisis," said Erin Harrison, President of the Youth Committee (CLC Canada). "They have the most precarious working conditions, and they are the first to be dismissed in companies. Strong measures need to be taken to protect them."

A range of issues will be discussed in the youth committee over the two-day meeting: the future challenges for young people; unemployment; international campaigns; and the development of an action plan for the next twelve months. The use of social networks and new communication channels will be also debated.

On the occasion of the 5th ITUC Youth Committee, the ITUC is launching a new report, "Canada: Youth in the face of crisis, trade union renewal", analysing from Vancouver to Montreal the situation of young workers in Canada and the answers from the trade union movement to the problems they face.

“Place the real economy in the driver’s seat”

The Director-General of the International Labour Organization, Mr. Juan Somavia, said the time has come to “place the real economy in the driver’s seat of the global economy, with a financial system at its service”.

“This means putting productive investment in the real economy at the heart of policymaking; an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises; and less availability of unproductive and risky financial products”, Mr. Somavia told members of the European Parliament during an address in Strasbourg.

The ILO Director-General said it was time to recover the trust of people, especially the younger generations, and to address the rising inequalities, not only in terms of income and wealth, but also in terms of education, health, housing and access to credit. Dealing with short-term challenges requires fiscal consolidation that is socially responsible.

He particularly underlined that crises should not be taken as an excuse to weaken basic labour rights and the application of ratified ILO conventions. He said all these policies must be underpinned by a coherent rules-based international system: “Today in the United Nations system, there are three key policy-making organizations – WTO on trade, IMF on finance and the ILO on labour markets. The rules and standards developed by each one need to be applied in a coherent manner. This is not the case today.”



Mr. Somavia said a new mindset was needed to create the type of policies that will lead towards more efficient patterns of growth and more decent work. These include switching to income-led patterns of growth, making full employment a key macroeconomic priority, focusing on small enterprises, promoting social dialogue, the autonomy of collective bargaining and a better link between wages and productivity, respecting labour standards, and creating a social protection floor for all.

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Mr. Somavia said the upcoming G20 leaders meeting in Cannes presented a unique opportunity for leaders to reconnect with the real economy and their decisions adopted two years ago in Pittsburgh, when they set the objective of “putting quality work at the heart of the recovery”.

Brazil: Copom lacked audacity

To UGT, the 0,5% decrease on the Selic tax is a start point that could bring the interest rate in Brazil to an acceptable level, but Copom (Monetary Policy Committee) still lacked audacity, by choosing a shy decrease, which didn't help taking Brazil out of the not honorable position of the world's highest interest rate.

Several data show that the Brazilian economy is slowing down, inflation cannot be used as an excuse to keep the abusive interest rates. That is why UGT defends an immediate review of this policy of exorbitant interest rates. Brazil must keep on growing to create jobs and income, and with interest rates at this levels, it is impossible.

Ricardo Patah, president of UGT

2nd State Congress of UGT-ES

UGT's state branch of Espírito Santo organized on September 08 and 09, its 2nd State Congress. According to its president, Ari Floriano, UGT-ES celebrates two years of success.



During this period, twenty two large union from several cities in that state were affiliated, some of them are: SINTRAHOTEIS, SINDICONDOMINIOS, SINTRAMASSAS, SINTRADES, SINTRAL, SINDIMUNICIPAL-CACHOEIRO, SERMUS, SINDISMUC, SINDIMUCURICI and two federations (Federation of Municipal, State and Federal Servants, Federation of Tourism Workers) and, during the event, other four new unions were affiliated.

The opening of the event had the presence of the president of the national UGT, Ricardo Patah, Francisco Pereira de Souza Filho (aka Chiquinho), secretary of UGT's Department of Political Organization, and presidents of State branches of UGT, authorities from Espírito Santo, state and federal deputies, presidents of affiliated unions and unionists from all over the state..

UGT will be at the State Conference on Women

UGT participated in the 4th Municipal Conference on Public Policies for Women, on September 03 and 04, in Sao Paulo, that gathered nearly 2 thousand participants.

Iriny Lopes, minister of the Department of Women Policies, was at the opening of the event and, through her speech, defended the importance of all conferences. "This is a space for critics, construction and elaboration, it is a space to fill in the gaps and built public policies", she said.

There were 330 delegates at the event, who were elected for the State Conference, that will take place on October 8, 9 and 10, at the Expo Center Norte as well.



IBM workers have a meeting at UGT's head office

On September 13, the Commerce Workers Union of Sao Paulo had a meeting at the head office of UGT, in Sao Paulo, with workers from IBM Brazil, to settle an approval or rejection of the proposals that were made by the company for the renewal of a collective bargain.

This act tries and searches for a dialogue between the working class and the company so that they come to an agreement and the collective bargain related to the period that goes from June 01, 2011 to May 30, 2012, is established.

It also represents the effort of the Commerce Workers Union and UGT to increase the rights of workers from IBM.

Workers fight at the Maracana Stadium - After a 19 day strike, workmen went back to work on September 19, after the Labour Court of Rio de Janeiro classified the strike as "abusive". The union and the workers will negotiate, once again, with the employers. UGT is still attentive to the situation of these and other workers, that fight, in several Brazilian states, for better working and living conditions.



"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

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

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