



CIRCULAR GEN 3 (2013)

To all PSI affiliates

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21 February 2013

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE (ILC)
Geneva, Switzerland, 5-20 June 2013**

Please allow me to provide you with some preliminary information on this year's International Labour Conference. In accordance with the decision taken by the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization, the 102nd Session of the International Labour Conference will open on Wednesday 5th June 2013.

It will be held in Geneva (Switzerland), at the Palais des Nations and ILO headquarters, and will end on Thursday 20th June 2013. Please note that Tuesday 4th June will be devoted to preparatory meetings requiring the attendance of the tripartite members of national delegations to the Conference.

The Conference Guide includes detailed information on the programme for this session together with other relevant items. Please note that the 317th Session of the Governing Body (March 2013) will consider possible changes with a view to improving the functioning of the Conference, for trial implementation at its 102nd Session. Information concerning any decision taken by the Governing Body in this connection will be communicated in due course.

Reports for examination in plenary and in technical committees will be sent to you at least two months before the session, to allow for their distribution and to prepare adequately for the work of the Conference.

The reports will also be accessible electronically, as is the Guide, by visiting the ILO website (www.ilo.org/ilc). We will inform you of these reports as soon as they are published. A full guide to the Conference is available at: http://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/102/WCMS_204345/lang-en/index.htm

For 2013, the Conference agenda includes:

Standing items:

1) Committee on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CAS)

The Committee on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations is set up to deal with this item. It will consider information and reports supplied by governments under articles 19, 22 and 35 of the Constitution on the effect given to Conventions and Recommendations, together with the

Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (ILC.102/III/1A), and submit a report on its work to the Conference.

This is a standing committee of the ILC, which meets every year to examine a list of 25 countries in terms of their application of core and/or ratified Conventions. The final list of countries to be examined is the result of negotiations between the workers' group and the employers' group. The 25 countries are selected from a long list of around 40 cases.

PSI should lobby for the inclusion of its cases to be considered by the Committee at this ILC. In each region, the ITUC will organize a meeting to discuss regional priorities, and PSI has asked expressly for the regional secretaries to be invited to these meetings. In turn, this should be discussed at the SUBREC's and RECs. On 16th April, PSI will attend a meeting at ITUC HQ that brings together the draft lists from each region. We need to get your feedback before that so that we can prepare our own priority list. We will use this list as the basis of priority countries for meetings with government delegations during the ILC.

2) General Survey and follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization

In light of the Governing Body's decision to place a recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of social dialogue on the agenda of the 102nd Session of the Conference, under the follow-up to the 2008 ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, the General Survey of reports submitted to this session under article 19 (ILC.102/III/1B) will deal with the following social dialogue-related Conventions and Recommendations: the Labour Relations (Public Service) Convention, 1978 (No. 151), the Labour Relations (Public Service) Recommendation, 1978 (No. 159), the Collective Bargaining Convention, 1981 (No. 154), and the Collective Bargaining Recommendation, 1981 (No. 163).

The General Survey on C151/C154 has not been distributed yet. As soon as we do receive it, PSI will prepare comments that will be distributed for further suggestions. We want fewer restrictions on collective bargaining in the public sector and we need to address issues such as privatization and outsourcing – which severely impact the working conditions of sub-contractors to the public sector. This material will also be used for campaigning purposes.

Items placed on the 2013 agenda by the Governing Body of the ILO:

- Employment and social protection in the new demographic context (general discussion);
- Sustainable development, decent work and green jobs (general discussion);
- A recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of social dialogue, under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization.

This is particularly topical this year, since the ILC will include a discussion on social dialogue, which will have a strong focus on strengthening labour administration. We want to claim more attention for the interests of public workers at the ILO – by underlining the role of public administrations as employers besides being government representatives.

PSI side meetings during ILC

During the ILC, PSI will organize two side-events: one closed orientation meeting for PSI delegates, and one open side-event. The date and final theme of that side-event will be confirmed shortly.

Protocol

We urge you to contact your national trade union centres and make sure that you are part of your national delegation, so that the public sector will be well represented at this ILC, since issues of interest and relevance for PSI affiliates will be discussed.

Please contact PSI's Equality and Rights Officer, Sandra Vermuyten (rights@world-psi.org), if you will be part of your national delegation! We count on your support and participation, both before and during the conference!

PSI can only register a limited number of delegates to its delegation. Please take note that PSI accredited participants do not have access to the floor of the Assembly Hall in the *Palais des Nations* nor have the right to speak at official sessions of the ILC unless prior special permission has been obtained through the Workers' Group. PSI accredited participants do not have the right to vote in any of the sessions.

We will be in touch shortly with more details. In case of any questions or suggestions, please contact us. We look forward to work with you and prepare for this important meeting.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Rosa Pavanelli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Rosa PAVANELLI
General Secretary