



Utilities

Purpose of brief:

- Inform EB-148 of activities since SC-19;
- Inform EB-148 of activities planned for 2016.

Relates to:

- ✓ Ongoing work in utilities, privatisation, climate, QPS.

Background: Utilities continue to be under the threat of privatisation, but unions have more tools and more allies with which to fight. Water privatisation is largely a municipal decision, whereas energy privatisation is typically national. Re-municipalisation and public-public partnerships in water are increasingly credible tools. Union density in both sectors continues to be high.

Discussion:

Water

The fight in Jakarta, Indonesia, continues. The District Court decision to annul the contract was appealed by the private companies and will be heard by the Supreme Court. PSI and allies will support with a number of *amicus curiae* (friends of the court) briefs explaining the trend of re-municipalisation and addressing other aspects of the case. PSI continues with awareness-raising and mobilisations in support of the legal team. PSI will organise activities in 2016 with the three main water unions involved, in order to prepare them for their role once the utilities are returned to public management – and to encourage greater collaboration. This work will also bring in partners for preparing the transition, including the former CEO of *Eau de Paris*.

The fight in Lagos, Nigeria, is ongoing, and the alliance of union and civil society is strong, both at national and global levels. They have recently created an NGO for women to engage and express women's concerns about privatisation. Further actions in 2016 are expected, and need also to anticipate the role of the various network members in strengthening the public utility once the privatisation threat is overcome. PSI anti-privatisation campaigns only really make sense if the public utility is able to deliver quality services.

The fight in Nagpur, India, continues, and is linked to a national campaign to create "100 Smart Cities" where privatisation is one of the key tools. PSI will accelerate its anti-privatisation work in India, and broaden it to other sectors.

PSI has a watching brief on the potential re-municipalisation in Barcelona, as the private operator, *Aguas de Barcelona - Agbar* (a subsidiary of Suez Environnement) is also present outside of the EU. Agbar's contract has recently been declared void by the Catalan Superior Court. The government of the city is advocating a return to public ownership and management.

UN Habitat's Global Water Operators Partnership Steering Committee meeting affirmed the need to involve more stakeholders in the various partnerships around the world. Our best opportunity to advance this is in Latin America.

PSI supports the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human right to water and sanitation – Leo Heller. We submitted one paper on the gender implications of the rights, with case studies from four countries, and jointly submitted another on the contributions of 'development partners' to the

fulfillment of these rights. Both submissions input to papers being prepared by the Special Rapporteur in 2016 for the UN Human Rights Council.

PSI is investigating the case of water poisoning in Flint, Michigan/USA, as it epitomises many of the current trends: inequality; tax breaks for corporations; austerity policies on public spending; private sector lobbying and influence peddling. So far, PSI has sponsored a short video outlining these connections and drafted two brief reports.

The ILO Director-General Guy Ryder was appointed by Ban Ki-Moon to head UN-Water, an interagency coordinating group. The 2016 World Water Day celebrations were held at the ILO, and PSI spoke in the name of the ILO Workers' Group. The 2016 theme is *Water and Jobs*, and the World Water Development Report has much useful information. Guy Ryder stated clearly the need for Decent Work in the water and sanitation sector.

Energy

In Nigeria, PSI will support attempts to reverse the privatisation imposed by the previous administration. Recent information indicates that, if anything, the amount of electricity available is decreasing and new investments are not materialising. Pressure will continue to be applied on UK's DFID and the World Bank.

PSI was asked to facilitate a PSIRU briefing in the fight against energy privatisation in Indonesia. This campaign needs to be revisited, to provide better support to unions and allies.

Ghana's pending energy privatisation is a problem for PSI, as there is no consensus among the two unions on whether and how to fight.

PSI work with the Trade Unions for Energy Democracy (TUED) continues, with more unions joining, better research and more visibility for the need for public ownership and management of energy utilities, especially if ambitious climate targets are to be met.

PSI's long-term collaboration with Transnational Institute (TNI) resulted in them becoming more active in energy, with a focus on: research and advocacy linked to public ownership and management; decentralised renewable energy generation; energy and trade, and energy and finance. PSI helped guide the outline of this work and will deepen the collaboration, including to link their network of academics with those of some PSI affiliates.

During the COP21 climate summit, PSI delivered an analysis of the leaked energy section of the TISA negotiations which stated that while heads of state were making commitments on climate, their trade negotiators, that very week, in secret negotiations in Geneva, were writing trade rules that would block many of the needed climate policies and regulations.

PSI also hosted a workshop on climate and health, and placed a speaker in the climate side events on energy and on migration, both coordinated by affiliates and allies.

Budget implications: Within budget projections

Next steps:

- Privatisation campaigns continue as indicated above, and PSI is positioned to assist affiliates as needs arise.
- PSI will sponsor research on some of the 'national development partners' (UK's Department for International Development to be ready shortly) to identify their privatisation initiatives and tools.
- Work on re-municipalisation is deepened in water and broadened to other sectors, including with desk research. Specific work on the implications for workers and trade unions is explored.

- PSI will expand the use of the human rights mechanisms to pressure for universal access to water and sanitation.
- Utilities examples and experience will support the work of PSI's global anti-privatisation platform.
- PSI will continue to support Guy Ryder in his work at UN Water.

It is recommended that EB-148:

1. ENDORSE this report.

YES / NO

Related documents:

Jakarta Water

- <http://www.world-psi.org/en/jakarta-water-negotiations-hit-impasse-because-legal-challenge>

Lagos Water

- <http://www.world-psi.org/en/lagos-water-campaign-update>

Nagpur

- <http://www.world-psi.org/en/india-coalition-unites-block-ppp-water-privatization-schemes>

Barcelona Water

- <http://www.world-psi.org/en/suez-trouble-barcelona>

Gender and human right to water

- <http://www.world-psi.org/en/psi-report-gender-equality-and-water>

Development organisation and human right to water

- <http://www.world-psi.org/en/development-cooperation>

UN SDG 6 Water and Sanitation

- <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/>

Flint USA Water

- <http://www.world-psi.org/en/flint-isnt-only-city-austerity-politics-maim-and-kill>

World Water Day

- <http://www.world-psi.org/en/water-and-sanitation-are-human-rights-now>
- <http://www.world-psi.org/en/logos-world-water-day-wwd-2016>

UN World Water Day 2016

- <http://www.world-psi.org/en/video-el-agua-es-nuestra>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFKboJTk15Q>

Nigeria Energy

- <http://www.world-psi.org/en/support-energy-privatisation-nigeria-not-acceptable-0>
- <http://www.world-psi.org/en/video-nigeria-faced-rocketing-electricity-costs-no-electricity-unions-and-public-demand-end>

Ghana Energy

- <http://www.world-psi.org/en/workers-ghana-demonstrate-against-massive-increase-utility-tariffs>

Trade Unions for Energy Democracy

- <http://www.world-psi.org/en/what-energy-democracy-looks>
- <http://unionsforenergydemocracy.org>

Re-municipalisation

- <http://www.world-psi.org/en/remunicipalisation-putting-water-back-public-hands>

PSI Climate COP21

- <http://www.world-psi.org/en/issue/climate-change-towards-and-beyond-cop21>
- <http://www.world-psi.org/en/great-climate-change-swindle>