



Global



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The future that we want

UGT is actively getting ready to defend a fair transition and a social and economic sustainable development, in the next World Summit Rio + 20. The conference will take place from June 20 to 22, in Rio.

On January 27, in New York City, the first negotiation round of governments, called the **Zero Draft for Rio+20**, ended. This document emphasizes the importance of our participation and the participation of the civil society: "sustainable development requires that women, children and young people, native-american people, non governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and unions, business and industries, the scientific and technologic community and farmers, they all perform a significant role at all levels".



We agree with these statements of Laura Martin Murillo, director of Sustainlabour, an institution sponsored by the international trade union movement, on the document of New York.

According to Laura Martin, "one of the issues that the union movement pays special attention to is the one related to the recognition of green and decent jobs as an essential core to advance towards sustainability. (...) But this issue cannot be only an intention emphasized in the texts, or in a mere statement - it should be turned into a primary outcome of Rio + 20, with concrete quantitative goals".

To the director of Sustainlabour, "the inclusion of social protection in the draft as an essential tool of sustainable development, and the recognition of the need that every citizen of the planet should have the benefit of social protection levels, are also encouraging. The levels of social protection will help the communities getting over economic and environmental disasters and this is a result fully reachable at Rio+20, that might change the paths of development".

According to her, "despite many needs, some of the expressions of zero draft are part of the future that workers around the world want. The future that workers want and need, is a world with food security, where the right to water and energy is respected, where we are able to enjoy climate and chemical security and protect the biodiversity and the oceans, guaranteeing the equality among men and women, the equality and social inclusion and where the importance of green and decent jobs is recognized in the sustainable development".

UGT is getting mobilized in order to bring these achievements to all Brazilians.

Thematic Social Forum

UGT promotes seminar on decent work

UGT organized a seminar in which issues regarding the neoliberal crisis were debated, as well as answers were given to workers. With the topic "UGT and decent work", the event took place at a building of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) and was part of the official program of the Thematic Social Forum, that ended on January 29.

The seminar gathered militants from UGT, representatives of social movements and from several trade union centrals that debated on the workers fight and, specially, institutions of class representation, in pro of strengthening the improvement in the labor condition of the population.

This activity had two panels: "Strengthening Mercosur through Social Dialogue", given by **Ramon Ermácora, director of the Inter-union Institute of Capacitation Studies of the South (Incasur)**. In his presentation, Ramon debated over issues that involve Mercosur and the urgency to think of changes in the current model practiced by countries that are part of it. "Currently, to the working class, things are as though we're conniving with indecent work, since workers end up being explored. They live in subhuman conditions, are poorly remunerated and we're unable to supervise this situation the way it should be supervised".

The second seminar, "Decent work during the refurbishing for the Soccer World Cup, experience of the Maracana stadium strikes", was presented by **Nilson Duarte da Costa, president of UGT's State branch of Rio de Janeiro**. During his lecture, Nilson presented a video on the strike at the Maracanã Stadium refurbishing to the World Cup 2014.

Nilton emphasized that, due to these protests, workers that barely had rights, achieved important advances while accomplishing, under more respectable conditions, benefits such as: medical assistance, basic needs assistance kit, among others. "We cannot allow nor admit that a company that has a contract of a job that will cost nearly 1 million reais to the public coffins, will keep on exploring its professionals". (*Fábio Ramalho – from Porto Alegre*)

ILO launches videos on Decent Work

The office of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Brazil is launching two videos related to decent work. The videos were produced due to the demands that were realized by ILO during the process of holding its State Conferences on Decent Work.

The conferences took place from September to December 2011 in all Brazilian states, except for Acre, and involved representatives of the government and representatives of workers and the civil society in the widest process of social dialogue that is currently taking place in Brazil. UGT actively participated in these conferences.

[Watch the video Trabalho Decente no Brasil 1](#)
[Watch the video Trabalho Decente no Brasil 2](#)
[Watch the video Fala Povo](#)



In the first video, a general view on Decent Work is shown, with statements of representatives of the ILO Office, of employee's and employer's organizations and government representatives. Laís Abramo, director of ILO Office in Brazil, other ILO advisors, and also Brazilian representatives at the ILO Administration Council are also on the video.

The second video, brings spontaneous statements of workers and citizens, showing what people understand about the decent work concept.

Profile of cleaners is released

Siemaco-SP, a trade union that represents the urban cleaners, cleaners that work at offices, factories and public departments in Sao Paulo, an institution that is affiliated with UGT, publicized the book "**Profile of Cleaners and Urban Cleaners of Sao Paulo**". The event took place at the Novotel Jaraguá hotel, downtown Sao Paulo, on January 24.

The book is based on a two-year research requested by Dieese (Inter-union Department of Statistics and Social-Economic Studies), and brings, out loud, opinions of these workers regarding the invisibility that they are submitted to while performing their work.



Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, who was at the event, reminded of a similar study that helped identifying the huge racial prejudice that took place on the occasion of hiring mall employees. "Considering the profile of commerce workers, we were able to establish, under our convention, the 20% hiring quota destined to African American workers", he said.

Moacyr Pereira, president of Siemaco, reminded that the "Profile" is a natural sequence of events of the civic trade union movement, that began with, **Roberto Santiago**, president of Siemaco at that time, who attended the event, and who is currently Federal Deputy, president of Femaco and vice-president of UGT and Siemaco.

At the moment, **Roberto Santiago** wants us to get mobilized in order to create a movement of "Rescuing the Dignity of workers of this class". Manassés Oliveira, director of Fenascon, reminded that "we are the segment that employs the majority of formal jobs in Brazil and we deserve a more respectable treatment by the economic sector and by society".

The event was also attended by **Davi Zaia**, secretary of Labour and Employment, that, on the occasion, represented the governor **Geraldo Alckmin**; by Rui Monteiro, president of SEAC-SP; by Ariovaldo Caodaglio, president of Selur; by the city counsellor Gilberto Natalini and by the mayor of Piracaia, Fabiane Santiago.

President of UGT-RJ is reelected

Unity. This is the word that best defines the result of the **II Congress of UGT's State Branch of Rio de Janeiro (UGT-RJ)** that, on January 25, 2012, reelected the president Nilson Duarte Costa, to preside the trade union central for the next four years. The meeting gathered nearly 350 UGT workers from the following States: Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Minas Gerais, Tocantins e Santa Catarina, that, unanimously elected the fiscal council and approved the statute changes.

"The congress shown that the work that was done over the last four years was successful, it was marked by unity and accomplishments", stated the reelected president, expecting a better future for the workers: "We are going to need a lot more than unity. These four years were marked by organization, now we are going to move to actions that will guide the trade union central to the achievement of a better future to everyone".



Nilson Duarte Costa emphasized the active presence and support of the national UGT represented by its president, Ricardo Patah, and by its directors, Chiquinho Pereira, secretary of UGT's Political Organization Department, José Moacir Pereira, secretary of UGT's Finance Department, Marcos Afonso, secretary of UGT's Publicizing and Communication Department, and Valdir Vicente, secretary of UGT's Public Policies Department.

Trade Union of Bakers holds seminar



The trade union of bakers of Sao Paulo, affiliated with UGT, held, in Caraguatatuba, north coast of the state of Sao Paulo, a seminar on planning and organization. Directors, advisors and employees of this union participated in this event, along with directors of the National Federation of Bakers.

From February 2 to 4, they debated over the main actions that aim towards the improvement of their work, in the political and union areas.

"The Seminar on Planning and Organization is undoubtedly a unique opportunity that takes place in the beginning of every year, to make a reflection and plan our actions that are aimed towards the improvement of the workers living conditions", evaluated **Chiquinho Pereira, president of the Trade Union of Bakers of Sao Paulo.** (*Assessoria de Comunicação do Sindicato*)

CCSCS organizes plenary session in Sao Paulo

On February 06, UGT received the visit of the Coordinator of the **Central Trade Union of the Southern Cone (CCSCS)** and other institutions that are part of it, in its head office, in Sao Paulo, to establish a plan of action and review the current statute.

CCSCS exists for 26 years, and both a political review and a government plan are necessary, in order for it to take back a main role in the integrating process through a social-political-economic and sustainable

Among the agenda that is going to be taken to the government and to the business class, there is the debate over the social-labour declaration, the financial recovery, the organization of procedures towards the acquisition of a juridical personality and towards the action of trade union centrals along with the **Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA).**



UN launches guide against ethnic-racial discrimination



UN Brazil developed an orientation guide towards formal accusations of ethnic-racial discrimination with the goal of guiding people in search of their rights in cases of ethnic and racial discrimination that take place in Brazil.

The guide, organized in five chapters, presents a set of national and international tools and mechanisms that guarantee the ethnic and racial equality, as well as information of the Brazilian and international legal mark, and also addresses of organs that serve the population in states and capital cities.

[If you want to have access to the guide in full, click here.](#)



"The General Workers Union 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. " Ricard Patah – UGT's President]

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