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**IAMRECON**



**2019**



# PSI Interamerica Regional Activities Report

2015-2019

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## Introduction

This regional activities' report is a summary of Public Services International's (PSI) activities in Interamerica since April 2015, when the 2015-2020 Action Plan was approved during the Interamerican Regional Conference (IAMRECON) in Mexico City.

The situation in the region over the last four years has been extremely unfavourable to progressive movements which have been confronted with the advance of conservative forces in many countries, the retraction of policies that favoured the population in general and with a wave of attacks on human, labour and trade union rights. In spite of this context, our assessment is that our work has progressed as much as possible during the last period. The leadership of the PSI General Secretary, Rosa Pavanelli and the work of all PSI headquarters staff has had a positive impact in the region and helped us to make progress.

It is impossible to include the totality of activities, actions, campaigns and mobilizations carried out over the last four years in all the sub-regions of Interamerica in this report. This regional report highlights the main points.

### **I. Fighting corporate power: for a fair economy**

#### **Introduction**

Many of PSI's regional and global areas of struggle are linked to and provoked by the actions of transnational corporations and their constant pursuit to increase profits at all costs. This includes: the struggle for fiscal justice and for transnational corporations to pay their fair share; the efforts to achieve a UN treaty on business and human rights; and the actions against privatization policies and against trade and investment agreements. Today, corporations transcend even states in terms of influence on global governance.

With this in mind, PSI Interamerica organized an [International Seminar on Corporate Power](#) that took place in August 2018 in Panama. The seminar was supported by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) and was organized during the Inter-American Regional Executive Committee (IAMREC) meeting. The main objective of the activity was to address the mechanisms that strengthen corporate power in a comprehensive way while connecting them to PSI's global policies. Another important goal of the seminar was to deepen our understanding of how transnational corporations capture democracy, manipulate public opinion and seek to control personal data in order to use them in for their interests.

In 2018, we began to work more systematically on the issues of fiscal justice and transnational corporations. The issue of corporate power as a unifying element of many PSI struggles will be one of our priorities in the coming period. This is clear in the 2019-2024 Regional Programme of Action and in the IAMRECON agenda which includes an entire day focused on corporate power. Once again, this day will include support from FES.

The Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA) also works with PSI priority issues – free trade agreements (FTAs), Fiscal Justice, Human Rights and Transnational Corporations - in the [Continental Day for Democracy and Against](#)

[Neoliberalism](#) which makes TUCA a main ally in these struggles from the trade union world. PSI and its affiliates have participated this Continental Day every year.

## **Tax Justice**

Without a doubt the main achievement of the last period was the inclusion of fiscal justice on the union agenda. The best demonstration of this was the [almost 90-day strike in Costa Rica](#) which was promoted by unions affiliated to PSI. The strike was organized against a regressive fiscal reform proposed by the government. This was the first time that a PSI affiliate in the region went on strike over tax reforms. Participation of trade unions in the struggle for tax justice is also growing in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and other countries. However, all of this has not been enough to defeat so many regressive reforms that have emerged all over the region, as has been the case in the United States. The fight continues.

PSI conducted various seminars, workshops and campaigns on tax justice throughout Interamerica at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. Resultantly, affiliates throughout the region have understood the central importance of this struggle to the need to increase resources for public services. Many affiliates have incorporated tax justice into their sectoral and local demands.

**Bellow you will find some of the most relevant undertaken actions:**

- In March 2019, PSI co-organized [two events on international tax justice](#) in Mexico City with ICRICT, Oxfam, LATINDADD and the Latin American Network for Tax Justice (RJFLAC). A meeting with journalists and a seminar focused on the challenges for Mexico due to changes provoked by the digital economy and the opportunity to realize international tax reform.
- In March 2019, Chilean affiliates at the Internal Revenue Service (ANEIICH and AFICH) launched the campaign “[Que no te pasen gato por liebre / Don't let them take you for a ride](#)”, with the aim of rejecting Piñera's tax reform project. This campaign included four illustrative videos, posters, leaflets and banners that were hung on the fronts of Internal Revenue Service offices throughout the country, as well as appearances in the local press.
- One of the highlights of the fight for tax justice has been the focus on the gender issue. Women suffer the most deleterious effects of unfair tax policies and the consequent precariousness of public services. In March 2019, PSI participated in the campaign “[Taxes Improve Women's Lives!](#)” promoted by the Latin American and Caribbean Tax Justice Network, the Global Alliance for Tax Justice, and LATINDADD.
- PSI actively participated in the international campaign “[Making Multinationals Pay Their Share of Tax](#)” at both the regional and global level. This campaign is organized by the Global Alliance for Tax Justice and the Tax Justice Network, both of which PSI is a part. PSI also co-organized initiatives with the Latin American Network for Economic and Social Justice (LATINDADD).

As one of the sustaining organizations of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation (ICRICT), PSI Interamerica has

actively participated in the debates on tax evasion and tax avoidance and on the need to promote changes in tax policies across institutions at the international level.

- In 2018, PSI and LATINDADD co-produced and launched the study [“Tax Fraud in Latin America. How do transnational corporations avoid paying taxes?”](#)
- PSI affiliates in the region participated in marches, stoppages and strikes in several countries against unfair tax reforms, including in Chile, [Colombia](#) and [Costa Rica](#).
- On 5 September 2018, Chilean affiliates held a workshop on [“Tax Education for Trade Union Action”](#) organised by the National PSI Women’s Committee. This seminar integrated a strong gender perspective. The president of the National Association of Internal Tax Auditors (AFIICH) made a critical analysis of President Sebastián Piñera’s so-called counter-reform, which aims to return the national tax system to an integrated model while simultaneously extending benefits to large companies. A week before the seminar, on August 28 - [Chile's Tax Services unions held a national strike](#) in protest of the government project, claiming that, “the reform is regressive and seeks to benefit the richest sector of the population to the detriment of the rest of the country.”
- In July 2018, a [regional seminar on corporate tax evasion](#) was held in São Paulo, Brazil. The seminar was attended by more than forty people, mainly trade union leaders from Brazil and nine other Latin American countries including Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica and Honduras.
- In July 2018, the [Regional Meeting on Tax Justice and Gender](#) was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. This meeting brought together almost 60 trade unionists for two days to discuss and decide how the trade union movement should address the inequalities produced by tax policies in our continent.
- In June 2018 PSI [launched a study showing that tax evasion and avoidance in Peru make it difficult to improve the lives of women and girls in the country](#) as part of the International Public Service Day, which is celebrated on 23 June.
- Also in June 2018, the seminar [“Reducing Inequalities in Paraguay through Tax Justice”](#) was held in Asunción, Paraguay, within the framework of PSI’s joint project with the FES. The purpose of the meeting was to examine the main implications of tax policy in the country and to strengthen the influence of PSI’s National Coordinator in the area of tax policies and the reorientation of public spending of the new government at that time. Part of the conclusions drawn by the trade unionists participating in the event included the following statement: “Tax collection in Paraguay is low in relation to the rest of Latin America and does not correspond to the country’s immense social needs, so courageous reforms are urgently needed to achieve fiscal policies that help reduce entrenched inequality in Paraguay, and the trade union movement must lead this demand.”
- On the occasion of (and in the lead up to) World Public Services Day on June 23 2017, PSI affiliates in several countries in the region carried out actions and organized activities in defense of tax justice as essential to the financing of quality public services.
- In June 2016 trade union and civil society organizations participating in a meeting organized by PSI Interamericas in São Paulo, Brazil, agreed to create a [Latin American trade union network for Tax Justice](#). The debates highlighted the link between the fight for tax justice and social rights, quality public services, combating corruption and income concentration among others.

- In November 2015, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, a [regional meeting was held on Tax Justice](#) and the non-payment of taxes by transnational corporations in the countries in which they operate.

**Unfortunately, the FES project that gives us an important impulse in this fight does not allow the inclusion of the Caribbean, the United States or Canada, which are regions very much needed. With the integration of the project into the IAMREC and now, with the proposal to integrate it into the Conference, we are partially resolving this limitation. However, it would be ideal if the entire Interamerican region could be included in the events promoted by this project.**

## **Public debt**

**The main achievement in this area was the fact that we have started to discuss public debt in an organized way. There is still a lot of work to do.**

- In November 2018, PSI, together with SEIU and other organizations, organized a conference in San Juan entitled “[The Concentration of Multinational Corporate Power and its Impact on Puerto Rico](#)”.
- In July 2018, during the sub-regional meetings, affiliates in the Caribbean held a seminar on debt and sustainable development. Jubilee USA network and Jubilee Caribbean, participated. During the seminar, there were case studies that focused on the impact of the 2017 hurricane season. PSI affiliates also learned more about the on-going work of potential coalition partners. This is part of PSI’s work on [Financing for Development and the 2030 Agenda](#). Affiliates in the Caribbean adopted a joint statement – the [Castries Declaration](#) - on Debt Sustainability and Financing for Development. A task force will be set up to develop a workplan to support affiliates in the region.
- An unfortunate development in the region was the return of Argentina to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) **in September 2016**, with a loan of around 50 billion dollars, in a context in which many countries in the region were freed from the tutelage of that body in recent years. We are concerned about the emergence of a new wave of loans which would mean the return to a disastrous political and financial dependence that has marked the history of many of the nations of Interamerica.
- The main initiative in this area was the holding of the seminar, “[Public debt, a global problem: international experiences and the situation in Puerto Rico](#)”, within the framework of the meeting of the Inter-American Regional Executive Committee (IAMREC), in March 2016 in San Juan, the Puerto Rican capital. The meeting dealt with the causes of the growth of the country’s debt and its consequences, tax increases for specific sectors of the population, especially the working class, and funding cuts for education, health and public services in general.



## Trade and investment agreements

**PSI's participation in the construction of national platforms to fight against MNCs allowed us to build a Latin American regional platform (LA is better without MNCs) at the end of 2018, in which each country is represented by its national equivalent, which plays a fundamental role in this articulation.**

- PSI Chilean affiliates have been protagonists in the Chile is Better Without MNCs Platform including in the [fight against the TPP](#), today called PPT-11. By means of [mobilizations in the streets](#), [letters to the authorities](#) and extensive lobbying work with [members of the government](#) and parliamentarians, it was possible to postpone the approval of this treaty in the country's Parliament for a long time. Unfortunately, while this report was being prepared, the Chamber of Deputies approved the TPP in April 2019, provoking immediate demonstrations of rejection on the part of PSI affiliates. The issue is moving forward to be debated and possibly voted upon in the Senate. The struggle continues.
- In August 2018, PSI (with the support of FES) held a regional seminar in Buenos Aires, Argentina, entitled "[The European Union-Mercosur FTA: Background and Perspectives](#)".
- In December 2017, during the 11<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), in Buenos Aires, Argentina, [PSI actively participated in the parallel activities critical of the WTO](#) where opposition to the central themes of the Conference was articulated among trade unions and civil society organizations, particularly the regulation of the expansion of electronic commerce according to the interests of transnational corporations. On this issue, the Brazilian Network for the Integration of Peoples (REBRIP), of which PSI is a member, joined forces with academics and Internet governance groups. The WTO meeting ended without an agreement.
- Street demonstrations, studies, seminars and [training courses](#) in several countries of the Interamerican region were some of the tools used by PSI and its affiliates to denounce the harms caused by trade and investment agreements between rich countries and Latin American nations. The struggle (supported by FES) focused particularly on the Agreement on Trade in Services (TISA) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), but we also mobilized against the [Canada-EU agreement \(CETA\)](#), the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and the renegotiation of the [North American Free Trade Agreement \(NAFTA\)](#).
- Part of PSI affiliates' actions in Interamerica is due to the impetus given by a regional meeting held in Chile in April 2016, when more than 30 participants from Costa Rica, Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Chile, (among others) [agreed on actions against the TTP and TISA](#).
- A very important achievement was the fact that [Uruguay withdrew from the TISA negotiations in September 2015](#). PSI was the first organization to promote a meeting on the issue in the country in February of the same year. In May, PSI held a meeting between civil society organizations and trade unions from the public and private sectors. The struggle began to grow coming out of these meetings. Uruguay's national trade union federation, PIT-CNT, called for a withdrawal of Uruguay as one of its demands during a one-day national strike on 6 August 2015.
- PSI's work on this issue has had to take into account the weakening of multilateral trade systems, which, despite their problems, are more democratic spaces in which

the Southern countries have greater negotiating power. In the Interamerican region, the regional integration of the 2000's is being replaced by an increase in bilateral treaties between Latin American nations or between countries in the region and rich countries, and also by the strengthening of the Pacific Alliance, a strictly commercial bloc with a neoliberal character.

- For the next period, we will also focus on bilateral investment treaties, which are on the rise in Latin America, the investor-state dispute settlement system (ISDS) and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

## **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

**Despite having been involved in this area, unions still don't believe very much in the practical results. The world has recently been moving in the opposite direction of the principles of the SDGs, in such a way that the possibility of progress on implementation is diminished. But we still continue with this struggle.**

- In April 2019, representatives of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA) and PSI affiliates in the region participated for the third time in the [regional meeting of the Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development](#), which was attended by more than 1,000 representatives of governments, civil society and international organizations. On that occasion, the countries of the region recognized the Forum as an example of coordination and follow-up of Agenda 2030 in the region. In the final message of General Assembly President María Fernanda Espinosa, she stated that, "Moving towards a more prosperous, inclusive and sustainable region requires redistributive fiscal policies, combined with external financing. The COP 25 and the 2019 Climate Summit are opportunities to strengthen the mechanisms agreed to in the Paris Agreement and increase ambition to achieve Agenda 2030".
- At the first Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development, held in April 2017 in Mexico, representatives of TUCA and PSI affiliates stressed the importance of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development to poverty eradication and that [governments and not the private sector finance quality public services based on fair tax policy](#).
- In June of the same year, Jamaica hosted the Caribbean Action 2030: Regional Conference on the Sustainable Development Goals, the largest conference on Sustainable Development in the region. A delegation from the PSI-affiliated Jamaica Civil Service Association (JCSA), which serves on an oversight committee on the implementation of the SDGs, participated in the meeting. The JCSA representative was nominated by the national trade union centre in Jamaica – the Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions (JCTU).

## **Climate change**

**This remains an underdeveloped area for PSI in the region, but there has been progress, most notably in the Caribbean where PSI and its affiliates worked on the issue in accordance with our global policies in this area. Affiliates in Canada, Peru and other countries are also active on this issue. We hope to continue this work and further develop it in the coming period.**



- Since the last 5 years there have been many floods, hurricanes, storms and other emergencies and disasters that have severely affected countries in the Americas. Workers in the local government sectors as well as those working in public emergency services (PES) are working under increasingly challenging and dangerous conditions. PSI's involvement in the development of ILO [guidelines for decent work](#) in Public Emergency Services contribute to the ability of affiliates to provide quality services to the public as well as to ensure their health and safety.
- Caribbean affiliates in Jamaica, Antigua & Barbuda and the Commonwealth of Dominica are involved in the Union to Union project on public services unions' interventions in the implementation of the Nationally Determined Commitments (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. Through the project work, the unions have engaged with governments to ensure that there is a strong public sector focus, recognizing the critical role of public services in adaptation and mitigation efforts. Through the project, affiliates have analyzed the NDCs and are involved in various efforts at the national level to revise the NDCs, build resilience and enhance the ability of public service workers to contribute to national efforts in the face of increasing impact of climate change, promoting a just transition.
- In April 2019, a [working meeting with PSI affiliates, the National Federation of Environmental Workers \(FENATRAMA\) and PSI's sub-regional secretary for the Southern Cone, Nayareth Quevedo](#), was held at the headquarters of the National Association of Tax Employees (ANEF) in Chile. The main objective of the meeting was to begin coordinating a preliminary proposal to be presented in the framework of the work of the social summit parallel to the Conference of the Parties - COP 25 - (Chile COP 25 Group) on climate change, to be held in Santiago in December of this year. The Chile COP 25 Group is made up of diverse social organizations from civil society (among them Chilean PSI affiliate ANEF) and exists to be a reference point for climate action that is open to all organizations that wish to join, that do not belong to the government structure nor to business associations, and whose motivation is to work towards true solutions that defend human rights and the protection of the environment.

## **Pensions**

**The [ILO report on the re-statization of public pension systems](#), which reveals that of the 12 countries that have not yet reversed privatization, 9 are from the Americas makes clear how important this issue is in the region. We have taken some initiatives in this regard, but this is a point on which we need to devote ourselves more deeply.**

- PSI affiliates in Interamerica fought against the modalities of capitalization of public pension fund systems and the loss of pensioner workers' rights that pension reforms would represent during the last period. This struggle was particularly significant in Chile, Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay.
- The Chilean private pension system (known as AFP), which has existed since the 1980s, has resulted in very low pensions for the country's retirees. PSI affiliates organized and actively participated in massive demonstrations which have brought around two million people into the streets in March 2019, October and April 2018, [March 2017](#), [March 2016](#) and [July 2016](#).
- PSI Brazilian affiliates took part in marches and debates on pension reforms promoted first by the Michel Temer government and then by the Jair Bolsonaro

government. Critics of Bolsonaro's proposal (currently passing through the Brazilian Congress) denounce that it would harm the poorest and would lead to the establishment of a model of capitalization of the pension system similar to the failed Chilean model.

- This problem is not limited to the national sphere. It also affects regional and local spheres. One example is the struggle of municipal workers in São Paulo, Brazil, against the reform of the pension system proposed by the Mayor's Office; a project that will mean considerable losses for municipal workers. CONTRAM has followed this issue with attention
- PSI affiliated Paraguayan trade unions mobilized against a national government bill that seeks to modify the country's pension system in that country throughout 2018. The proposal provides for the creation of the Superintendency of Retirement and Pensions, which would result in total control of pension funds, with the power, for example, to promote reforms in the requirements for access to retirement. Although the bill was approved by the Chamber of Deputies, it was frozen by the Senate due to pressure from unions and civil society. In 2019, the new government of Mario Abdo already announced that it will reintroduce the bill.
- In December 2017, [almost one million people marched in Argentina in rejection of the retirement cuts of the Pension Reform](#) that proposed to modify the way in which retirements and pensions are calculated. PSI affiliates were present.
- In November 2016, the Coordinator of the Workers Committee 'No More AFP', of which PSI affiliates take part, presented an alternative proposal to the current individual capitalization system in Chile. The proposal was based on a model of distribution, solidarity and tripartite financing of workers, companies and the State; which relies on generally accepted social security principles that seek to replace the AFP individual capitalization system, considering a transition period.

## **The fight against privatization**

**When we believed that the privatization process in the region was being slowed down, a new wave of privatizations emerged that demands forceful responses by affiliates. Due to the speed of events, PSI does not always manage to articulate sufficient regional and global support for national and local struggles and campaigns. This is an area that needs to be improved.**

**PSI's struggle against privatization cuts across other fundamental struggles of our organization including tax justice, so-called free trade agreements, corporate power, the fight for quality public services and decent work in public service, among others. It also cuts across different sectors of public services including water and energy, municipal services, education, and health among others. During the last four years, this has been true for Interamerica.**

- In Chile on 7 April 2019, approximately 30 health workers' and users' organizations joined the Social Roundtable for the Right to Health for a march demanding that Sebastián Piñera's government stop the privatization agenda. The spokespersons for the Roundtable - including PSI-affiliated health unions such as FENPRUSS and CONFUSAM - stressed that the day constitutes a 'before and an after' in the

organization of a social movement that defends health as a right and is proposing “a universal and supportive social security system”.

- In 2018, trade unions from El Salvador, the Dominican Republic and Ecuador carried out important mobilizations against the privatization of water in these countries.
- The Campaign for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) was implemented during 2017 and 2018 in Argentina. The Federation of Health Professionals of the Argentine Republic (FESPROSA), affiliated to PSI, denounced the fact that the national government and the World Bank, with an extension of the credit granted to Argentina, were seeking “to advance privatization of Argentine public health and that they are blackmailing the provinces to accept”.

More than [3,000 workers and young people demonstrated in the streets of Buenos Aires on December 2017 to demand a single public health system that is free, universal, equal and maintains good quality](#). The march marked the inauguration of the 1<sup>st</sup> National and International Congress of the Movement for the Right to Health (MDS) which was inspired by PSI’s global campaign on the Human Right to Health. The Federación Sindical de Profesionales de la Salud de la República Argentina (FESPROSA), affiliated to PSI, was instrumental in bringing together civil society organizations and activists and establishing the platform as the national expression of the global campaign.

- In December 2018, a sub-regional meeting for [the human right to water and sanitation and against privatization](#) was held in Guatemala City with the assistance of affiliates from Mexico, Central America and the Dominican Republic.
- Energy workers in Brazil are fighting against plans to privatize the state-owned electricity company Eletrobras. On April 16, 2018, the National Day of Struggle against privatizations and in defense of Eletrobras took place. [Mobilizations were led by the PSI affiliate Federação Nacional dos Urbanitários \(FNU\)](#).
- An important highlight in this area were the actions against the commodification and privatization of water and sanitation services. Throughout 2017, for example, PSI was strongly involved in the coordination of the [Alternative World Water Forum \(FAMA\)](#), held in March 2018 in Brasília, Brazil. FAMA was organized by a group of trade union, social, environmental and civil society organizations. The event served as a counterpoint to the World Water Forum, called the Corporate Forum, which was held at the same time and in the same city. [FAMA was launched on September 25 in São Paulo](#), Brazil, with participation of representatives from 14 countries from the American, European and Middle Eastern regions.
- Another highlight in this area was the [collection of signatures against the Irrigation Law launched in December 2017 by the Federation of State Sanitary Works Officials \(FFOSE\)](#), affiliated to PSI in Uruguay. Opponents of the law claim it could result in private control and management of water and the creation of a parallel market for this natural resource. In October 2018, the [more than 300,000 signatures collected which called for a plebiscite on the law were delivered to the Electoral Court of Uruguay](#). Although the number was insufficient, because 700,000 was demanded, the initiative mobilized many organizations and established a dialogue with the general population.
- In 2017, the Union of Municipal Workers (SINDSEP-SP) of the city of São Paulo, the largest Brazilian city, launched the campaign “São Paulo is not for sale” against the plans for privatization and concession of public goods by then-mayor João Doria Jr. The campaign seeks to collect signatures for a bill that would make each privatization the subject of a popular referendum

- In April 2017, the [VIII International Meeting of the WATERLAT-GOBACIT Network](#) was held in San José, Costa Rica. Its central theme was “Water, Power and Impunity: Social Resistance and Emerging Alternatives in the Construction of Egalitarian and Inclusive Water Policies”. PSI affiliate ANEP-Costa Rica, together with the PSI Sub-Regional Office for Central America were part of the working and organizing team for this international meeting.
- In the health sector the struggle in Interamerica was strengthened in part by the momentum of PSI’s global health policy reconstruction and the launch of its [global campaign on the human right to health](#) in December 2016. With the support of UNISON, UK, seminars were organized in the region in five countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico.
- In November 2016, a [National Seminar of the Health Sector](#) was held in Brazil. The partial results of a survey on working conditions in the Amil group and a mapping of its progress in Brazil were presented after its sale to United Health. According to the study there were indications that there was an increase in the volume of health care in the Amil units accompanied by a decrease in the number of workers and in the salary paid to new hires.
- Peruvian PSI affiliate FENTAP (National Federation of Water and Sewerage Workers of Peru), has led [the fight against the threats of privatization of public water and sanitation](#) companies including Sedapal (Servicio de Agua Potable y Alcantarillado de Lima).
- In December 2015, US affiliate the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) hosted the [PSI Leadership Meeting on Privatization](#). The meeting brought together PSI union leaders from all regions, as well as PSI General Secretary Rosa Pavanelli and PSI President Dave Prentis. AFSCME President Lee Saunders co-chaired the deliberations.
- During the review period some Caribbean governments have been promoting the privatization of health services, for example Saint Lucia. In Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago, there is the threat of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the water and sewerage sectors. In Bermuda, there is a PPP in the construction of a new airport. The regional development bank is also promoting the use of PPPs in the construction of roads and other infrastructure. PSI affiliates in these countries are mobilizing against these measures.

## **The future of work that we want**

**Although this theme has been highlighted by the ILO as central to this period, we have much work to do on the question of the future of work in the public sector and indicate more clearly what work we want for the future. This is an objective that we must pursue in the years to come.**

- The main activity in which this topic was debated was the [Regional Conference “The future of work and ending violence and harassment in public services” which took place in Santiago de Chile](#) in November 2018. The conference brought together more than 90 trade unionists from Latin America, Canada and the Caribbean to discuss trade union challenges for the upcoming debates on the future of work, the role of public services integrating a critical gender perspective, the impact of technology in the world of work and the ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work.

- A month earlier, in October 2018, [PSI representatives participated in the 19th ILO Regional Meeting in Panama City](#) where they made it clear that the ILO Director-General's report "Preparing the future of the work we want in the Americas through social dialogue" does not specifically address the role of public services, guaranteed by States, in solving the world's serious problems that deepen inequalities and impede social justice.
- In 2017, PSI organized a discussion with affiliates and representatives from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on the future of work in public services in the Caribbean. Governments in the Caribbean have endorsed a [Caribbean Charter for Public Services](#). PSI's Caribbean affiliates are monitoring the implementation of this Charter in the various countries of the Caribbean. In addition, the sub-region has established a working relationship with the Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD), the author of the Charter. There are various efforts to reform (transform) public services in the Caribbean. PSI affiliates have consistently engaged with governments on the reform programmes, seeking to ensure that public services remain in public hands.

## **II. Respect and dignity for all**

### **Gender**

**The main achievement in this area was the mainstreaming of the struggle, as described below. It is a truly important advance that will be consolidated in the long term. Another point we must highlight is the growth of feminist struggles in the region including international strikes. PSI has closely followed this development**

- In line with PSI's global policy, gender has been a cross-cutting issue in the most diverse areas of our organization's work over the last four years. Thus, issues such as fiscal justice (see *Fiscal Justice*), FTAs, the future of work (see *The future of work and the work we want*) or privatizations have been discussed considering the effects on women's private and working lives.
- During the June, July, September and November 2017, the countries of the Southern Cone (Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay) carried out gender workshops within the framework of the IMPACT project entitled, "How to advance in confronting and preventing workplace violence with a gender perspective in public services". In September of the same year, more than 80 women workers from Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Paraguay gathered in Asunción, Paraguay, for the [PSI Women's Meeting of the Southern Cone and Brazil](#). On that occasion they discussed tools to address gender-based violence in public sector workplaces in these countries and the struggle for a new ILO convention.
- On 18 September 2017, Chilean affiliate National Association of Tax Employees (ANEF) [represented their country at the launch of the UN-sponsored International Equal Pay Coalition \(EPIC\)](#), part of Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development. In Canada, [this struggle is carried out by local PSI affiliates, including the Canadian Union of Public Employees \(CUPE\)](#).
- In Ecuador, during a meeting in September 2017, 40 delegates from PSI-affiliated public sector unions and other unions in the country again set up the [National](#)



[Women's Committee](#), after several years of inactivity due to a hostile context of loss of rights that prevented progress on other fundamental elements.

- One of the priority issues in the region was the fight against gender-based violence in the workplace. As part of the commemoration of the International Day of Non-Violence against Women on November 25, 2016, the PSI Women's Committee in Chile developed a forum/panel discussion on the subject, the highlight of which was the [official launch](#) of the website [www.prevencion-acosolaboral.cl](http://www.prevencion-acosolaboral.cl), “one more step towards facilitating denunciations of abuses in the workplace”. The initiative also benefited from the joint work of PSI Women's Committees in the Southern Cone and Brazil.
- In March 2016, [PSI Brazil launched a brochure](#) on the subject with the support of 19 PSI affiliates. The content of the document – available in [Portuguese](#), [Spanish](#) and [English](#) – is the result of discussions among PSI affiliates in Brazil within the framework of the project “Strengthening PSI Gender Policy with an Emphasis on Violence against at work in Brazil and the South Cone” sponsored by IMPACT, a trade union of public service workers in Ireland. The brochure also received financial support from the AFL-CIO Solidarity Center, a U.S. organization that promotes labor rights in several countries.
- Throughout the Caribbean sub-region, affiliates have joined in and mounted their own campaigns against gender-based violence. This issue is a top priority of the National Union of Government & Federated Workers of Trinidad & Tobago (NUGFW). In addition to its awareness-raising campaigns, the union is working with allies and partners at the national and regional levels to promote changes in national policy.

**Over the past four years, representatives of PSI and its affiliates in Interamerica have been part of delegations to meetings of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) and discussions on the proposal for an ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work.**

## **Young workers**

**The policy of strengthening young workers' participation is expanding rapidly in the region. The DGB project has allowed young workers to meet prior to the SUBRACs, to organize their ideas and make their proposals to each of the sub-regions, integrating all the unions in the policies defined by the young people themselves. This has multiplied the participation of young people in sub-regional committees. The DGB project has also made it possible to hold the annual meetings of the Regional Young Workers' Committee to plan actions in Latin America and the Caribbean. We continue to seek the integration of Canada and the United States.**

- Young workers from PSI Interamerica were increasingly active in the last period. They carried out many activities, actions, mobilizations and meetings, at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. In these activities, they debated and received training on many issues including tax justice, trade agreements, privatization of public services, remunicipalization of public services, young workers' policy in trade unions, the future of work, precariousness of work for young people, the Sustainable Development Objectives, information technologies

and social communication tools, fighting corruption, and combating harassment and workplace violence, among others.

- In December 2018, PSI's Subregional Youth Committee for Mexico, Central America and the Dominican Republic launched a trade union campaign called "[I join for equality](#)".
- In November 2018, about 30 young workers from the region - Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay - gathered in Santiago de Chile to discuss "[The future of work that we want: The voice of young people and different views from Latin America](#)". The activity, "Young people from the Southern Cone" was financed by the FÓRSA project and focused on new forms of work organization and the reconfiguration of increasingly atypical labor relations (temporary employment, triangular employment, ambiguous relations and part-time work), and the challenge for young workers in the union movement given different realities including low income security.
- In May 2018, young people from the Southern Cone and Brazil joined LGBTI workers and representatives of the Committee to Combat Racism and Xenophobia at the meeting of the regional project "[Strengthening Trade Unions in Latin America - Combating Inequality](#)", whose purpose is for unions to be increasingly able to present and impose union-political demands for inclusion and equality, the creation of decent work and equal opportunities for these groups.
- In April 2018, the PSI Youth Collective in Ecuador presented the results of the research "[Whose water is Manta?](#)", which analyzes the situation of the public water service in Manta in the context of the strategic alliance between the Public Water Company of Manta (EPAM) and the private company Veolia, a public-private alliance. The group also produced a [video with the main findings of the study](#).
- In August 2017, PSI, together with the Paraguayan Youth Committee, organized the [Latin American Youth Forum](#) within the framework of the Union to Union/PSI project. The meeting, which was attended by international guests from committees in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica and Uruguay, allowed attendees to address the main areas of PSI's work with a view to PSI World Congress to be held between October/November of the same year.
- In Santiago, Chile, on 16 and 17 March 2017, PSI held its first [Pilot Trade Union School](#) financed by Union to Union. The initiative brought together young workers representatives from the Andean sub-region; Brazil; Central America, Mexico and the Dominican Republic; and the Southern Cone to discuss PSI policies, including PSI's campaign strategies in defense of quality public services; the policies of international trade union movement organizations in Latin America and Sweden; and ways to develop trade union leadership skills.
- Between 31 October and 4 November 2016, more than 20 young trade unionists from all over Brazil met in São Paulo to attend two PSI seminars: one on [tax justice and the other on the remunicipalization of public services](#). After the closing of the meeting, in the context of the Continental Day for Democracy and against Neoliberalism, [young workers distributed leaflets in the streets](#) warning about the non-payment of taxes by transnationals, about the threat that they present to public services and about the dangers of free trade agreements such as the TISA and the TPP for these same services.

## **Combating racism, xenophobia and the defense of indigenous peoples**

**With the support of the DGB project, we were able to reorganize and follow up the Committee to Combat Racism, Xenophobia. A highlight was the real integration of the native / indigenous peoples to this committee, with representatives from the Southern Cone and Andean Countries.**

- In October 2016, Jucélia Vargas, General Secretary of the Confederation of Municipal Public Service Workers (Confetam/CUT) [urged the Brazilian government to implement inter-American conventions A-68 and A-69](#). The complaint was made during a hearing in the Human Rights Commission of the Brazilian Senate.
- In August 2015, the meeting of the [Regional Committee to Combat Racism and Xenophobia](#) was held in São Paulo, Brazil. This meeting was supported by the AFL-CIO Solidarity Center and had the collaboration of the Inter-American Trade Union Institute for Racial Equality (INSPIR). INSPIR was also celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary by holding its [Continental Conference on Combating Racism in the World of Work](#), in which PSI trade union representatives participated. The objective of the PSI Regional Committee meeting was to broaden the struggle for the signature and ratification of Inter-American Conventions A-68 and A-69 in the countries of the Americas and the Caribbean.
- At the initiative of the representation of the Committee to Combat Racism and Xenophobia in Colombia, several proposals and participations in the UN International Decade for People of African Descent have been elaborated, making this committee the most active in the region.

## **LGTBI+ workers**

**The Regional LGBTI Committee continued its work with support from the DGB project. The committee denounced setbacks in equal opportunity policies in the region and emphasized the proposals and speeches of the homophobic president of Brazil.**

- In November 2016, the [meeting of the Regional LGBT Committee of PSI Interamerica](#) took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Participants from Brazil, Argentina and Colombia, as well as the Netherlands, lamented the frequent attacks on LGBT rights in the region, especially in Argentina and Brazil. An advance in rights and visibility of the LGBT movement was identified in Colombia.
- A day earlier, during the PSI LGBTI Committee meeting in Brazil, two digital pamphlets were launched: “Public policies for LGBTI in Latin America” (in [Spanish](#), [English](#) and [Portuguese](#)) and “Rights conquered by LGBTI workers in Latin America” (in [Spanish](#), [English](#) and [Portuguese](#)).
- In October 2014, PSI participated in the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) World Conference, held in Mexico, and organized a pre-meeting of PSI’s Interamerican LGBT Committee. On that occasion, PSI Interamerica signed a regional collaboration agreement with ILGA.

## **Workers with disabilities**

Although PSI does not yet have a regional working group active in this area, we have been invited by the ILO to participate in regional seminars on the subject. We believe that the organization of discussions in this area should be PSI's next step. There are already some local trade union initiatives and based on this we can hold meetings to exchange experiences and develop policies.

## **III. Organizing and Growth**

### **Union and workers' rights**

This is the area where more negative impacts on our struggles and organizations have been experienced due to the conservative wave in the region during the last period. Countless attacks have been made on our organizations in different countries. However, the capacity for resistance has grown in many places which allows us to foresee significant struggles for the next period. One of the highlights in this area was the consolidation of the joint work between PSI and TUCA in making the decisions on determining which countries will be presented to the ILO as violators of trade union rights. PSI the only global federation actively participating in this process, a fact that has ensured that attacks on public sector workers are made visible throughout the trade union movement and globally.

- There have been many attacks on trade union and labor rights in our region in recent years, particularly in Guatemala, Ecuador, Brazil and the United States. In the face of these attacks, the trade union movement in the region, with the strong participation of PSI affiliates, has demonstrated a great capacity for struggle and resistance.
- In Guatemala, PSI affiliates and the broader trade union movement continue to denounce the national government for systematically violating trade union rights including freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining. Trade unionists continue to denounce impunity in cases of threats, violence and even assassinations of union leaders.
- In January 2019, two leaders of the PSI-affiliated Guatemalan National Union of Health Workers (SNTSG) [were unjustly detained for 12 days for having negotiated and signed a collective agreement between the union and the authorities of the Ministry of Health in 2013](#). According to the Attorney General's Office that was investigating corruption in Guatemala, the alleged crime of General Secretary Luis Alpírez Guzmán and Organizing Secretary Dora Regina Ruano was embezzlement of millions from the Ministry of Health. Both have been accused of "abuse of authority". A strong campaign promoted by PSI and its affiliates in several countries denounced this attack on trade union rights which contributed to their release. A solidarity fund was created and with the support of our affiliates in Canada, resources were raised for lawyers' fees.
- In December 2018, trade union centers and federations joined with PSI's sub-regional office for Brazil to [file a complaint against Brazil before the International Labour Organization for non-compliance with ILO Convention 151](#), which guarantees, among other things, the right to collective bargaining in the public

sector. According to those filing the complaint, despite Brazil's National Congress having ratified 151 in 2010, this norm has been systematically violated.

- In a [letter sent to the ILO Governing Body](#) on 5 November 2018, Global Union Federations including PSI urged the organization “to maintain all necessary pressure on the Guatemalan government in respect of its chronic and systematic failure to fulfil its obligations with respect to the guarantee of fundamental rights at work, especially those contained in ILO Conventions 87 and 98”.
- In November 2018, [after 27 days of occupation of the antechamber of the Supreme Court of Justice](#), members of the PSI-affiliated Union of Judicial Officials of Paraguay (SIFJUPAR) were able to get the highest court to go back on its decision to discount the salaries of officials who participated in an April strike.
- In June 2018, the eruption of the Fuego volcano in Guatemala killed more than 100 people including three members of our affiliate SNTSG, left many injured, destroyed villages and roads and severely impacted public services such as water supply and health care. [PSI affiliates in Central America acted immediately](#). Workers gave their support either at ground zero or elsewhere, and many union headquarters even became collection centers.
- In the United States, corporate interests in June 2018 when a [decision by the U.S. Supreme Court \(Janus vs. AFSCME\)](#) determined that public sector employees are not required to pay “agency fees” to cover the collective bargaining costs of the unions representing them, even if the employees are not union members. The decision was considered a major assault on labor and part of a broader campaign against public sector unions that seeks to undermine their financial and institutional structure. Prior to this decision, [PSI and its affiliates were very active in attempts to prevent it](#)
- In February 2018, the [National Tripartite Commission on Labour Relations and Freedom of Association](#) which is made up of representatives of employers, workers and the government, was installed in Guatemala. PSI has played a vital role in this achievement of the Guatemalan trade union movement. The installation of the commission was the result of a Tripartite Agreement reached on 6 November 2017 at ILO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
- In September 2017, the Brazilian Congress unanimously approved a bill to regulate collective bargaining in the public sector, a consequence of many years of PSI work with affiliates in Brazil and the rest of the region. However, the bill was vetoed by then-President Michel Temer, and this [veto was upheld by Congress in April 2018](#), representing a clear violation of ILO Convention 151.
- From June 17 to 23, 2017, [PSI General Secretary Rosa Pavanelli visited Ecuador](#) where she met with public sector labor organizations, both affiliated and fraternal to PSI. Pavanelli defended that the support provided by international labor law to Ecuadorian public sector workers should be applied to allow the restitution of rights. Once again, PSI has presented its proposals to the different bodies of the Ecuadorian State both at the legal level and at the level of a permanent, inclusive and binding institutional framework for social dialogue in the workplace.
- PSI affiliates joined and promoted various mobilizations and actions against the loss of trade union and labor rights. Significant marches and protests took place in [Argentina](#), [Brazil](#) and [Chile](#). In Brazil, PSI affiliates joined the April 2017 General Strike that the Central Unica dos Trabalhadores (CUT) considered the [largest in the country's history](#), with the participation of approximately 35 million people. In March 2016, the Colombia Chapter of the Global Union Federations, FSI's, made up of BWI, IndustriAll, PSI, ITF, UNI and IUF, [joined the National Strike](#) called by



the Joint National Command and the Great Convergence of Social and Political Organizations against the government's economic and social policies, against the privatization of public services and a regressive tax reform.

- In Ecuador, PSI, its affiliates and allied organizations have worked hard in recent years to denounce attacks on trade union rights in public service. In February 2017, [PSI in Ecuador and the National Union of Educators \(UNE\) released a video](#) explaining how in the last decade Ecuadorian unions have become a bad word, with a state apparatus dedicated to destroying them, a reality that facilitates the occurrence of irregularities, such as corruption, privatization and looting of resources.
- In Colombia, PSI and its affiliates have been important actors in the construction of the demands of state workers at the national and territorial levels, and by entity or branch of activity. Colombia PSI and its affiliates have also been active in the [mobilizations to demand compliance with labor agreements in the public sector](#). Our organizations have participated in the various [National State Meetings](#) held in the last period.
- In the last period, PSI dealt with trade union rights in many seminars and training courses held in the region. In November 2016, PSI organized an [international seminar on collective bargaining in the public sector](#) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In September of the same year, PSI affiliates in Paraguay promoted the seminar "[Decent Work = Quality Public Services](#)" in the capital Asunción.
- Between 28 August and 1 September 2016, [PSI undertook a visit to Guatemala](#), led by General Secretary Rosa Pavanelli, with the aim of in-situ verification of progress on the [Roadmap agreed to with the ILO in 2013](#).
- In Brazil, attacks against the trade union movement intensified after the deposition of former President Dilma Rousseff in 2016. The biggest blow was the 2017 labour reform which took away workers' rights and undermined union funding sources resulting in a huge loss of resources for unions.
- During the last period, as in previous years, PSI and its affiliates acted firmly in cases of natural disasters around the world. On the one hand, by offering its solidarity and carrying out campaigns to collect food for those affected, but also by using its [solidarity fund](#) through which financial resources are raised that can mitigate material and personal damages. On the other hand, by carrying out its global policy on disasters and emergencies, through which our organization politically influences the processes of resilience and reconstruction, focusing on the strengthening of trade unions and the struggle of public emergency and essential services workers who are often affected by these events.
- In the Americas, one of the subregions most affected by disasters was the Caribbean which suffered human and material losses due to hurricanes, particularly Hurricanes Irma, [Maria and Jose](#) in 2017, which also hit the United States, and Hurricane Matthew, which caused great devastation in Haiti. With respect to the first three, [PSI affiliates in the sub-region worked directly in disaster management](#) as firefighters, paramedics, health care workers and local government workers, and then subsequently in rehabilitation and reconstruction. Globally, PSI launched a solidarity call. With regard to Hurricane Matthew, PSI also appealed to affiliates to donate to the fund, which was used to provide immediate help and assistance to members of PSI affiliated CTSP who operates in the affected villages and who was also part of the initial response team in the affected areas with members who are electricians, nurses and doctors.

- In April 2016, the north central coast of Ecuador was hit by an earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale. Through its world headquarters, PSI immediately [appealed for international solidarity of its affiliates to have a fund to support Ecuador](#), which has been used since 2016. Nationally, PSI and its affiliates organized a first level of material solidarity, and secondly, medical brigades were organized by PSI-affiliated Ecuadorian Medical Federation and Pichincha Medical College. Subsequently, after the impact of the tragedy had passed, work focused on the organizational level of emergency workers, particularly firefighters. At the same time, [PSI decided to concentrate its work in the canton of Pedernales](#), the epicenter of the earthquake.

## **Education**

**While in the past PSI projects focused on training and education, today they are more focused on organizing for struggle. Thus, we do trainings on those global issues where PSI has a great deal of knowledge and potential for action. We seek to make the connections between local struggles and international politics, so that the reality is better understood. We continue with training initiatives including:**

- In 2017, PSI promoted two virtual courses through agreements with university institutions. One of them was with the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente (ITESO), in Guadalajara, Mexico, to conduct, with the support of WATERLAT/GOBACIT, a virtual postgraduate course for union leaders of public water companies in Latin America. The other, with the Universidad Nacional Tres de Febrero, in Argentina, for a [Virtual Diploma in Public Management](#).
- An April 2016 initiative of the PSI Youth Committee in Colombia was the creation of a [Distance Education Training School for young trade unionists](#), whose objective was to “bring young workers closer and train them in the different scenarios that PSI affiliates offer them, in order to value and make visible their important contributions of their work for development and the economy of our countries”.
- In 2015, the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA), the Bureau for Workers’ Activities of the International Labour Organization (ACTRAV ILO) and PSI held the course “Promotion of Trade Union Freedom and Collective Bargaining in the Public Sector in Latin America”, which was attended by 139 trade union leaders and advisers from 16 countries. Following the online phase of the course, a sequence of national face-to-face activities took place in Brazil, Colombia, Chile and Paraguay and culminated in a Regional Bipartite Seminar with the participation of trade unions and governments in Buenos Aires on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2015.

## **Sectoral work**

**In the last period we helped to organize sectors and struggles, giving continuity to the organization of the ten sectors that had already existed in the previous period. However, we observed the need to homogenize the organizational structures derived from these sectoral struggles, and to establish greater harmony with PSI’s principles and constitution. These are the highlights from the last four years.**

- In September 2017, more than 60 women trade unionists from the PSI municipal sector gathered in Asunción, Paraguay, for the [Meeting of Municipal Women Workers from the Southern Cone and Brazil](#). Leaders from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay debated the labour and trade union reality of woman workers in the sector and discussed union strategies to make the role of women in municipalities more visible from a labour and trade union perspective.
- In September 2017, the [Third Regional Meeting of the PSI Central Administration Group was held in Panama City](#). The activity took place within the framework of the FENASEP Congress and its 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary. A delegation from 11 Latin American countries participated.
- The [PSI Latin American Electrical Sector Workers'](#) Meeting was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from the 31<sup>st</sup> of July to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2017.
- In July 2017, PSI held the [First Meeting of Workers in the Waste Sector of Latin America](#) in Bogotá, Colombia. Trade union representatives from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia, Mexico, Paraguay, Nicaragua and Guatemala shared good practices and discussed the sector's challenges from social, labour and ecological perspectives.
- In a June 2017 public debate at the International Labour Conference (ILC), a delegation from the PSI-affiliated Confederation of Municipal Workers of Argentina (CTM) [shared the struggle that culminated in the passage of Provincial Law 14.656 on Labour Relations and Collective Bargaining](#) in the province of Buenos Aires, known as the "Law of Parity", and the problems with its implementation. The meeting included more than 60 ILC delegates from Latin America, Africa, Asia, Europe and Arab countries.
- In April 2017, the Meeting of Municipal Workers of Colombia was held in Medellín, Colombia, on which occasion the [National Network of Local and Regional/Municipal Government Workers](#) was constituted. Around 40 leaders shared successful collective bargaining experiences, identified strategies and actions to be developed jointly and integrated the priorities of the PSI Global Network of Local and Regional/Municipal Government Workers and its corresponding Charter.
- In April 2017, the Meeting of the Latin American Confederation of Judicial Workers (CLTPJ) was held in Loncura, Chile. It was organized by the National Association of Judicial Employees of Chile (ANEJUD) and attended by PSI. For three days, trade unionists from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela debated problems and different realities, determined concrete actions to improve the impact of this sector on government policies, and the challenge of continuing to strive for better working and living conditions for judicial workers in the region.
- On February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the Government of Mexico City promulgated its first Constitution. The Union of Mexico City Government Workers (SUTGCDMX), affiliated to PSI and a member of PSI's Global Network of Local and Regional Government Workers, has been an essential actor and has given great impetus to the movement that led to the creation of the Mexico City Constituent Assembly and [resulted in the incorporation of important advances in favor of workers in the federal capital and the public and municipal trade union movement into the final text](#).

- In November 2016, the First Congress of the Confederation of Legislative Workers of the Americas and the Caribbean (CONTLAC) was held. The objective of the meeting was to consolidate CONTLAC, an organization linked to PSI.
- As part of the commemoration of World Water Day, hundreds of workers from the sector gathered in Buenos Aires on 22 March 2016, where they [defended water as a human right and stressed the importance of public services to guarantee that human right](#). This commemoration was organised by the Confederation of Water, Sanitation and Environment Workers of the Americas (CONTAGUAS) and the Sindicato Gran Buenos Aires de Trabajadores de Obras Sanitarias (SGBATOS) and was attended by PSI General Secretary Rosa Pavanelli.
- In the context of the PSI Interamerican Confederation of Municipal Workers (CONTRAM), we worked to advance articulations with mayors in the region. Unfortunately, this work did not produced results. We continue to develop activities including planning struggles and specific actions with the support of YOUNION, the Austrian municipal workers union.