



PSI REGIONAL SECTORIAL WATER AND SANITATION SUMMIT México DF, April 20-21, 2015

INTRODUCTION

The privatization of water under its' different modalities has constituted for PSI and their allies, an increasing concern. Proof of this is that for years, numerous research and publications on the topic have been conducted, and it has also been subject of countless debates and multiple resolutions in different national and international forums. Within the IAMRECON framework – once again -, unions from this sector, seize the organization of this Summit to make a better reading about the current situation of the public water and sanitation management and at the same time of the privatization threat from a public-private perspective, promoted with the support of the IFI's and the influence of major multinational corporations. In contrast, as a parallel strategy to the commercial neo-liberal approach in this sector, the PSI together with its affiliates and in alliance with the global networks advocates of the human right to water, has been promoting the public-public and public-community partnerships, and supported under the "remunicipalization", initiatives to recover public enterprises, that were privatized in the past. A major challenge constituted in the strategy of the PSI for the defense of water as a human right, is to join forces against the irrational exploitation of the water resources that favor mining megaprojects, agribusiness and hydraulic fracturing for shale gas extraction, known as "fracking". Paired with this, it is worth highlighting that protection of the environment and watersheds, is also an important priority for the unions and their allies. According to the mentioned above and as a consequence of privatization, unions in this sector have become a target of attack due to the vulnerability of labor rights, union freedom and recognition of collective negotiation, as a result of the "labor flexibility" and enlargement of the precarious public employment in this sector. The complaint

against corruption and the rigged management of public-private agreements has been focus of constant harassment to the physical and psychological integrity of union members and their families, in countries such as Guatemala, Colombia and Peru. Our mission is to concentrate all required efforts to consolidate one union platform of continental fight for water, sanitation and the environment. Therefore, our ability to influence and impact on public control topics about the unquestionable and essentially strategic water management, in synergy with other global organizations that support our struggle.

OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives for this Summit are the following:

1. Share experiences about union actions, of social movements and global networks for the human right to water and against privatization and commercialization.
2. Identify best institutional practices in the water and sanitation sector that promote public-public and public-community partnerships, respecting labor and union rights.
3. Identify priority strategic lines to consolidate a platform of continental union fight for the defense of water as a human right and in support to the promotion of public-public, public-community and community-community partnerships.
4. Coordinate a meeting with the governing bodies of the *Confederación de los Trabajadores y las Trabajadoras de Agua, Saneamiento y Ambiente de las Américas*, **CONTAGUAS**

METHODOLOGY

To achieve these objectives, during the first day of the Summit, interventions based on experiences and opinions about specific topics related to work strategies for the human right to water and the respect of labor and union rights, will be conducted in the form of “panels and master class presentations”. These issues will be moderated and commented by union representatives from Latin America and Canada. For the second day, group dynamics will be organized to develop strategic lines in this sector, which will be incorporated to the Inter American Action Plan of PSI 2015-2020. Also, a period of time will be used to hold a meeting with the governing bodies of CONTAGUAS.

PROGRAM

FIRST DAY: Monday, April 20 de

08:30 hrs: Summit Registration (only for those who previously have not done so)

09:00 hrs: **OPENING ACT:**

- Luis Isarra, General Secretary of FENTAP/Peru and Coordinator of CONTAGUAS.

09.30 hrs: Brief presentation of the participants.

10.00 hrs: **PANEL: “Human right to water and respect for labor and union rights”:**

- Oscar Rodriguez, Responsible Regional Water and Sanitation Sector of the PSI

- Margarita Lopez, President of SINTRACUAVALLE/Colombia.

- Carlos Sosa, Secretary General of FFOSE/Uruguay

Moderator: Raul Riquelme, FENATRAOS/Chile and Yolanda Jaguandoy, USE/Colombia

11.00 hrs: **BREAK/COFFEE**

11.30 hrs: **CONFERENCE: “The tensions and contradictions between the State and social actors in the political democratization process and water management in Latin America”.**

- Jose Esteban Castro, Coordinator WATERLAT-GOBACIT

Commentators: Harold Humberto Fernandez, SINTRAMBIENTE/Colombia and Ismael Cortazzo, FFOSE/Uruguay.

13.00 hrs: **LUNCH/MEAL**

14.30 hrs: **CONFERENCE: “Social environmental impacts in the hydraulic fracturing processes in Mexico (FRACKING)”**

- Claudia Campero Arena, *Alianza Mexicana contra el Fracking*.

Commentators: Luis Isarra, FENTAP/Peru and Kelti Cameron, CUPE/Canada.

15:30 hrs: **CONFERENCE:** “The SGBATOS vision in the projection of the *Empresa de Agua y Saneamientos Argentinos S.A., AySA* (Argentinian Water and Sanitation Company) and rights of the workers”

- Jose Luis Lingeri, Secretary General of the *Sindicato Gran Buenos Aires de Trabajadores de Obras Sanitarias* (SGBATOS), Argentina.

Commentators: Margarita Lopez, SINTRACUAVALLE/Colombia and Jose Paulino Martinez, SITRAGUA/Guatemala

16:30 hrs: BREAK/COFFEE

17:00 hrs: PANEL: "Union experiences about combating privatization of water and sanitation".

- Wilfredo Romero, SETA/El Salvador
- Marco Antonio Paucarcaja, FENTAP/Peru
- Pedro Romildo Pereira dos Santos, FNU/Brazil

Moderators: Ruben Segarra, CETE/Ecuador and Roberto Rodas, SINTRACUAVALLE/Guatemala.

18:00 hrs: **FIRST DAY CLOSURE**

SECOND DAY: Tuesday, April 21

09.00 hrs: GROUP DYNAMIC

- Contributions to the Inter American Action Plan 2015-2020:
 - a. Priority lines of work for the Water and Sanitation Sector.
 - b. CONTAGUAS Meeting.

Coordinator:

- Luis Isarra, Secretary General of FENTAP/Peru and CONTAGUAS Coordinator.

11.00 hrs: BREAK/COFFEE

11.30 hrs: CONCLUSIONS

12.30 hrs: ACTIVITY CLOSURE