

PRIORITY AGENDA OF THE WORKING CLASS

**DEMOCRACY, SOVEREIGNTY AND DEVELOPMENT
WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE: LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
IN BRAZIL**



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TRADE UNION CENTRES MANIFESTO

Workers have created trade unionism in order to be the protagonists of their own futures. Our struggle, in Brazil and in this historical moment, is to place the country back on the development path, to generate quality employment and salary growth, to combat informal, precarious and unsafe work and to promote social and employment security for all. We fight for freedom, democracy and sovereignty to increasingly be the basis of the nation project to be implemented in Brazil.

The Trade Union Centres consider the free and democratic elections of 2018 to be of vital importance for the building of commitments in view of the future agenda for the development of the country, for which the world of labour must have a central strategy.

Trade Union Centres, in a unified manner, highlight a high-priority guideline from the Agenda of the Working Class and present it seeking constructive dialogue towards projects aimed at the common good and the general interest of society, in order to consolidate commitments capable of transformations that could take the country to a developed nation status.

We know that the road ahead will be long and difficult. But our history has also been paved with extensive and arduous struggles. The adversities of the present and the uncertainties of the future should not lead to the prohibition of dialogue and debate, nor should they generate intolerance, because in that situation we could lead to economic, social and political tragedies, a context in which everyone would lose.

Millions of Brazilian men and women hope that our institutions will be politically able to work towards agreements for the resumption of economic growth and social development.

For this reason, we affirm that with this Priority Agenda of the Working Class our intention is to mobilize workers for them to take on a proactive role, looking to the future, facing the challenges and with the shared responsibility of building a nation and country project.

São Paulo, June 6, 2018.

Antonio Fernandes dos Santos Neto
President of CSB

Vagner Freitas
President of CUT

Edson Carneiro Índio
President of Intersindical

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President of CTB

Paulo Pereira da Silva
President of the Trade Union Force

José Calixto Ramos
President of NCST

Ricardo Patah
President of UGT

CHALLENGES

The profound economic transformations alter the productive system, the role of companies, the dynamics of world trade, the function of the States and the sovereignty of nations. The financing of the economy, the mutations in the patrimony of companies, the concentration of income and wealth and the technological revolution in contemporary capitalism are causing the productive sectors to undergo radical changes. Environmental degradation is threatening life on Earth. The world of labour and workers everywhere are being affected, and more severely so the poor and those living in precarious conditions.

For the past two centuries, social movements have carried out battles which have organized, in each specific historical context, the modern State, the expression of citizenship through universal rights, public policies, as well as participation and social dialogue as means for the negotiation of agreed solutions. In the present, initiatives have arisen which intend to hinder dialogue and negotiation and to dismantle the system of social and labour security created by the arduous struggles of the workers.

In Brazil, the recent severe recession reduced GDP per capita by -4.3% and -4.2% (2015/16). Today there are almost 14 million people who are unemployed and another 14 million who are underemployed. With the economy moving sideways, the investments of the public and private sectors decreasing, and the idle capacity of companies growing, the purchasing power of families has fallen while the cost of credit for businesses and families has increased. Cuts in social expenditure reduce social security benefits even further, extending poverty and misery and intensifying the suffering of millions of children, men and women.

Changes in labour legislation create a new institutional environment that weakens the system of labour relations and collective bargaining, targets trade unions, favours insecurity and the precarious situation of workers and intensifies labour-related conflicts.

In this general context, unemployment, informality, precariousness, labour flexibility, insecurity and vulnerability are circumstances that are taking over the lives of workers. The trade union movement is challenged to build mobilizations and battles which take into account the centrality of work for development, are environmentally balanced, and generate well-being and quality of life for all.

2018 elections are an opportunity to put the country back on the track of economic, social and environmental development. The public debate of ideas and projects should contribute to the decisions of voters. Leaders and elected parliamentary representatives must be committed to transformations intended to push the country forward in the direction of development, to increase productivity, raise labour income, generate quality employment, put an end to misery and reduce poverty.

That is why we present, in a unified manner, 22 proposals for a socioeconomic transformation agenda, impelled by our fight against all forms of inequality, by the promotion of quality employment, by freedom, democracy, national sovereignty and social justice.

PRIORITY AGENDA

OF THE WORKING CLASS

1. Create policies, programs and immediate actions to fight an increasing unemployment and underemployment, already affecting 28 million workers:
 - a. Creating sources of work as an emergency measure, paying special attention to young people;
 - b. Resuming infrastructure works;
 - c. Protection policies towards the unemployed: quota increase for unemployment insurance, transportation vouchers for the unemployed, gas vouchers, electricity subsidies, among others.
2. Democratize the system of industrial relations based on trade union autonomy, aiming to encourage collective bargaining, to promote agile conflict resolution, to guarantee labour rights, the right to strike and to eradicate anti-trade union practices; promoting the restructuring of trade unions to broaden their representativeness and organization at all levels, stimulating trade union cooperation between workers, including the solidarity-based financing which was democratically defined in the Assembly.
3. Regulate the right to collective bargaining for public servants, at all levels of Government, pursuant to the principles of the Convention 151 of the ILO (International Labour Organization).
4. Renew the minimum wage valorisation policy for the next four years (2020-2023).
5. Establish the working day in 40 hours per week.
6. Repeal all negative aspects, pointed out by workers, of Law No. 13.467 (Labour Reform) and Law No. 13.429 (Outsourcing), which worsen contracts and working conditions, with the intention of building a new statute which values work.

7. To fight informality, rotation and slave-like working conditions and to eliminate child labour both in the city and in the countryside.
8. To regulate paragraph 27 of Section 7 of the Constitution, in order to guarantee labour protection against the impacts of technological and economic changes.
9. To ensure the right of access to the Public System of Social Security and Protection, promoting universalization; to ensure, in the face of the ongoing changes in the world of labour and the demographic transition, the financial sustainability of the System, with permanent social participation in its management.
10. To repeal the Constitutional Amendment 95/2016, which freezes public for 20 years, and to create a legal rule that is consistent with the role of the State in the development of the country, with its creation including social participation and also integrating the permanent evaluation of the budgetary rule.
11. To promote a tax reform oriented by tax progressivity, the revision of consumption taxes and the increment of taxes on income and wealth (taxation on inheritance and wealth, profits and dividends), working towards simplification, transparency and combating evasion.
12. To restructure, strengthen and expand the capillarity of the Public Employment System, aiming to protect employment and combat termination without cause; articulating and extending protection towards the unemployed, professional training programs, labour intermediation and productive microcredit; recovering the financing capacity of the FAT (Workers' Protection Fund); investing in the effectiveness of the councils at all levels.
13. Granting universal access to quality education at all levels, guided by the principles of freedom, citizenship, learning and knowledge in a changing world; to review and reorganize secondary education and professional training, with policies aimed at the entry of young people into the labour market.
14. To strengthen the Unified Health System, with integrity and universality, expanding the range of services and guaranteeing public financing; to promote health policies for workers and a safe workplace.
15. To promote and articulate a policy of productive development that is environmentally sustainable and oriented towards the re-densification of productive chains, with a strategic focus for the industry, national companies, presence in the national territory, regional diversity, generation of quality employment and democratic labour relations.

16. To strengthen national engineering and reorganize the construction sector to stimulate and materialize strategic investments in economic, social, urban and rural infrastructures.
17. To ensure that micro, small, medium-sized enterprises and popular and solidarity-based economies have access to the technological innovation system, to favour their integration to internal and external markets, provide managing assistance and promote their access to credit.
18. To strengthen the strategic role of public companies (Eletrobras system, Petrobras, public banks, among others) for the promotion and support of economic and social development.
19. To develop and invest in science, technology and innovation systems, in coordination with a strategy of public and private investment in productive, social, urban and rural infrastructure.
20. To strengthen and enhance social policies that fight poverty, misery and promote the reduction of social and income inequality.
21. To strengthen policies aimed at Family Agriculture, Agrarian Reform-oriented policies and to the sustainable development and inclusion of the countryside.
22. To extend and implement policies, programmes and actions to promote equality for women, afro-descendants, young people, LGBTQI and immigrants.



Coordinación técnica:

