



## IAMREC 2017

### Summary of items approved

The 2017 PSI Inter-American Regional Executive Committee was held between March 23 and 24 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This is a summary presentation about the proposals and ideas approved during the meeting.

#### 1: Public Debt

- International action in solidarity with Puerto Rico designed to pressure the government to reinstate the **Puerto Rico Commission for the Comprehensive Audit of the Public Credit**, plus the provision of the resources necessary for conducting a rigorous and transparent auditing process. **Roberto Pagán (SEIU, United States)** will send a draft petition and the electronic mail addresses of those to whom we are to send it.

#### 2: Free Trade Agreements

- TPP: After the US left the negotiation, keep tracking the likelihood of a new attempt to rebuild something similar to the TPP, led by Chile and other Latin American and Asian countries. NCC Chile and platform *Plataforma Chile Mejor Sin TPP* [A Better Chile without TPP] are monitoring this and keeping us posted. **NCC Chile and Nayareth Quevedo (PSI Southern Cone)** will keep us informed.

- TISA: We have to monitor the position of the Trump administration and any new negotiation rounds. PSI leads the network against TISA and is bound to strengthen it. With the FES project, we will hold national seminars in Panama, Chile, Peru, Colombia, Mexico, Argentina, Costa Rica and Brazil – and a regional seminar in Uruguay (September/October 2017).

- NAFTA: Considering the proposal made by the Trump administration for reviewing the agreement, PSI will seek to organize our affiliates in the three countries (Mexico, USA, and Canada), mobilizing and coordinating them to take action in this process. **Mark Langevin (PSI North America)** will help in the coordination and discussions.

- EU/Mercosur Agreement: Discussions regarding this agreement are becoming stronger. The Southern Cone Trade Union Coordinating Body (CCSCS) and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) are leading the trade union side of the discussions of this agreement. PSI is to join in the discussion.

### 3: Tax Justice

- National seminars will be held in Venezuela, Costa Rica, Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay, with the support of FES.
- PSI has secured the rights to exhibit the US movie *"The price we pay"*, which most accurately addresses the subject of tax justice, with subtitles in Spanish. We will show this movie in various PSI activities, particularly those related to tax justice.
- Considering the positive outcomes of the association with Latindadd and International Tax Justice on the issue, we will continue to work with them.
- Fiscal havens: We will keep track of the development of, and support, the initiatives by Ecuador, mostly while presiding over the G-77, such as banning participation in public bids by companies associated with fiscal havens, as well as the plebiscite seeking to prohibit politicians and public employees from holding offshore bank accounts.

### 4: World Trade Organization (WTO)

- Considering the WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires (11–14 December 2017) PSI is, jointly with other civil society organizations, to carry out debates, street actions, etc., disputing any proposal against the interests of the workers being debated by that organization. At the same time, we should deepen the debate regarding the role of the WTO in the present setting of plurilateral agreements; considering we are favorable to multilateral agreements, however, we have historically questioned the role, the structure, and the interests of the WTO.
- Some organizations are adopting the slogan "Making Buenos Aires a new Seattle". We are looking forward to receiving a significant number of activists coming from every region of the world.

### 5: Brazil

- Support was approved to the struggles being waged in Brazil against the setbacks and the violent social and trade union attacks suffered by the country. One form of solidarity will be to engage in actions outside the Brazilian embassies during national strike days: ***the next one is scheduled for 28 April 2017***. Besides actions on that day, Inter-Americas affiliates will strive to be present at important moments to manifest international solidarity with Brazil, participating in rallies, assemblies, etc., given the importance of international support to local affiliates.

### 6: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Together with other key regional actors engaged in SDG-related issues, such as ECLAC, PSI will hold debates with interested affiliates for the purpose of better preparing and engaging the labor movement in this issue. This activity is to take place in Buenos Aires.

## **7: World Water Forum**

- The World Water Forum will be held on March 19 – 23, 2018 in Brasília, Brazil. PSI opposes this event and, for this reason, is participating at the organization of a parallel forum.

## **8: ILO**

- Taking into account information on a range of internal ILO measures that result in setbacks, such as the “outsourcing” of vital ILO functions, we shall keep the IAMREC updated on ILO internal decisions so that the IAMREC members may engage each country’s national trade union centers. It is imperative to keep the talks and ongoing dialogue with the national trade union central bodies to strengthen resolutions in favor of workers’ rights. **Rosa Pavanelli** will keep us informed about the subject.

## **9: Peru**

- Solidarity campaign on account of the heavy rains that caused havoc in many parts of the country. Local affiliates should identify national needs, based on which, we will start solidarity campaigns as needed.

## **10: Virtual Platform of the Regional Action Plan**

- IAMREC has praised the initiative to set up the platform because of the ease it provides to access information about our activities. All of us will help feed content to the platform by sending updates on activities performed in the framework of the Regional Action Plan. **Igor Ojeda (PSI Inter-Americas)** will also seek information on the pages of the largest affiliates to add further information to the platform.

## **11: Union leaders’ capacity-building**

- Further information will be sent to IAMREC members on the Diploma in Public Management (PSI-UNTREF agreement).

- As for the capacity-building of our affiliates’ leaders, **Federico Dávila (UPCN, Argentina)** can send more information to IAMREC members.

## **12: Actions against corruption**

- It was agreed upon that PSI should hold joint simultaneous actions against corruption in the region in many Latin American countries. December 9th – World Day against Corruption – will be used to boost regional actions.

## **13: Argentina**

- A solidarity note to the people and PSI affiliates in Argentina was approved on the occasion of the anniversary of the military-civilian coup (March 24, 1976).

#### **14: PSI – TUCA relations**

- We must keep deepening the good relations between PSI and TUCA, coordinating with the leaders we share in common, to strengthen the bridges between both organizations. **Angela Rifo (ANEF, Chile)** and **José Olvera (STUNAM, Mexico)** will support us in this regard. **Sergio Hemsani (APOC, Argentina)**, who works with the subjects of anti-corruption and tax justice, also can help us in this cooperation effort.

#### **Upcoming meetings in 2018:**

- IAMREC: A proposal was made for the purpose of holding the meeting in Panama.
- IAMRECON: Representatives from Argentina have suggested the possibility of holding the conference in Argentina. We must analyze costs and approve the conference venue at the next IAMREC meeting.

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