



IAMRECON ENERGY SUMMARY

21/Apr/2015

Unions from 13 different countries were present and held discussions during 1 and a half days.

They established, by common agreement, the following priorities:

Priority no. 1

Work and Union Rights: The attacks against workers and unions are becoming more frequent, as well as intense, in the region. In Mexico, two important unions in the energy sector have been dissolved by military forces in accordance with instructions given by a neoliberal government that benefits privatization. In Paraguay, the government supported the creation of yellow unions to weaken the resistance of the work movement in face of privatization. In El Salvador, union leaders are being attacked and threatened with layoffs.

These attacks are clearly linked with privatization policies, once the fight against privatization is closely related to the defense of work and union rights of all workers.

The outsourcing is another face of privatization and it is equally a threaten to unions. The same way as in other sectors, the outsourced workers have lower wages and suffer with precarious work conditions. What makes the energy sector different is that the number of serious injuries and death at work is significantly higher for the outsourced workers.

Priority. no 2

Energy as a public service: The access to energy is fundamental to our society and it must be considered as a public service of universal access. We must implement policies that are able to confirm this concept and guarantee enough resources - material and monetary – for their implementation, including financial resources.

NEXT STEPS:

- To create a union network with communication mechanisms that are regular and punctual. We must assign people to be in charge of each union and feed the communication and answer urgent demands.

- To seek support from research centers, scholars and institutions aligned with the objectives and priorities highlighted by PSI to prepare analysis material to support our strategies and fights.
- To search for strategies to work together with civil society, creating strategic alliances that are preponderantes in each country.
- To develop mechanisms to access communication media that publicize the opinion and vision of unions and their allies.
- To fight against privatization is a matter of domestic politics and legislation, but it is also part of a global system – pushed forward by the World Bank, regional development banks, ETNs, consulting agencies and other international financial organizations. The presentation of bad experiences in many countries is an important measure to show the danger and fatal consequences involving privatization. To push for the transparency of government actions aiming to boost privatization as well as their relations with private sectors that aim to desarticulate laws in order to favor their own businesses aiming to destroy union organizations and benefit their covets of limitless profit. Provide visibility to the examples of nationalization of Belize, Bolivia and El Salvador.
- To support PSI World Campaign Against Free Trade, against corruption and in favor of tax justice – from the energy sector’s perspective.

A particularity of this sector: The vast majority of workers are going to retire in the next five years. We must influence training and education policies, as well as admission policies to favor women and youth in this sector. We must show national politics that have been formulated in order to do so: Bolivia, Nicaragua, Canadá.