

2.7 Local and Regional Government (LRG)/Municipal Sector

Purpose of brief: To report on main developments and actions in the sector since EB-166 and to inform affiliates about forthcoming PSI LRG developments, priorities, and actions.

Relates to: PoA Section 6. Fighting Privatisation and promoting QPS and Section 7.3 Making Sectors Stronger – LRG, PoA 2022-2028 [PSI Programme of Action 2023-2028: “People Over Profit in a World of Multiple Crises”](#); [PSI LRG Network Action Plan 2022-2028 “Building the Future of Local Public Services”](#) and its [Summary](#).

Background: PSI works towards building a cohesive global identity, visibility and strength for the LRG/Municipal sector. It aims to: address challenges identified and shared by LRG/Municipal affiliates worldwide; influence relevant global policy and build dialogue with LRG/Municipal employers; and develop specific LRG/Municipal research and advocacy. PSI supports LRG/Municipal trade union regional and global union networks and advances dialogue with relevant international agencies and allies. PSI convenes an online bi-annual PSI Global LRG/Municipal Network – the cross-regional policy forum for all PSI affiliates representing LRG/municipal workers – to share challenges, advance common priorities, build capacity and enable joint actions.

Discussion:

1. Global LRG/Municipal sector building and policy development

On 08/10/2025, PSI will hold the [10th PSI LRG Global Workers’ Network](#) in a single session for all PSI regions ([EN](#), [FR](#), [ES](#)). At the AFREC, convened before [AFRECON \(11-14/11/2025 Accra, Ghana\)](#) that will be held in Accra, Ghana, unions will deliberate on a proposal around the governance and operations of all sectoral networks in the region, including that of the LRG sector AMALGUN (African Municipal and Local Government Union Network). This will determine the ongoing functions of all sectoral regional networks going forward.

2. Social dialogue and pro-union advocacy with LRG employers

PSI-Inter-America/CONTRAM-FLACMA: on 27/05/2025, PSI signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MoU) with the [Latin American Federation of Cities, Municipalities and Local Government Associations \(FLACMA\)](#). FLACMA represents the regional section of the worldwide LRG network United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). The MoU will provide a more structured way to develop joint collaboration and social dialogue to strengthen the human and labour rights of LRG workers in the Latin American region.

This process follows the [8th PSI LRG Global Workers’ Network](#)’s decision that LRG affiliates from Latin America would again approach the [Latin American Federation of Cities, Municipalities and Local Government Associations \(FLACMA\)](#) to open social dialogue with LRG employers of the region and a [meeting that Rebeca Cespedes Alvarado had with the FLACMA leadership](#) on the occasion of the annual UCLG strategic [retreat](#) in February 2025. On 22/09/2025, the FLACMA ED addressed the Central America SUBRAC, confirming the commitment to advance on dialogue and cooperation with PSI Inter-America and proposing to hold a first meeting among FLACMA, CONTRAM and other PSI municipal unions.

PSI-UCLG Global Dialogue: on 23/05/2025, PSI General Secretary (GS) Daniel Bertossa met UCLG GS Emilia Saiz to discuss the relationship and cooperation between the two organisations and to establish of a social global dialogue agreement. A first proposal was informally exchanged between the International Secretariats of the two organisations on 25/09/2025 for the early identification of any caveats and will be consulted with LRG affiliates during the [10th PSI LRG Global Workers’ Network](#).

3. Influencing Global Policy and International Standards

UN HLPF-SDG8 localisation: on 16/07/2025, PSI and UCLG launched their joint paper "[Challenges and opportunities for LRGs in the localization of SDG 8](#)" on the localisation of SDG8 'Decent Work and Economic Growth' at the [UN's High Level Policy Forum 2025 at the UN headquarters in New York \(USA\)](#). The paper underscores the essential role of LRGs in driving sustainable growth and decent work creation in their territories; asserts their role and responsibilities as employers of local public service staff and their agency through social value procurement practices; and ultimately shows how SDG8 can be best fulfilled when LRGs enter into social dialogue and collective bargaining with trade unions. It contains key messages accompanied by examples provided by PSI affiliates via a survey ([EN](#), [FR](#), [ES](#)) on how LRG are complying with their Decent Work obligations in LRG workplaces. The paper will be soon made available in FR and ES.

ILO: a PSI delegation composed of affiliate representatives of public waste management utilities from the FNV Overheid (the Netherlands), AGOEC (Argentina); and TALGWU (Tanzania) negotiated in the [Meeting of experts to adopt policy guidelines for the promotion of decent work in recycling](#) 2-9/09/2025 in Geneva (Switzerland). The meeting reinforced cooperation and dialogue with the International Alliance of Waste Pickers (IAWP) and C40 cities. The PSI delegation negotiated along with IndustriALL and the ITUC the [text of the guidelines](#) that are planned to be adopted at the ILO Governing Body in 11/2025.

UNEP: PSI continued leading the work around the International Negotiation Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment during the 2nd part of the 5th session (INC-5.2) 5-15/08/2025, Geneva (Switzerland). Together with the ITUC, PSI represented global labour, relentlessly advocating for labour rights, occupational health and safety (OSH), decent jobs in waste management services, just transition for all workers involved and adequate public investment in waste and water infrastructure. PSI and its affiliates have recognised the importance of the INC negotiations from the onset and have taken a proactive stance advocating for public service workers and global labour rights in the last three INCs. PSI affiliates AGOEC (Argentina), TALGWU (Tanzania), CLOGSAG (Ghana) and CUPE (Canada) were actively involved in this advocacy. As a result, the ILO stepped up its own advocacy on the inclusion of OSH in the agreement. (cross-ref. OSH EB brief).

4. LRG Research

LRG Social dialogue material for Africa: the development of social dialogue facilitation and collective bargaining capacity building material for African LRG unions in waste management services by the Labour Research Services (LRS) is currently under finalisation. It will be launched during AFRECON on 13/11/2025, at the occasion of a panel discussion titled "Enhancing social dialogue at local government level for local QPS and decent jobs".

ILO OSH research on PES workers: following the PSI submission of two research proposals during the ILO Sectoral Advisory Committee (SAB) in 01/2025, respectively: (1) a global review of the labour rights and working conditions of firefighters; and (2) Occupational health and safety (OSH) challenges in the LRG sector, the ILO OSH department accepted to fund research merging the two, looking at the OSH conditions of Public Emergency Workers (PES). The research is currently ongoing and is planned to be completed in Q4 2025. Affiliates representing PES workers wishing to take part please contact daria.cibrario@world-psi.org. (cross-ref. OSH EB brief).

5. Firefighters

PSI is planning to strengthen regional and global work on firefighters. Following the commissioning of a mapping of firefighter unions of the world by the International Centre for Trade Union Rights (ICTUR), a first activation workshop was held on 10/09/2025 during APRECON, Kathmandu (Nepal), and featured the hybrid participation of FPSSA (Fiji Public Service Association), the IAF (Indian Association of Firefighters), Zenshokyo (National Council of Japanese Firefighters and Ambulance Workers), and guest union representatives from Kommunal (Sweden). A 1st PSI Global Firefighters' Network will be organised on 27/11/2025 (online) 1-4PM CEST.

Budget implications: as per the approved 2025 budget.

Next steps: as outlined in the above report.

It is recommended that EB: notes this report, engages, and acts accordingly.

Related documents: all relevant documents are hyperlinked in the text.

- [PSI LRG union leaders bring the voice of local public service workers to the Global UCLG strategic retreat 2025](#) 02/2025
- [PSI Inter-America and CONTRAM representative meets FLACMA leadership](#) 02/2025
- [Inter-American local and regional government \(LRG\) workers sign memorandum of understanding with FLACMA,](#) 06/2025.
- [PSI-UCLG Report Shows How Local Governments and Unions Can Advance SDG8 Through Constructive Dialogue](#) 09/2025
- [PSI-ITUC delegation puts labour issues high on the plastic treaty negotiations despite oil states and corporations blockage](#) 08/2025