



**PSI WATER AND SANITATION  
SECTOR REGIONAL MEETING  
Mexico City, 20-21 April, 2015**

**INTRODUCTION**

The privatization of water in its various forms has been a growing concern for PSI and its allies. This is demonstrated through the numerous investigations and publications on this matter, which has been the subject of countless debates and multiple resolutions in different national and international forums.

In the context of IAMRECON, once again, unions in this sector seized the opportunity to better analyze the current situation of water and sanitation public management and, at the same time, the threat posed by privatization, from a public-private perspective, promoted with the support of IFI's and the influence of large multinational corporations.

In contrast, as a parallel strategy to the neoliberal commercial approach in this sector, PSI together with its affiliates and in partnership with global networks defending the human right to water, has been promoting public-public and public-community partnering, sheltered under the "redistricting" recovery efforts of public enterprises, which were privatized in the past.

These efforts constitute a major challenge in PSI's strategy to fight for the protection of water as a human right and are undertaken along with the mobilization of forces against the irrational exploitation of water resources favoring mega mining, agribusiness projects and the hydraulic fracturing projects to extract shale gas, known as "fracking", for its acronym in English.

Other than this, it is worth noting that the environment and watershed protection is also an important priority for unions and their allies. In view of the above and as a result of privatization in this sector, unions have become a target while labor rights, freedom of association and recognition of collective bargaining are weakened, as a result of "labor market flexibility" and the spread of precarious employment in this sector. The complaint against corruption and rigged management of public-private contracts is the cause of constant intimidation to the physical and psychological integrity of trade unionists and their families in countries like Guatemala, Colombia and Peru.

Our mission is to concentrate all efforts to consolidate a continental union platform to fight for water, sanitation and the environment. Thus, our ability to influence and affect public control issues over water management is unquestionable and essentially strategic, as well as it is in synergy with other global organizations that support our struggle.

During the meeting, attending delegates prioritized the definition of strategies to be followed, as well as tools and lines of action to be taken to strengthen their struggle for environmental protection and against the privatization of water and sanitation, in order to safeguard the existing water resources in the countries of the region.

Within the framework of this meeting, PSI and WATERLAT-GOBACIT signed a cooperation agreement valid until 2017 (see attached document). They also set some time on the second day for a CONTAGUAS internal meeting.

### **Strategic lines and priority actions to be taken to the PSI Inter-americas Action Plan 2015-2020, Monday, April 21, 2015.**

#### **I. STRATEGIES:**

Strategy against the privatization and commodification of water resources and water and sanitation public services; TISA confrontation.

Strategic defense of water as a right that is fundamental to life and as a central human right, of universal access to it, safeguarding its public nature and in defense of people's public interest.

Government strategy or advocacy strategy over public policies; defense of labor rights in the public and community sectors in the provision of water and sanitation services.

Confrontational strategy of appropriation and privatization of natural resources NR (water, energy, land, mining, biological, etc.) in various international treaties that threaten the natural base or the ecosystem supply on which the development of societies is based.

Cultural education strategy for the development of information that supports worker's critical awareness training processes on the challenges of environmentally sustainable development.

The strengthening of the trade union movement henceforth the development of the agreement between PSI and WATERLAT.

Inter-sectoral struggle strategy to develop citizen unionism: integration, coordination and joint advocacy with civil society actors in the collective defense of the environment, water, natural resources RN and the fight against privatization.

## **II. TOOLS AND LINES OF ACTION:**

Development of public water management through APP, ACC and APC; experience exchange with social movements and with other sectors in general, from the local to the continental level.

Development of a campaign using media, information technology and ICTs communication to work against the government and private campaigns for water privatization.

Replication, through social networking, of campaigns publicizing programs hasten by CONTAGUAS; development of an agenda for water, energy and environment at regional level.

Address priority issues, despite the threats related to the proposal of alternative solutions, such as when demanding the government to reject polluting sources of energy and opt for the development of alternative sources of energy to minimize the impacts of climate change.

Implementation of capacity training, awareness and environmental conservation programs within trade unions and civil society.

Formulation of a regional inter-union policy containing declarations of the environment, water and sanitation sectors.

Action planning meant to influence politics at governmental level to be implemented by each one of the countries, in order to shed light on the regional inter-union policy and counterpose TISA, FTAs and any initiative to privatize public services and natural resources, of redistricting, etc.

Integration of the labor world with social movements in defense of water in each one of the countries in the region, against its privatization and commercialization; development of knowledge exchange programs around the experiences of each country in the region to strengthen environmental protection actions and promote sanitation and the rational and sustainable use of natural resources.

Consolidation of a continental platform of strategic action to implement exchanges in periods defined by countries, regions and subregions for feedback, support and follow-on actions and policies concerning environmental protection, water and sanitation and the rational and sustainable use of natural resources.

## **III. Concerning the consolidation process of CONTAGUAS:**

To form a team with CONTAGUAS and PSI affiliates, which will meet online in the coming weeks, to discuss arrangements for the next Congress, which will result in a review of their statutes and the incorporation of new members. In this context the delegates of FNU/SINDAE-Brasil suggested Salvador as the host city, and offered to co-sponsor some expenses related to food, lodging and local transportation.