

# Caribbean Sub-regional Advisory Committee (SUBRAC) Meeting

“Working together for sustainable development”

**Wednesday March 2 and Thursday March 3, 2016**

**Grand Coastal Inn  
East Coast Demerara  
GUYANA, South America**

## Meeting documents



[www.world-psi.org](http://www.world-psi.org)

## PSI Statement of Values

1. The values, policies and actions of **Public Services International** are anchored in a world vision of democratic societies wherein quality public services advance and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, enabling equity, solidarity and prosperity to flourish.
2. **Public Services International** has an historical and deeply rooted commitment to working to eliminate inequality, social injustice and the imbalances aggravated by capitalism and financial profiteering.
3. **Public services are at the core of democratic societies founded on human rights, the rule of law and social solidarity.** Public services provide equitable redistribution of wealth; and in their delivery should ensure that people are treated with equal respect, provided equal protection, and live free of discrimination without regard to age, gender, religion, national identity, race or ethnicity, disability and sexual orientation.
4. **Public services are an asset for sustainable development.** Public services are essential for responsible public and private wealth creation and sustainable economic growth.
5. **Public sector workers have a critical role to play in the creation of democratic public policy and the practice of good governance.** Direct public service and public sector unions must ensure the integrity of the public sector. High quality policy and good governance are the foundation of economic growth and development, creation of wealth, expansion of opportunities, and the widest social and economic integration of members of a society. Corruption in all its forms thwarts good governance and the people and should not be tolerated.
6. **Public services are financed by all for the benefit of all.** In practice, public services are paid for by public revenues. These revenues must be raised through fair taxation policies.
7. **Public services are a public good, designed to work in the interest of the people.** Concern for the quality of public services is a mark of a society's self-respect and commitment to caring for all, especially its most vulnerable members.
8. **Public Services International values the common good.** PSI advocates for quality public services, recognizing that public services of the highest level of quality achievable are required for equitable distribution of growth and sustainable development. In accordance with its Constitution, Public Services International promotes quality public services that guarantee access, are affordable, are democratically accountable, provide for social justice, elevate the quality of life, and offer the opportunity of prosperity.
9. The highest quality public services can only be delivered by workers whose rights are fully respected. To this end, **Public Services International defends and advances the fundamental rights and conditions of work including freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining and the health and occupational safety of public service workers across the globe.**



[www.world-psi.org](http://www.world-psi.org)

## 2016 Caribbean Sub-regional Advisory Committee (SUBRAC) meeting “Working together for sustainable development”

March 2 - 9:15 am to 5:30 pm

March 3 - 9:15 am to 12:30 pm

Conference Room, Grand Coastal Inn, ECD, Guyana, South America

### Venue

#### Grand Coastal Inn

Lot 1 & 2 Area M Plantation

Le Ressouvenir

East Coast Demerara

Guyana, South America

Tel: +(592) 220-1091

<http://www.grandcoastal.com/>

### Introduction

The Caribbean Sub-regional Advisory Committee (SUBRAC) meets annually. The SUBRAC is a PSI advisory body comprising representatives from affiliates who “facilitate the consultation process at sub-regional level on policy issues and work programme implementation, and who participate in exchange and dialogue on issues relevant to PSI affiliates.”

The meeting seeks to **Inform, Educate and Motivate/Inspire** committee members.

The meeting booklet provides background information, references and guidance to help you participate and gain the most from the meeting.

Our discussions will be strategic. They must of necessity focus on what we need to do and how we must do things in order to focus on our strategic priorities and achieve our objectives.

### Working methods

The meeting includes presentations, small group activities, as well as plenary discussions.

The Sub-regional Office will send most documents by e-mail prior to the meeting. There will be no hard copies of documents previously sent by e-mail.

Any other documents, not previously sent, will be provided in both electronic format and hard copy at the meeting. The hotel provides wireless access and as far as is possible and we encourage committee members to use the technology to derive the maximum benefit from the deliberations and discussions.

The Titular members, Bro Wayne Jones (JCSA) and Sis Jillian Bartlett (NUGFW TT), co-chair the meeting.

*There won't be an official afternoon break. Attendees are free to get coffee, tea and juice as needed.*

## Draft Schedule – Wednesday March 2, 2015

### NETWORKING

- 9:15 am** **Call to order, Introductory remarks, Titular members, PSI sub-regional Secretary**  
**Welcome, Bro Patrick Yarde, President Guyana Public Service Union (GPSU); and Bro Dale Beresford, President, General and Local Government Workers' Union (GLGWU)**  
**Adoption of Agenda, Announcements and Introductions**  
**Minutes of the 2015 meeting**  
– Adoption and confirmation of minutes  
**Matters arising (items not otherwise covered in the agenda)**

### 10:45 am NETWORKING BREAK

- 11:00 am** **PSI Priorities and Strategic Objectives – making the linkages, getting things done**

*In this session we will review the activities undertaken to assess our successes and what we learnt from the various experiences. Included in this discussion is an examination of [IAMRECON 2015](#).*

- 11:30 am** **Focussing on sectors and issues – a work in progress**

- Case study from the Jamaica Civil Service Association (JCSA), Bro O'Neil Grant and Sisters Onydeen Lawrence and Natalie James
- Local government/Municipal government in the Caribbean, the case of Barbuda, Bro Esrome Roberts and Sis Daphne DeSuza, (ABWU)

#### **Small group activities**

*We invite SUBRAC members to discuss in depth the development and organisation of sectoral and issue-based networks in the Caribbean sub-region.*

### 1:00 pm LUNCH

- 2:15 pm** **Report backs from small groups**  
**Plenary discussion**

- 3:30 pm** **Summary reports and recommendations from members on PSI committees and working groups**

- IA regional young workers' committee, Bro Shamir Brown (JALGO)
- [ILO Workers' Symposium on Decent work in Global Supply Chains](#), Sis Tifonie Powell (JCSA), (via Skype)

*We invite SUBRAC members to carefully note the reports and recommendations.*

- 4:35 pm** **Report from SUBWOC meeting and discussion on UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**

### 5:00 pm END OF DAY ONE

## Draft schedule – Thursday March 3, 2016

### NETWORKING

**9:15 am** **Summary Report on [Funding Democracy Summit](#), Sis Rebecca Suazo (PSU of Belize)**

The [Association of Canadian Financial Officers](#), together with PSI, organised this summit in June 2015. PSI affiliates from the ABWU, Bermuda PSU and GPSU also attended. Sis Suazo was one of the presenters at the summit, participating in two sessions.

*We invite SUBRAC members to note Sis Suazo's report and recommendations for further action.*

**9:45 am** **Matters relating to the [International Labour Organisation \(ILO\)](#), [International Trade Union Confederation](#) – [Trade Union Confederation of the Americas \(ITUC-TUCA\)](#) and Global Union Federations (GUFs)**

- ILO, Bro O'Neil Grant
- ITUC-TUCA, Bro Roland Ignacio (ABVO Curaçao)

*We invite SUBRAC members to carefully note the work done and to make recommendations for specific sub-regional action.*

**10:20 am** **[Agenda 2030](#) – what role for trade unions in the Caribbean?**

- **Building alliances and working in a multi-stakeholder environment**
- **The future of Public Services**
- **Membership recruitment and retention**
- **Collective bargaining**
- **The role of young trade union activists**

*We invite SUBRAC members to reflect deeply on the Post-2015 sustainable development goals and the implications for trade unions, especially those in the public service sector.*

*We also invite committee members to start identifying actions that will prepare them to better engage with development partners and other stakeholders in the achievement of these goals.*

**10:45 am** **NETWORKING BREAK**

**11:00 am** **[Agenda 2030](#) (cont'd)**

**11:30 am** **Preparing for Congress 2017**

- **Congress dates and venue**
- **Timetable leading to Congress**
- **Constitutional Amendments**
- **Roles and functions of elected members and other representatives**

*We invite SUBRAC to examine and discuss how to make PSI stronger. We invite you to have a constructive debate of the political role of our regions, including the functioning of the SUBRACs and RECs; and NCCs where they exist. We will also outline upcoming Congress deadlines, expectations from the Secretariat and the outcomes from the first Constitution Working Group (CWG) meeting held in November 2015.*

**12:25 pm** **Closing remarks**

**12:30 pm** **END OF SUBRAC 2016**

## About this booklet

We have written this booklet to help you prepare for and fully participate in the PSI Caribbean 2016 SUBRAC meeting.

It provides useful background information and references for further reading for each agenda item. We also believe that you will find it a useful addition to your library of trade union information. In fact, we suggest that you use it as a workbook throughout the meeting.

Together with the SUBWOC booklet, the information in this booklet, as well as your own notes, will help you to brief others in your network as well as follow through with programme and actions in your unions.


The booklet has hyperlinks to other sources of information and therefore is best used online.

## Connecting the dots ...

The work carried out by PSI in the Caribbean during the last twelve months is all interrelated. All of the activities that we undertake and the issues involved are all linked. They have as a common thread, PSI's strategic priorities<sup>1</sup>, as well as the various priorities established by PSI members at the regional and national/local levels.

## Who are you mentoring?

Again we ask this question because the importance of work lies in building a better future for others – creating the future we all want. We have to work towards building capacities in our organisations. The challenges are many and the skills, talents and competencies required mean that activists and their organisations must always seek “to raise the bar”. It is not enough to maintain the standard.



**Celebrate what you've  
accomplished, but  
raise the bar a little  
higher each time you  
succeed.**

Mia Hamm

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<sup>1</sup> Fighting privatisation, Advancing trade union rights, Influencing global policy, Organising and growth

**Call to order, Introductory remarks** *Titular members, PSI sub-regional Secretary*

**Welcome** *Bro Patrick Yarde, President Guyana Public Service Union (GPSU); and Bro Dale Beresford, President, General and Local Government Workers' Union (GLGWU)*

## **Adoption of Agenda, Announcements and Introductions**

### **Minutes of the 2015 meeting**

- Adoption and confirmation of minutes

**Matters arising** (items not otherwise covered in the agenda)

## **PSI Priorities and Strategic Objectives – making the linkages, getting things done**

At PSI's Vienna Congress in 2007, the organisation started the process of readying itself for a new period of trade union activism. The fast pace of globalisation, the continuing threats of privatisation in all its forms and the newly designed attacks on public services, meant that the old ways of doing things were not going to reap the successes that they had in the past. It would not be "business as usual". There's a "[new normal](#)".

Moreover, like other global union federations, there were less resources available from European and US affiliates and the main Solidarity Supporting Organisations (SSO). In the US, the conservative lobbies were using their vast resources to attack unions and the victories won years ago. In Europe, conservative elements were also increasing their attacks and were gaining support at the polls. We started to see the beginnings of a number of crises – food, fuel, financial and environmental.

And then there was 2008 - the global financial crisis. And things have never been the same since.

PSI had an organisational review in 2008 and there were many discussions in sub-regions about the recommendations made. In some sub-regions, though affiliates agreed with the thrust to be more focused and strategic, things continued in the same way. It was in 2010/11 that PSI identified and promoted its strategic priorities. The nature of a global organisation is that it has to focus while at the same time acknowledge and give visibility to all the issues faced throughout the world in which it operates. Not an easy task.

The 2012 congress mandated an ambitious Programme of Action and in operationalising this programme, the Secretariat, in consultation with affiliates agreed on a programme called Working for the Alternative.

*Extract from the 2013 consultation document for RACs and RECs*

**Working for the Alternative**  
***Implementing PSI's mandate in 2013 and beyond***

1. PSI occupies a unique place in the labour movement. We are the only global union federation focused solely on public services (outside of the education sector). For workers in these public services we are their only voice in international forums and the only body coordinating global public sector union action.
2. As we consider PSI's priorities over the next five years we must remind ourselves of the importance of building our power to fulfil these key roles. If we do not fulfil them, nobody will.
3. The enclosed paper forms the basis for the 2013 Sub-Regional, Regional and Executive Board discussions. Input from regional discussions will be reported directly to EB. This consultation should do three things:
  - Ensure that we have our priorities right;
  - Determine how we can work differently including how we resource our priorities; and,
  - Plan our actions for the next 12 months.
4. Regional work plans already exist and should now be incorporated into, and be consistent with, the new implementation priorities. RECs and RACs will need to ensure that this happens in 2013.
5. Congress has asked us to re-invigorate our sectoral work. It acknowledged that we will need to deal with different sectors in different ways, and at varying speeds, and that resourcing sector work is an unresolved issue.
6. In the first instance, this envisages informal networks with optional steering committees, supported by the Secretariat, followed by an examination of more solid structures. Sector work plans must be developed additionally.
7. In regards to **sector work** these current consultations must ensure two things:
  - That our priorities for the next 12-18 months are driven through our sectors; and,
  - That we get clear input from affiliates on how to establish sector structures and do sector work in the future.
8. With this in mind, PSI's long-term priorities will be: **fighting privatisation, advancing trade union rights, influencing global policy and organising and growth.**



The activities undertaken at the global, Inter-American regional level and the sub-regional and national levels must all reflect the work towards the global priorities, while at the same time taking into account the realities and environments in the respective countries.

It is important for SUBRAC members to review and examine these activities to identify successes and why; where we could have done better and what we have learnt from the experiences.

**We invite members of SUBRAC to engage in discussion on the activities undertaken. Included in this discussion is an examination of [IAMRECON 2015](#).**

## Focussing on sectors and issues – a work in progress

- [Case study from the Jamaica Civil Service Association \(JCSA\)](#), *Bro O'Neil Grant and Sisters Onydeen Lawrence and Natalie James*
- [Local government/Municipal government in the Caribbean, the case of Barbuda](#), *Bro Esrome Roberts and Sis Daphne DeSuza, (ABWU)*

In the 2015 meeting, the SUBRAC noted the structures developed at the Inter-American (IA) regional level – confederations focussed on specific jobs, and in some cases, workplace unions. Membership in these confederations is open to unions in the Caribbean. Individual affiliates have autonomy in this matter.

As a sub-region, our philosophy, and consequently our practice has been to operate as a unit – a sort of regional integration of our unions - in recognition of our relative size as a sub-region and the current geopolitics.

The two case studies highlight works in progress and experiences thus far in thinking about and developing a sectoral focus.

For the most part, public service sector unions in the Caribbean have many, many [years under their belts](#), so to speak. Three are over 90 years old; and the younger ones are over 40 years old. The baby of the group, the Confédération des Travailleuses (euses) des Secteurs Public et Privé (CTSP d'Haïti), with 14 affiliated unions, is 7 years old.

So these long traditions of general unions, with structures that revolve around categories of work or locations (divisions and branches) are well-entrenched.

Key (sub)sectors for the sub-region include :

- [Health and social care services](#)
- [Water and Sanitation](#)
- [Public/Central Administration](#) (in some cases these overlap with municipal/local government services)
- [Local government/municipal services](#)
- [Energy](#)

Our work, over the last year and a half on Tax Justice and Anti-corruption provides an opportunity to further develop affiliates' capacity and influence. There are other issues which are key for the sub-region.

Key issues include:

- [Gender-based violence and workplace violence](#)
- [Tax Justice](#)/Public funding and [Anti-corruption](#)
- [Climate change](#)
- [Emergencies and Disasters](#)
- [Agenda 2030](#)

**Small group activities** (We will circulate the activities during the meeting)

**We invite SUBRAC members to discuss in depth the development and organisation of sectoral and issue-based networks in the Caribbean sub-region.**

## Summary reports and recommendations from members on PSI committees and working groups

- IA regional young workers' committee, *Bro Shamir Brown (JALGO)*
- [ILO Workers' Symposium on Decent work in Global Supply Chains](#), *Sis Tifonie Powell (JCSA), (video and via Skype)*

***We invite SUBRAC members to carefully note the reports and recommendations.***

## Report from SUBWOC meeting and discussion on UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

The Sub-regional women's advisory committee ([SUBWOC](#)) held its meeting on March 1.

The committee's chair will present a summary report of discussions highlighting conclusions and recommendations for further action.

Of particular importance is the upcoming [UN Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\)](#) – March 13 – 24 in New York

Every year, PSI and the other global union federations (GUFs) – ITUC, EI, ITF – take a joint approach to the United Nations Commission on the Legal and Social Status of Women (UNCSW). The main focus of the 60<sup>th</sup> session in 2016 is the [economic empowerment of women](#). The GUFs want to see greater recognition of trade unions' role as defenders of women's rights, both at the workplace and in society.

Along with the women's movement and NGOs that share the same principles, the GUFs also want to increase their influence on the decisions made by the government actors that meet at these global forums. It will only be possible to have real influence if we are able to show our strength at the national, regional and global levels.

In parallel to this, PSI is a member of a range of social coalitions that challenge the dominant financial power of groups operating within global government bodies. In 2015, the process of setting Sustainable Development Objectives (SDOs) until 2030 ([Agenda 2030](#)) and taking decisions on [Financing for Development](#) in international forums showed that transnational capital uses its immense corporate power to promote a privatisation agenda.

PSI has argued that development is impossible without universal quality public services. It has put forward a range of mechanisms to finance development including fiscal justice and anti-corruption measures. Coalitions in the women's movement are also very active in this field at both the local and global levels. One of the key mainstreaming proposals on this agenda is the need to provide gender-sensitive public services.

This means that we will use every opportunity to build alliances with like-minded civil society organisations and build and enhance our capacity, profile and consequently our ability to influence decision-making.

Sis Annie Mongen-Arndel (ABVO Curaçao) and Sis Jillian Bartlett (NUGFW TT) are on the PSI's delegation, representing the Caribbean sub-region. They have started their preparations:

- talking with government officials and civil society organisations in their respective countries;
- gathering valuable intelligence from SUBWOC members and engaging them in discussion;
- familiarising themselves with PSI's messaging for the UNCSW.

There will be further work after the event.

**We invite SUBRAC to carefully note and endorse the report and its recommendations.**

## Summary Report on [Funding Democracy Summit](#) *Sis Rebecca Suazo (PSU of Belize)*

The [Association of Canadian Financial Officers](#), together with PSI, organised this summit in June 2015. PSI affiliates from the ABWU, Bermuda PSU and GPSU also attended.

Sis Suazo was one of the presenters at the summit. She presented on [Whistleblower Protection](#) and [Corruption](#).

**We invite SUBRAC members to carefully note Sis Suazo's report and recommendations for further action.**

## **Matters relating to the [International Labour Organisation \(ILO\)](#), [International Trade Union Confederation](#) – [Trade Union Confederation of the Americas \(ITUC-TUCA\)](#) and [Global Union Federations \(GUFs\)](#)**

- [ILO](#), *Bro O'Neil Grant, JCSA*
- [ITUC-TUCA](#), *Bro Roland Ignacio, ABVO Curaçao*

The ILO's international labour standards are backed by a well-defined and well-structured [supervisory system](#). This system is designed to provide the means to address all sorts of problems in their application at the national level.

### **ILO Supervisory system**

There are two kinds of supervisory mechanism:

1. The regular system of supervision: examination of periodic reports submitted by Member States on the measures they have taken to implement the provisions of the ratified Conventions
2. Special procedures: a representations procedure and a complaints procedure of general application, together with a special procedure for freedom of association

### **The regular system for supervising the application of standards**

The regular system of supervision is based on the examination by two ILO bodies of reports on the application in law and practice sent by member States and on observations in this regard sent by workers' organizations and employers' organizations.

- 1) [The Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations](#)
- 2) [The International Labour Conference's Tripartite Committee on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations](#)

The ILO has released its [2016 Report on the Application of Labour Standards](#).

**We invite SUBRAC members to examine the comments made by the CEACR for their respective countries.**



## [ILO Report on Application of Standards 2016](#)

### Index of comments by country - Caribbean affiliates

<b>Anguilla (United Kingdom)</b>		<b>Haiti</b>	
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The reporting schedule for each country is also available on the ILO website. One of the contradictions we have to deal with is that for the most part these reports are completed by the Labour Department. Some of those who write the reports may be members of the union.

Click or tap to get the [reporting schedule by country](#).

**We invite SUBRAC members to take careful note of the schedule.**

**We also invite SUBRAC members to follow-up this process with their Ministries/Departments of Labour.**

Under Article 19 of the ILO Constitution, member States are required to [report](#) at appropriate intervals, as requested by the Governing Body, on non-ratified Conventions and on Recommendations, indicating in their reports the extent to which effect has been given or is proposed to be given to those instruments.

Under Article 22, reports are periodically requested from States which have ratified ILO Conventions. The [report](#) form to which each State is to conform their reports are approved by the Governing Body.

Trade unions have the right to be consulted on the reports, to review the reports and to make comments on the reports and submit those comments to the ILO. **Very few unions in the Caribbean do this.**

#### **[ILO Centenary](#) – the Future of Work Initiative**

The ILO will celebrate its centenary in 2019. The organisation will be organising a series of tripartite dialogues on the Future of Work.

At the June 2015 ILC (10<sup>th</sup> session) the Director-General launched the [Future of Work Initiative](#).

*"We need to look at the longer term drivers of change, the transformational mega-trends, and what they imply for the goals we pursue in the ILO in its second century."*

The lead-up to, and the 2019 ILC will therefore be important points in time. But the work starts now.

## **Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA) -** Regional organisation of the ITUC

TUCA's third congress will be held in São Paulo April 26 – 29.

During the period September 22 to 24, TUCA held a pre-congress seminar for the Caribbean sub-region in the Dominican Republic. The seminar discussed the proposals for the congress' main document as well as proposals for constitutional changes.

We invite affiliates to learn more about the Congress, the issues to be discussed and to think about the Caribbean's engagement and involvement with the TUCA and the ITUC.

We also invite SUBRAC members to think about how to promote PSI's issues and priorities in the TUCA and with other GUFs.

## Agenda 2030 – what role for trade unions in the Caribbean?

- **Building alliances and working in a multi-stakeholder environment**
- **The future of Public Services**
- **Membership recruitment and retention**
- **Collective bargaining**
- **The role of young trade union activists**

"In the context of the economic crisis, governments are under increased pressure to find quick answers to hard questions about maintaining public services and funding infrastructure. The longer the crisis extends the more pressure mounts to find answers, but so do the risks of forgetting the root causes: greed, deregulation, and excessive faith in private corporations.

Our report "[Why public-private partnerships don't work](#)" is the culmination of thirty years' experience with and assessment of privatisation, in countries both rich and poor. It demystifies the shadowy PPP processes, most of which hide behind confidential negotiations to protect commercial secrecy. There are no public consultations, lots of false promises, and incredibly complex contracts, all designed to protect corporate profits. There is also a fair amount of bribery, as privatisation contracts can be extremely valuable.

PPPs are used to conceal public borrowing, while providing long-term state guarantees for profits to private companies. Private sector corporations must maximise profits if they are to survive. This is often fundamentally incompatible with protecting the environment and ensuring universal access to quality public services.

These privatisation policies are also linked to the new wave of trade negotiations ([TISA](#), [TPP](#), TTIP), which are being agreed behind closed doors and heavily influenced by business interests. These trade deals not only facilitate PPPs but will also lock them in, making it next to impossible to reverse them, regardless of outcomes.

There have been changes in the mix of different forms of health care financing, with higher rates of out-of-pocket payments and a decline in the contribution of public health care expenditure to overall health care expenditure. Multinational health care companies are using a variety of strategies to enter markets around the world.

Reforms promoted by the World Bank, IFC and Regional Development Banks, include marketisation, decentralisation and corporatisation of the public sector, provide opportunities for multinational companies to enter the public health care sector. The increased commercialisation of public health and social care services makes them subject to inclusion in trade treaties, which will open up these services to competition from global services companies.

The World Bank, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the WB group, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have also championed PPPs in education, from a period of promoting 'private sector participation' in education projects, and subsequently becoming the strongest proponents for such partnership arrangements on a global scale.

While the proponents of PPP promote it as a panacea to address lack of resources, equity and quality, there are alternative propositions and excellent examples that do not require relinquishing education as a public good and state responsibility. Innovative domestic resource mobilisation through progressive taxation and other means can address the resource gap in a sustainable manner.

In sectors where PPPs are considered, they must be subject to intense scrutiny and review, follow strict criteria or guidelines, and show real added value versus traditional forms of public procurement. Procurement mechanisms should ensure that the private sector benefits local economies and does not infringe on the right to development by imposing conditions, but instead it supports all aspects of the sustainable development agenda.

There is a public alternative to privatisation, in which national and local governments continue to develop infrastructure by using public finance for investment, and public sector organisations to deliver the service. This provides numerous benefits to the public such as greater flexibility, control, and comparative efficiency – because of reduced transaction costs and contract uncertainty, as well as economies of scale – and the efficiency gains of more democratic accountability.

PSI engages with national unions and with social movements. Our [work on trade](#) has brought new attention to the issue and has provoked a number of serious debates as to the merits of the ongoing negotiations. In the utilities sector, our work has helped provoke a wave of remunicipalisations around the world, most strongly in the [water sector](#). And, our alternative to PPPs, public-public partnerships, based on solidarity and not profit, is having an effect in the development community.

For all the reasons that we have debated here today we therefore call for essential public services that implicate States' duties to guarantee the human rights to water and sanitation, education, and health should be excluded from the promotion of PPPs in this agenda and the re-introduction of safeguards for PPPs – which were included until 12 June in the draft of the Action Agenda.

"We have to make sure that the corporate agenda will not privatize development for its own interests – we need a global partnership that works for the citizens of the world."

Rosa Pavanelli, PSI general secretary

On 1 January 2016, the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) succeeded the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These 17 goals are the new yardsticks for global development efforts for the next 15 years.

There are [17 goals and 169 targets](#). This is yet another opportunity for the Caribbean to further its sustainable development vision. Since the Barbados Programme of Action to the SAMOA Pathway, the peculiarities of and challenges to sustainable development in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including those of the Caribbean, have been emphasised. In recent times, however, the international community has been challenging SIDS and other developing countries to take ownership of their own sustainable development and be more accountable for the progress made in achieving them.

“National governments are expected to mainstream the SDGs in their development plans as well as devise strategies to achieve these goals within their national context and circumstances.”

“Regional and Subregional organizations are also expected to provide support and coordination for regional follow-up and review mechanisms.”

The regional bodies of the UN are key in the process. In the Caribbean, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC), with a sub-regional office in Trinidad & Tobago, has a key role to play as the regional mechanism for monitoring the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

Many countries in the Caribbean are grappling with high levels of public debt and fiscal deficits. This means that financing the SDGs will constitute a major challenge in the coming years. This has implications for achieving the targets.

It is not enough to claim that some goals are not relevant to the Caribbean, when most countries do not even have basic data on poverty or hunger, far less disaggregated data.

### **PSI's views on the process**

PSI, like other GUFs, believes that trade unions play an important role in the process of monitoring the follow-up.

In all our regions we have provided opportunities for affiliates to engage with the UN agencies to build and enhance trade union profiles for further engagement in the processes.

PSI has also initiated collaboration with the UN to involve trade unionists in the various actions and processes.

### **National capacity building**

The UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), is in the processes of organising multi-stakeholder consultations and workshops for national and local policy makers in a number of countries to support dialogue and cooperation between national authorities and relevant stakeholder groups.

The aim is “to foster multi-stakeholder governance and cooperation for accountability and transparency, and support national efforts to strategize future engagement with the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.”

### **Reference**

[Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development](#) – UN General Assembly

[“The Caribbean and the post-2015 development agenda”](#) - ECLAC

**We invite SUBRAC members to reflect deeply on the Post-2015 sustainable development goals and the implications for trade unions, especially those in the public service sector.**

**We also invite committee members to start identifying actions that will prepare them to better engage with development partners and other stakeholders in the achievement of these goals.**

**The following are key to this discussion.**

- **Building alliances and working in a multi-stakeholder environment**
- **The future of Public Services**
- **Membership recruitment and retention**
- **Collective bargaining**
- **The role of young trade union activists**

## Preparing for Congress 2017

- Congress dates and venue
- Timetable leading to Congress
- Constitutional Amendments
- Roles and functions of elected members and other representatives

Congress dates are Tuesday October 31 to Friday November 3, with pre-meetings on Saturday October 28 or Sunday October 29 and Monday October 30.

As we approach the 2017 Congress, we start the process of wide consultation on [PSI's constitution](#).

The [PSI Constitution](#) can only be amended by Congress (article 17), with two-thirds majority of the paid-up membership represented at Congress. The 2012 amendments represent an important re-organisation and clarification of the text, highlighting the core articles of the Constitution and moving the more procedural details to a series of annexes, which can be amended by the Executive Board on the basis of a two-thirds majority.

There will be a presentation on this agenda item.

**We invite SUBRAC to examine and discuss how to make PSI stronger.**

**We invite you to have a constructive debate of the political role of our regions, including the functioning of the SUBRACs and RECs; and NCCs where they exist.**

**We will also outline upcoming Congress deadlines, expectations from the Secretariat and the outcomes from the first Constitution Working Group (CWG) meeting held in November 2015.**