



# Central dos Trabalhadores e Trabalhadoras do Brasil



Dear Sirs,

On behalf of the delegation of the Brazilian Workers' Central (CTB), I greet our brothers and sisters representing the international trade unions present at the 14th BRICS Trade Union Forum.

The 14th BRICS Trade Union Forum is taking place at a historic moment in which the working class and the trade union movement are facing significant and unprecedented challenges around the world.

We are living in a time of crisis.

The global capitalist order led by the United States and the so-called West has expired. The trade war launched by US President Donald Trump is an expression of this madness and also a warning about the need for a new geopolitical arrangement, which demands urgency.

Radical protectionism aims to restore Washington's hegemony, but instead tends to provoke a new global recession, which will not spare the United States and should hasten the demise of the old imperialist order established at Bretton Woods.

The BRICS have a leading role in paving the way for a new international economic and political order.

Amidst instability, we are witnessing a new and dangerous arms race, which reduces and diverts resources that should be invested in social welfare and increases the risks of a third world war.

Intertwined with the economic and political crisis of the so-called Western order, we are witnessing a fierce offensive by capital against labor, probably without parallel in history, almost everywhere in the world.

This offensive is deepening with the private appropriation of new technologies, today especially Artificial Intelligence, which is shaking up the labor market and significantly increasing the army of unemployed.

On the neoliberal agenda of the employers, who constitute the ruling class in capitalism, the order of the day is the destruction of labor law, the deregulation of labor relations, the individualization and precariousness of contracts, the reduction of wages, the expansion of work analogous to slavery, and the imposition of long and exhausting workdays.

The objective hidden behind the cynical discourse of modernization and adapting legislation to the new times is to restore the social relations of production that prevailed in 18th-century British capitalism.

A secular setback that threatens us and must be defeated in struggle.

In Brazil, Argentina, and several other countries, the bosses' reactionary agenda is being aided by the rise of the far right, a vassal of the financial oligarchy and imperialism.

For this and other reasons, the struggle to defend the interests of the working class—which is the *raison d'être* of trade unionism—also includes the struggle to expose, isolate, and defeat the far right, whose rise is also associated with the rise and power of so-called Big Tech.



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The climate crisis, which is advancing amid global disorder with little hope of a solution within the framework of the current capitalist order, currently led by the denialist government of Donald Trump, also deserves special attention from the union movement.

The current geopolitical crisis also presents promising opportunities for the people. Expanded and strengthened by their last two summits, the BRICS are consolidating and opening new perspectives for the development of nations and human civilization, alongside initiatives such as the New Silk Road.

Created in 2009, the year in which the Great Recession triggered by the US took hold, the economic and political bloc that brings together countries of the Global South today has a GDP greater than that of the G7, possesses 42% of the world's oil, 72% of the rare earths, and represents around 49% of the world's population and 39% of global GDP.

The movement of these nations away from the so-called West and the imperialist centers, led by socialist China, outlines a new world order.

I believe the challenge for our union movement is to fight for the working class and its representatives to have a voice and a place in this new geopolitical order that is emerging as an alternative to the old imperialist order.

It is necessary to fight against the arms race, wars, and the genocide of the Palestinian people, neo-fascism, and imperialism.

We defend a new world without hegemony or unilateralism, truly multilateral, based on harmonious and mutually beneficial coexistence among peoples, oriented toward environmental protection, the sovereign, sustainable, and shared development of nations, the eradication of hunger, the valorization of labor, and social well-being.

We are unyielding in defending the immediate and future rights and interests of the working class.

In the BRICS and around the world, we are many; united we are strong, and we will win.

Brasília, 23 de abril de 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Adilson Gonçalves de Araújo'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Adilson Gonçalves de Araújo**

National President of CTB

(55)11 9747-52068

presidencia@ctb.org.br