

Draft

Global PSI Local and Regional Government (Municipal) Workers' Network **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Preamble

PSI Local and Regional Government affiliates represent hundreds of thousands of municipal workers worldwide, whose daily work in public water and sanitation, waste management, energy, health and social services, education, public security (police), emergency services (firefighters, medical responders, civil protection), culture services (e.g. libraries, museums, archives), public spaces (e.g. parks) and natural resource management provides the underpinning of just and equitable societies. Our members operate cities and municipalities and are a cornerstone of local socio-economic, inclusive development.

Although local and regional government authorities and unions vary considerably due to the different institutional, constitutional and legal frameworks in which they operate, they share the same challenges: ensuring the full respect of trade union rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining); securing decent working conditions; fighting precarious work, outsourcing and privatization; fostering union growth, recruitment and strength; climate change and disaster risk preparedness and mitigation; halting austerity and unfunded mandates, and identifying viable, adequate municipal resources to reliably deliver quality public services to people and communities. Local and regional government authorities and workers are also the first responders in emergency situations and those who deal with migrants and refugees reaching communities¹.

Acknowledging the good work done by regional municipal sector networks² in contributing to the global process and in a view to confront common challenges together at a global level, we establish the PSI Global Local and Regional Government (Municipal) Workers' Network in compliance with the 2012 Durban Congress Resolution n. 34.

PSI convened the Global PSI Municipal Workers' Network on 19 September 2016 in Brussels, Belgium.

Objectives

Recognising that the ability of the Global PSI Municipal Workers' Network to undertake meaningful activities and achieve objectives depends on the level of resources that members commit, its primary objectives are to:

- Establish a **global sectoral policy forum for PSI municipal affiliates** to explore and agree common priorities, challenges and opportunities with a view to inform PSI's work in the sector.

¹ For a full review of the challenges faced by local and regional government institutions and unions see J. Lethbridge, '[Overview of global megatrends affecting local and regional governments](#)' PSIRU, 2016

² The EPSU Standing Committee on Local and Regional Government in Europe; the CONTRAM in Inter-Americas; the AMALGUN in Africa and the Arab countries.

- Provide PSI's municipal affiliates a **membership-driven, proactive, cross-regional communication platform**, including through electronic means (mailing list, PSI sectoral web page, social media);
- Facilitate opportunities for **union(s)-to-union(s) cooperation and coalitions/working groups on specific objectives** of relevance and interest to some Network members;
- **Share successful initiatives, knowledge and good practices** (e.g. anti-privatization campaigns, growth and recruitment methodologies, trade union right campaigns, etc.);
- Identify, track, research and map **global trends and international actors beyond national and region borders** (e.g. multinational enterprises, international financial institutions, etc.);
- Provide a **united sectoral interface with employer counterparts**;
- **Work with other global trade union federations, international organizations and civil society allies** to promote and advance PSI municipal priorities and interests;
- Support the maintenance of an updated **global sectoral and sub-sectoral database of contacts and membership** information.

Governance

- The Global PSI Municipal Workers' Network is a member-driven, horizontal network. Membership is open to all PSI affiliates in municipal services who wish to start, widen or strengthen their cooperation on specific objectives and activities and play a proactive leading role in the PSI municipal sector. Note that health and social services as well as education support and culture workers have their own global sectoral networks within PSI³, which reinforce the work of the municipal sector. PSI municipal affiliates can join the Network by contacting PSI at municipal@world-psi.org.
- As a member-driven initiative, the work priorities and initiatives of the Global PSI Municipal Workers' Network do not replace but complement PSI strategic work plans approved by the PSI constitutional bodies and regional sectoral activities.
- Network members cooperatively implement identified priorities and communicate with Network members and with the PSI Secretariat on the progress and outcomes of such initiatives.
- The Network can decide to establish ad hoc, goal-oriented union coalitions/working groups - whose members are identified on a voluntary basis - to focus on identified priority issues and joint initiatives for the municipal sector.
- Network members engaged in joint activities and coalitions/working groups are encouraged to communicate via electronic means on a regular basis to follow up on agreed goals. They can decide to meet face to face should such need arise, provided they will bear the cost.

³ The PSI Health and Social Services Task Force and the PSI Education Support and Cultural Workers' Network.

- No additional PSI budget or resources are allocated to the work of the Network. In a view to be cost effective, Network member organizations can propose to host meetings in cooperation with the PSI Secretariat. The Network can also seek for external activity funding when possible, in coordination and with the support of the PSI Secretariat.
- The work of the Network is facilitated, as needed, by the PSI Secretariat (HO, Regional and Sub-regional offices) and together with the EPSU Secretariat in the case of the European region.

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