



## **CIRCULAR GEN No 16 (2015)**

To all PSI affiliates  
To PSI World Women's Committee members

File Reference: RP/VM/CHM/UNCSW60  
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27 October 2015

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

### **INFORMATION CIRCULAR #1 on the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) 14-24 March 2016, New York (USA)**

Further to the decision of the last meeting of the PSI World Women's Committee, which took place in May 2015, PSI has engaged in a preparation process working jointly with the Global Unions for the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which will take place at the UN Headquarters, in New York, from 14 to 24 March 2016. The priority theme will be *Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development*.

#### **I. Nomination of candidates to the Civil Society Advisory Groups on behalf of the trade union movement**

##### *Global level:*

- ITUC: **Gladys Bamijiko Branche**, Gender Coordinator of SLLC (ITUC affiliate in Sierra Leone), Chair of the ITUC Women's Committee;
- EI: **Haldis Holst**, Deputy General Secretary, Education International.

##### *Regional level:*

- Latin America: **Juneia Batista**, CUT Brazil, (PSI);
- Asia Pacific: **Lakshmi Vaidhiyanathan**, Regional Secretary for Asia Pacific (PSI);
- Africa: **Marième Sakho Dansokho**, General Secretary of SYPROS (teachers union), Senegal;
- Arab countries: **Sua'd Mohammed Mubarak**, BGFTU, Bahrain.

##### *Other nominations:*

- Caribbean multi-country CSAG: **Jillian Joy Bartlett**, Trinidad and Tobago (PSI).

## II. Global Unions Statement: Organising for Women's Social and Economic Empowerment by 2030

The Statement was prepared jointly with other Global Unions and addressed the following issues:

- One of the main reasons why women join trade unions is to take charge of their own social and economic empowerment by getting organised and bargaining collectively for decent work. 70 million women world-wide are represented in trade unions. Consequently, unions are key stakeholders and actors in ensuring all of the Sustainable Development Goals are met by 2030.
- Essential public services, including water, sanitation, health and education must be excluded from public/private partnerships, blended finance and trade agreements, as such initiatives impact most negatively on women's social rights. Tax justice and progressive taxation models can provide a solid alternative base for the public policies needed to achieve gender equality.

The next circular will focus on some guidelines for lobbying governments at the national level, as well as to influence the agenda and the outcomes of the UNCSW. You will receive more information on the main issues around the economic empowerment of women and about the dates and venues of regional and national meetings prepared by UN Women.

Please keep us informed of your lobbying efforts and the positions that your governments adopt by sending a message to [veronica.montufar@world-psi.org](mailto:veronica.montufar@world-psi.org).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rosa Pavanelli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'R'.

Rosa PAVANELLI  
General Secretary