

## **Public Control Workers and the Fight against Corruption**

### *RESOLUTION OF ULATOC AND PSI*

To the attention of the ILO Director General and the Director of ILO Standards Department

Public service workers represented by the global union federation Public Services International and the Latin America Union of Control Workers' Bodies (ULATOC), along with trade unionists from Canada, South Korea, Russia and Spain participating in the forum on fighting corruption on 13 June 2013, organised in the ILO on the occasion of the 102<sup>nd</sup> International Labour Conference, raise the following petition:

Corruption heavily damages not only sustainable economic development in many countries of the world, it is a disease that progressively destroys citizens' trust in public institutions, governments and democracy itself. Corruption and the lack of transparent financial decision-making undermines the quality and efficiency of public services and damage health, education and the quality of life of all in the community.

The current international economic crisis – which mainly affects workers and the poor – has been intensified by poorly-functioning public control mechanisms. In some countries, financial interests have sidelined protection mechanisms, in others - alerts generated by bodies of public control were not heeded. The current crisis demonstrates the indispensable need for efficient public management and control systems to achieve good governance. In order to be able to fulfill their responsibility to prevent and detect corrupt practices, public control bodies must be guaranteed full institutional and budgetary independence.

However, institutions are not 'empty'; it is their employees who carry out their work on a daily basis. It makes no sense to proclaim the independence of the institutions when those who perform their duties may face harassment, bullying, and many other forms of direct and indirect pressure. Like all forms of harassment, the harassment of employees in public control bodies and their representatives is unacceptable. However, harassment is particularly pernicious as it has the effect of repressing the freedom and independence of public control workers to investigate and expose corrupt practices. Employees of public control bodies face daily choices between meeting their obligations to act in the public interest and jeopardizing their jobs in the face of employer pressure.

If we want to effectively and efficiently fight corruption, it is essential that the employees of public control bodies, and their elected representatives and trade unions, enjoy the same protection and independence their institutions need. This is not only to the benefit of workers, it is necessary for the good of society and our democratic institutions.

Therefore, PSI and ULATOC call on the ILO to produce an analysis of this specific challenge which serves as a basis for the development of standards intended to protect and guaranty the independence of employees of the mentioned bodies and to ensure good governance via efficient and high quality institutional public control.



**ULATOC**  
Unión Latinoamericana  
de Trabajadores de los  
Organismos de Control



As established in the ILO Constitution, we aim at promoting decent work for men and women, without being exposed to any violence and having the ability of using our skills and knowledge, contributing to common welfare without any pressure nor influence.

If we really mean to fight corruption, we must ensure that workers can exercise their duties without fear of losing their jobs. We therefore demand “zero tolerance” for harassment of public control workers.