



Workers' and Peasants' Platform on Water and Energy

FOR ENERGY SOVEREIGNTY AND OPEN PRICES

Brasilia, 16 December 2022.

We highlight that *the energy area in Brazil was historically built to be a sector of excellence*, even though it has countless contradictions. *We have natural bases* (water, rivers, oil, sun, wind, among others) that through the work of the workers provide comparative advantages at world level. *We have an oil and electricity industry* with the potential to become one of the largest sovereign industries in the world and in conditions to meet the priority needs of the Brazilian people. *We have a goods and services industry* capable of meeting the national content of the energy production chains. We *have highly capable workers* who produce and supply electricity, water, cooking gas, gasoline, diesel oil, agricultural fertilizers and other derivatives of this immense country. *We have production and mastery of built and known technologies, and we have experience in how to treat with dignity those affected by the works and workers in the sector.*

However, the evidence on the energy issue reveals a dramatic situation left to the country by the Temer and Bolsonaro governments. **The savagery of the prices** of cooking gas, fuel and electricity have been transformed into an instrument of rapine on the Brazilian people. Strategic companies have been sliced up, strangled and privatised. *The main State structures have been destroyed or are being captured by speculators and rent-seekers.*

It is a situation of destruction of energy sovereignty, science and technology and all initiatives for the industrialisation of energy. *Even the country's independence and energy security are not guaranteed.*

Petrobras was sliced up and strategic areas were transferred to the control of foreign groups associated with local rentiers.

Lula's government will receive a country with a R\$ 500 billion deficit in the electricity sector and a trajectory of *big increases in electricity bills in the coming years*. The sale of Eletrobras will cause more tariff increases, privatisation of the reservoirs and the mass layoffs of workers will tend to generate loss of quality and blackouts in the near future.

There is still *no legal framework guaranteeing the rights of the populations affected by* the works, there is no responsible body or fund to resolve the social and environmental issues of the works or the safety of the people. *For the workers in the sector, the policies of reduction of rights, outsourcing and job instability are clear.*

Water and sanitation are being privatised in all aspects and the logic of the rentier sectors prevails.

The fact is that the energy policy left by the Bolsonaro government is a *project to privatise everything, internationalise prices, destroy energy sovereignty and reprimarise Brazil's electricity and oil and gas industry.* While shareholders extract abusive profits, the Brazilian people are the main victims.

The new government must consider that the *energy issue has extraordinary strategic importance in national reindustrialization. Energy is a sensitive issue,* of great popular reach and can generate *social instability* and major political conflicts.

The boycott of everything that is public and for the people, also counts on the strong *entrenchment of neo-fascism in high-ranking public positions in the state.*

The future command of the *Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) needs commitment to* the following proposals for energy transition for the immediate improvement of the Brazilian people:

- 1- **Change the policy of prices and tariffs of national products**, because these are central issues for the control and distribution of the wealth produced in the Country and for national reindustrialisation. We must open up and establish prices based on national production costs, not only based on international quotations.
- 2- **Ensure strong public and State investment** as a vanguard of national development. To recover sovereignty, **get back Eletrobrás, Liquigás, Fafen(s), refineries** that were privatized, BR Distribuidora under State control and recover the national refining capacity. It must be a commitment to **cancel the initiatives to privatise water** (reservoirs, rivers and other potentials) and prioritise **public basic sanitation**.
- 3- **Resume investments in refining and fertilizer production** to meet the demand Brazil needs. And review the gas law with greater involvement of Petrobras in the natural gas segment from production to distribution.
- 4- **Create a new local content policy**, involving national industry not only in the E&P sector, but also in other segments.
- 5- **Reform the State structures** to have public companies of excellence in the electricity and petroleum sectors and democratic institutions to make national energy policy, shaped by the participation and democracy of the majority of the Brazilian people.
- 6- It is time to **guarantee the protection and rights of those affected and workers** in the energy sector.

- 7- To apply a **fair energy transition policy under the command of the State without reducing it** only to the choice of the renewable technological matrix, but oriented under the organizational bases for a new energy policy that guarantees sovereignty and full respect to the workers of all energy generation (renewable and non-renewable). Petrobras, integrated and with expertise must have strategic importance to lead towards a modern energy with the participation of workers.
- 8- **Instituting a policy of national reindustrialization in the production chains of all energy**, led by the State, as the most efficient way to generate jobs and income for our people, ensure self-sufficiency, security and excellence in results with the **sharing and fair distribution of benefits and results** produced in the energy areas.
- 9- **Development of sovereign knowledge and technology** in strategic areas, to ensure the best quality in terms of efficiency and productivity, and develop a high degree of **education, organization and knowledge of all the Brazilian people** on the national energy issue.
- 10- **Promote democracy, participation** and greater popular control in decisions on national energy policy and in state structures. Starting with the CNPE, ONS, EPE, ANEEL, ANP, ANA, CCEE and CADE.

Water and Energy with sovereignty, distribution of wealth and popular control!

Workers' and Peasants' Platform for Water and Energy

Member organizations of the Workers' and Peasants' Platform for Water and Energy: AEEL - Association of Employees of Eletrobrás; CNE - National Collective of Electricians; CNTE - **National** Confederation of Workers in Education; CNU - **National Confederation** of Urbanites; CNM - **National Confederation** of Metalworkers; FTIUESP - Federation of Workers in Urban Industries of the State of São Paulo; FURCEN - Regional Federation of Midwestern Urbanites; FISENGE - Interstate Federation of Unions of Engineers; FNU - National Federation of Urban Workers; FRUNE - Northeastern Regional Federation of Urban Workers; FSU - Southern Regional Federation of Urban Workers; FTUN - Northern Interstate Federation of Urban Workers; FRUSE - Southeastern Interstate Federation of Urban Workers; FUP - Unique Federation of Petrol Workers; **Sindipetro AM; Sindipetro CE/PI; Sindipetro RN; Sindipetro PE; Sindipetro BA; Sindipetro MG; Sindipetro ES; Sindipetro Caxias; Sindipetro NF; Sindipetro Unificado SP; Sindipetro PR/SC; Sindipetro RS; SINAERJ - Sindicato dos Administradores do Estado do Rio de Janeiro; SINTERN; INTERCEL; INTERSUL; Levante Popular da Juventude; MCP - Movimento Camponês Popular; MAB - Movimento dos Atingidos por Barragens; MPA - Movement of Small Farmers; PROFES - Federation of Teachers' Unions of Federal Institutions of Higher Education and Basic Technical and Technological Education; SENGE/BA - Union of Engineers of Bahia; SENGE/PR - **Union of Engineers of Paraná; SENGE/RJ - Union of Engineers of Rio de Janeiro; SINDIELETRO/MG; SINDUR/RO; SINERGIA/SC; SINERGIA/BA; STIU/DF.****