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UGT in the International Labour Conference

More production and more employment

Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, made a speech, in the 102nd Session of the International Labour Conference, which took place in Geneva, Switzerland, on June 18, on behalf of Brazilian workers, and, through a 10 minute speech, he condemned the world financial system as the responsible for the current crisis that hits workers and destroys production and, like a bird of prey, attacks public coffins in order to be saved.

In the conference, the president of UGT, a trade union central that represents 7,5 million workers in Brazil, not only spoke on behalf of workers UGT represents but on behalf of over 50 million Brazilian workers, stating "that the Conference of the International Labour Organization is the ideal forum to promote a necessary social dialogue of everyone who was involved - governments, businessmen and workers.



"We must create multilateral policies and actions in order for production and work to prevail on financing and guarantee the full operation of the social protection network built with a great effort of the whole world."

Patah continued by stating that "we do not accept any regression concerning the achievements that were harshly obtained. As well as we do not accept that the current crisis is used as an excuse to undermine labour and social rights to solve the problems of those who created the crisis."

To the Brazilian unionist, "this moment demands an alternative that values production, decent work, the social protection network, quality of life and transition to a sustainable economy, with green and decent jobs.

Patah called the United Nations to play its role in the conciliation of conflicts and coordinate a World Conference for Production and Employment, aiming to harmonize the international monetary and financial flows with the productive and employment needs in all countries.

To Patah, it is essential to create the Tobin Tax on financial flows and it is also vital to regulate the international financial system. Besides, the president of UGT asked for the creation of programs that support decent work and a sustainable global development.

"This is the only way that will allow us to get out of this world trap that sacrifices workers", Patah ended.

Protests have support of UGT

UGT, along with CUT and Força Sindical, wrote a note to support the popular protests in Brazil. Read the message in full.

Note on the mobilization against the rise in bus fares



The ongoing fight against the rise in bus fares all over the country express the dissatisfaction of workers and general people that are daily submitted to inhuman conditions of transportation (bus, trains, subway, etc.), especially in big cities. The price of fares is absurdly high if considering the conditions offered to the passengers.

More than a reaction against the fares, protests showed that workers, students and societies as a whole, no longer admit the neglect with issues such as lack of policies of urban mobility and urgent improvement of the quality of collective transportation.

Regarding this issue, trade union centrals consider these protests absolutely legitimate and democratic. The virulence of the police repression against protests is unacceptable, deprives the constitutional right to protest and brings back the old motto that constituted powers deal with issues of social interest such as police issues.

This way, trade union centrals that signed this note showed their support in the fight against police brutality, in the fight for the wide right to protest, for the creation of a dialogue and negotiation channel with society so that, together, we are able to debate and find answers to the problems of urban mobility that affects the life of the working class so hard.

It is essential that pacific protests advance towards the opening of negotiations with governments of States and cities over the price of fares and the conditions offered to users of public transportation.

Protests: To Alemão, Brazil finally woke up

In the picture, Alemão, vice-president of UGT, during a protest in Sao Paulo

Enilson Simões de Moura, aka Alemão, vice-president of UGT, was one of the hundreds of thousands of voices to protest on the night of June 17, part of the several protests that ruled the main cities of Brazil.



Alemão participated in the act in Sao Paulo and reaffirms that the fight is against the bankruptcy of the Brazilian State. "It is really not about 20 cents! It is against the bankruptcy of the Brazilian State that cannot provide the necessary requisites to the exercise of citizenship. Nowadays, the population knows that most taxes collected go down the drain of corruption. Enough! Brazil woke up!" the unionist concluded.

UGT in the International Labour Conference

UGT is active in debates

The delegation of UGT, under the coordination of **Otton da Costa Mata Roma**, its International Affairs Secretary, was active in the debates of the 102nd Conference of the International Labour Organization (ILO), which took place from June 05 to 20, in Geneva, Switzerland. Among the issues that were defended by UGT, one might the following ones: green jobs, decent job and social protection, green economy and sustainable development.



To Mônica Mata Roma, assistant secretary of Relationships (on the right in the picture) "UGT's delegation has developed an innovative and proactive role, mobilizing the Movement of Workers of Brazil and of the World in this vital space for all trade union centrals."

According to reports of ILO, green jobs are those in agriculture, industry, in services and administration that contribute to preserve or restore the environmental quality.

Being a trade union central that cares with the quality of life of workers, UGT considers decent work as a promotion of opportunity so that men and women might have a decent and productive activity in conditions of freedom, equality, security and human dignity. And it is necessary to apply decent work to green jobs.

As exemplified by the report of the Conference, the construction of hydroelectric dams in the Amazon, such as Pires Teles and Belo Monte, has been received with noisy protests and conflicts, with workers requesting better working conditions, that is, decent work.

Recycling is one of the topics, since it is considered an important activity in green economy due to the fact that it restores raw material and decreases the pressure on the use of natural resources, however, this kind of work is usually precarious, sometimes unhealthy and dangerous and it is frequently poorly paid. Worldwide, it represents more than 3 million workers. The national police of solid residues establishes the closure of all landfills in Brazil until 2014. And UGT understands that this activity needs to be well defined and regulated in order to ensure decent work.

Therefore, it is necessary to place workers in the center of discussion, studies and programs on climate change and the transition to green economy, analyzing the impacts on work and on the lives of people that are employed in such sectors and activities, establishing goals and actions to guarantee a fair transition. According to what has been discussed in the event, this will only be possible through social dialogue with workers, companies, government and civil society together, towards a fair transition on the way to green economy.

In the debates groups, the need to guarantee trade union unity and collective bargaining has been emphasized, searching for productive actions towards the inclusion of workers, as a point to be strengthened in the Conference. *(Mariana Veltri, with information of UGTs International Relationships Department)*

The fight against domestic child work

10,5 million children do domestic work all over the world

Around 10,5 million children all over the world, most underage, are domestic workers in the home of a third party, in some cases in dangerous conditions or similar to slavery, according to a [new report](#) of the International Labour Organization (ILO).



Out of these workers, 6,5 million are aged 5 to 15 years old. More than 71 per cent are girls. According to the most recent data quoted on the new ILO report - Ending child labour in domestic work -, these children work in other people's houses doing tasks such as cleaning, ironing, cooking, gardening, taking care of other children or elderly people.

They are vulnerable to physical, psychological or sexual violence and are exposed to abusive working conditions, hidden from the public and they are extremely dependent on their employers. Many of them are in danger of being sexually abused in exchange of money.

"The situation of many child domestic workers not only represents a serious violation of the children's rights but it is still an obstacle to reach many national and international goals of development", said Constance Thomas, director of ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).

This report, published on the occasion of the World Day Against Child Labour, launches an appeal for a combined action at a national and international levels with the goal of eliminating child labour in domestic work.

"We need a juridical mark to clearly identify, prevent and eliminate child labour in domestic work and to offer decent work conditions to teenagers once they are in the legal age for work", pointed out Constance Thomas.

There are estimates that another 5 million children, who are older than the minimum age for employment in their countries, are involved in domestic work, paid or not paid. (*ILO News*)

To ILO, Brazil advances in the fight against child labour

The celebration of June 12 - World Day Against Child Labour - is an opportunity to recall that Brazil is promoting important advances in this issue, which is "a serious violation of human rights and essential rights at work", said Laís Abramo, Director of ILO Office in Brazil, while participating in the seminar Social Protection and Child Labour, promoted by the Ministry of Social Development.

The ILO director recalled that the Brazilian Congress just approved a constitutional amendment that guarantees the same rights of other workers to domestic workers, which represents an "essential step" towards fighting against child labour, once the rule that no children under 18 is allowed to perform domestic work.

She also recalled the report Ending child labour in domestic work, launched by ILO, in which it is observed that 10,5 million children all of the world, most of them underage, are domestic workers in the home of a third party, in some cases under hazardous conditions or in circumstances similar to slavery. (*ILO news*)

Bank workers of Goias close bank agency

The Trade Union of Bank Workers of the State of Goias, an institution affiliated with UGT, prevented the Caixa Economica Federal bank agency from working, in the same place that the superintendence of such institution is located, on June 20.



This protest had the goal of requiring the bank to provide better working conditions and to hire new employees. Sergio Luiz da Costa, president of SEEB-GO, emphasized the importance of the participation of the class and the fair cause of the protest, "we want CAIXA to give employment to the population, we know that there is a deficit of people in the bank and that it has conditions to hire and provide a healthy workplace." This protest took place on the same day of the National Fight Day of Caixa for Decent Working Conditions.

Lourenço Ferreira do Prado, president of the National Confederation of Workers of Credit Companies (CONTEC), was there, supporting the movement. "CONTEC is with you in this fight for improvement, congratulations to the Union and workers of Caixa for the restless search of decent work of employees". Vera Lúcia Barbosa Leão, president of the Association of Caixa Personnel (APECEF).

Commerce Workers Union of Campinas: 72 years of fight

The Commerce Workers Union of Campinas celebrated 72 years of fight in pro of increasing the rights of the class, for decency in labour conditions of workers of this sector and for a better quality of life.

In recognition to the effort that the union had, in all these years, in fighting for respect and dignity of commerce workers of Campinas, the Chamber of City Counsellors delivered a merit awards to the board of directors of this institution on June 21. João Batista Luz, who was president of this union and died in the end of 2012, received a special tribute due to years of dedication to the fight ideals of the commerce class of Campinas.

Bahia observatory launches study on informality

The Labour Observatory of Bahia, a partner of DIEESE with the Labour, Employment, Income and Sports Department of Bahia (Setre), released , on June 10, during a seminar at the Catholic University of Salvador (Ucsal), the study "Informality in the job market of Bahia in the 2000s.

Flávia Rodrigues, technician of DIEESE at the Observatory, presented the conclusions of this work. Ana Georgina da Silva Dias, supervisor of the Regional Office of Bahia, participated in the opening session. The event was also attended by the technicians Eletice Rangel, Nádia Viera de Souza, Lavínia Moura and Adalberto Góis.



The main data shows that there was a reduction of the number of informal jobs in Bahia. Out of the total, 24,1% of jobs were formal. In 2010, they represented 31,1%. As for the informal jobs, they were 24,5% in 2000 and decreased to 22,0% in 2010. Despite the improvement in these numbers, informal workers still represented 44,6% out of the total jobs in the State in 2010.



"The União Geral dos Trabalhadores 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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