Final Declaration of the Anti-imperialist Working Class World Meeting

A video conference of working class leaders and activists from all over the world, from all continents, gathered in Caracas, capital city of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to hold a "World Meeting of the Anti-Imperialist Working Class" in Solidarity with both, the Government and People of Venezuela and with the peoples and governments of sovereign nations under attack; it came to the following decisions:

Today's world is marked by capitalist globalization. Thus capitalism acquires an unprecedented voracious nature that affects primarily the working class but also humanity as a whole. Neo-liberal capitalism, which encompasses the world economic-financial system, pursues an incessant search of profits through the conquest of new markets, strengthening financial capital's predominance, intensifying the pillage of territories and natural resources everywhere, and exploiting the working class. To maximize big transnationals' profits, neo-liberal capitalism is even more vicious towards women, demolishes the future of youth and denies the identity of indigenous peoples. Therefore, the solution to the great problems of today's world demands a new model of human coexistence that places human beings at the centre of its concerns and actions, and respects the diversity of cultures.

The future of humanity is in grave danger. The voracity of capitalism, in its suicidal deployment, has created the conditions for the extinction of the human species. Peace on the planet is seriously threatened by the policy of military aggression of the United States and its allies, as well as by the deadly arms race that brings lucrative dividends to big corporations of the military-industrial complex. War has been the favorite mechanism of imperialist expansionism, especially of the United States.

Fortunately, the peoples of the world are beginning to rise up against this state of affairs. Thus, mass protests and rebellions took place in 2018 and 2019, both in Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. In Our Latin America, these mass protests are a
warning indicating a change in the correlation of forces, a change still in progress. In Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, Haiti, as well as in other countries, these struggles intensified, going from general social demands to political struggles that question the very bases of the capitalist state.

These protests, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, took a temporary pause. A pandemic that has spread worldwide, and where the so-called “civilized and developed” capitalist countries have shown their true nature: profits over people. This reasoning of right-wing governments has caused the unnecessary death of hundreds of thousands of their fellow countrymen to protect capitalism.

The virus is not Covid-19, capitalism is the virus!

The pandemic has been the trigger of the global crisis of neoliberal capitalism; all the great capitalist powers are going into economic recession this year and there is uncertainty for the years to come. The worst is the increase in unemployment, in the precariousness of employment and informality that will affect large sections of the working class. Figures show how serious this is: 2,000 million workers are in the informal sector (61% of the workforce); 480 million people of the global workforce are underemployed and more than 3,300 million workers do not have an adequate income or job security (ILO, 2019) and, as a result of the pandemic, 590 million jobs are expected to be lost in the world, with Latin America being the region most affected (ILO, 2020).

In spite of the human catastrophe caused by capitalism and further aggravated by the pandemic, the mass protests and rebellions continued in 2020. Thus, protests in the U.S. over the death of George Floyd on May 25 of this year at the hands of the white and racist police of Minneapolis, protests that were massive, became a worldwide phenomenon. What began with outrage over Floyd’s death, morphed into anti-racist and anti-colonial struggles, leading both to the destruction of many of the most precious symbols of European and U.S. colonialist domination and to the formation of anti-racist and anti-colonial mass movements like the BLM (Black Lives Matter).

Also, in the midst of the pandemic, a series of significant and unique struggles developed. For example, the struggle of globalized digital delivery platforms’ workers against the precariousness of labour, in Latin America, Europe and Australia. Another significant struggle in Europe has been that of migrants, closely linked to the struggle of so-called “undocumented” workers.

But it is in Our Latin America, the main theatre of the imperialist offensive to maintain its global hegemony, where, despite the neoliberal restoration processes promoted by the United States, fundamental struggles took place. The heroic resistance of the working-
class and indigenous people of Bolivia against the dictatorship, despite violent repression, brought about the overwhelming victory of Luis Arce. Likewise, the awesome result in the Plebiscite of Chile thanks to the tireless popular mobilization of the people to send Pinochet’s constitution to the damp of history, a still not concluded process that took a hard battle since 2019. Another significant struggle has been the Minga in Colombia where the native peoples have risen up.

In the face of this, Venezuela’s Bolivarian Revolution alongside the peoples and governments of Cuba and Nicaragua seeks to build a bastion of dignity that resist imperialism’s brutal attacks. Today, Venezuela has become the main point of reference for anti-imperialism. Since the arrival of Comandante Hugo Chávez to the Presidency, the country has followed a policy of social inclusion, cornering neoliberalism in Latin America. In Venezuela, a new model of political coexistence is emerging whilst a determined anti-imperialist resistance is being waged, and an approach to public affairs different from neoliberal dogmas is being developed. This anti-systemic perspective is integrated to the defense of national sovereignty, expressed in an independent foreign policy of Bolivarian inspiration. It is contributing to the emergence of a multipolar world that is gaining strength, and is beginning to counterbalance, ever more seriously, the power of US imperialism.

The Bolivarian Revolution is built with an enormous popular strength within the powerful civic-military union framework and on the ideals of Simon Bolívar and Hugo Chávez. Without a doubt, the Bolivarian Revolution is a heresy in the eyes of the powerful of the world, a danger to their neo-liberal plans. Thus, with the support of puppet governments, the White House wages an unconventional war against Venezuela and the revolution, aimed at the overthrow of the government of the Constitutional President of the Bolivarian Republic Nicolás Maduro, as an indispensable step to exterminate Chavismo, end democracy and take possession of Venezuela’s vast natural wealth. They have implemented unilateral coercive measures that take the form of an inhumane, financial and commercial economic blockade that aggravates the country’s problems, and they also threaten to militarily invade the country. This translates into substantial losses that prevent the acquisition of food, medicines, production inputs, raw materials, among many other basic necessities for the entire population.

All these processes point to new signs, new developing trends in the class struggle at the global level that could change the correlation of forces between capital and the working class and trigger a global change of the dominant system. However, struggles in recent years, although massive and extensive worldwide, have had weaknesses; they continue to be fragmented and delocalized and in many cases are centered exclusively on a national scale while capitalist exploitation is globalized and trans-nationalized.
We must rebuild articulations and alliances in which we structure our common forces for a single and global struggle. To build new organizational forms that strive to give social movements common objectives of struggle for the construction of concrete solidarity between them. It is necessary to have a common perspective on the issue of popular sovereignty in order to build this alliance of solidarities. The new socio-productive and political experiences that we develop will show us the way towards the new society that we want in order to overcome the values and ideology of capitalism.

Today, there is a need in the world for an organization that articulates alliances of solidarity with the nations that are attacked by US and European imperialism and that unites the anti-imperialist struggles of the working class. These organizational forms are not new since they are preceded by the historical traditions of proletarian internationalism that has its first antecedent in the foundation by Marx and Engels of the International Workers Association in 1864.

In this 21st century there have been many proposals to create new organizational forms to support the struggle of the working class, such as the proposal of the 5th International made by Hugo Chávez in 2009, that of Samir Amin in 2017, and a proposal of President Nicolas Maduro for the formation of a World Workers' Platform held between 29 and 31 August 2019. The latter was set up within the framework of the 1st Meeting of Workers and ratified in the World Anti-Imperialist Meeting, for Life, Sovereignty and Peace, held between 22 and 24 January 2020, both in the capital of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

As a result of the work carried out for more than a year since the first meeting in 2019, the project to promote the Anti-Imperialist Working Class Platform has been consolidated. We define ourselves as an anti-imperialist, anti-colonialist, anti-capitalist and anti-patriarchal movement, whose fundamental mission is to achieve the articulation of the struggles and solidarity of the workers and peoples of the world. We propose to strengthen strategic alliances with world trade union organizations, trade union federations, workers’ organizations, social movements and political parties, whose unity is determined anti-imperialist struggles. We intend to build a vast international movement united in struggle of the working class against colonial imperialism.

As Che said: *And if we all were able to unite, so that our blows were more solid and more precise, so that support of all kinds to the people in struggle was even more effective, how beautiful the future would be, and how near!* 

In this context, the World Meeting of the Anti-Imperialist Working Class declares:

- We support the struggles workers undertake worldwide against neoliberal policies that generate more exploitation and precariousness at work. Likewise, we support
the struggles women undertake against patriarchy promoted by capitalism; struggles for national self-determination and respect for their sovereignty; anti-colonial and anti-racist struggles being waged by nations of the world; struggles in favor of Pachamama (Mother Earth) and the correct relationship between human beings and nature through social ecological action; struggles of native peoples for their territories and against transnational extractive companies.

- We deeply regret the death of Orlando Gutiérrez, Executive Secretary of the Trade Union Federation of Mine Workers of Bolivia (FSTMB), militant promoter of the PCOA, a fighter committed to the rights of workers and his people. We remember what were perhaps his last public words on October 18, once the election results were known: “we voted against discrimination, against arrogance, because they have hurt the deepest feelings of the Bolivian people, our pollera, our Wiphala, the Pachamama, our ancestral traditions”.

- We demand that the new US government eliminate the illegal unilateral coercive measures, as they are criminal policies that harm our peoples. In addition, we request the return of all assets stolen by the Trump administration. We also condemn the genocidal policy of economic blockade that is applied against the nations of the world as punishment for exercising their sovereignty.

- We salute the Bolivarian Revolution for the implementation of an inclusive socio-political model that protects the working class from imperialist aggressions. We express special solidarity with the Venezuelan people in their struggle for self-determination.

- We demand respect for the sovereignty of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, its institutions and the electoral process of December 6th in which the people will freely and sovereignly elect their representatives to the National Assembly.

- We ratify our resolute support to the Bolivarian Revolution and the efforts of the legitimate Constitutional President Nicolás Maduro to, through dialogue and democracy, maintain peace in the South American nation.

- We support peoples and governments of the world in their struggle for sovereignty in the face of imperialist aggression.

- We repudiate the use of force and the implementation of unilateral coercive measures used to subjugate our peoples and their working classes and we stand in solidarity with Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua and Iran in their struggle for sovereignty.

- We stand with the struggle of the Peruvian people for a popular Constituent Assembly in the face of the failure of the neoliberal policies developed by the last corrupt governments in that South American nation.

- We support the historic struggle of the Haitian people for their sovereignty, today in permanent rebellion against the corrupt and repressive government of Jovenel Moïse.
• We salute the struggle of our brothers and sisters in Colombia against the neoliberal policies of Narco-President Iván Duque and we condemn the extreme repression against the people, holding him responsible for the deaths of hundreds of social and union leaders.
• We accuse Iván Duque of being the main instigator in the terrorist and criminal war against Venezuela and its strategic industries and we remind him that this is an unforgivable crime.
• We strongly condemn all imperialist policies and neoliberalism because they undermine the sovereignty of all nations by plundering their wealth and exploiting the workers.
• We denounce the militarization of Our Latin America and especially, the presence of United States and NATO military bases in Latin America and the Caribbean.
• We welcome the victory of Luis Arce Catacora and David Choquehuanca of the Movement Toward Socialism (MAS) and the return of Evo Morales to Bolivia after a year of repressive dictatorship that cost the Bolivian people hundreds of deaths. Jallalla Bolivia!
• We salute the triumph forged in street protests by the Chilean people in the constitutional plebiscite to convene a Constituent Assembly. This great popular victory sends the Pinochet's constitution to the damp of history.

Furthermore, the World Meeting of the Anti-Imperialist Working Class, agrees:

Plan of struggle

1. Set up and consolidate, for the upcoming year, the PCOA nuclei in our different countries and hold Regional and Continental Meetings.

2. Establish a network of Anti-imperialist Workers correspondents in each country, which allows us in a reliable way to learn about the workers' and popular struggles being waged worldwide, helping us to overcome the fragmentation of our common struggles and promote global anti-imperialist solidarity.

3. Expand the Liaison Promotion Commission of the Platform by incorporating international spokespersons-promoters.

4. Develop an Anti-imperialist Political Agenda that allows us to move forward systematically and constantly.

5. To campaign against free trade agreements that serve the interests of multinationals, break the sovereignty of nations and destroy the economic livelihood of small producers and peasants.

6. Promote struggles against illegitimate, illegal, odious and unsustainable debts that make the sovereignty of nations vulnerable.
7. Develop a campaign of solidarity and support for the constituent process for which the people of Chile have fought.

8. To promote solidarity to support the Palestinian people, for their self-determination and definitive liberation.

9. Implement the coordination of study, training and research centres of the working class in the world seeking to create a network for the exchange and training of workers.

10. Study and learn from the lessons of historic anti-imperialist struggles before us, we never build from scratch.

11. Develop training campaigns on the issue of anti-imperialist struggles.

12. Promote an educational process to train ourselves for the struggle by learning how the capitalist system functions, its logic, plans, strengths and weaknesses so as to develop a common understanding of imperialism aimed at identifying what unites us and to also to establish priorities.

13. Built spaces for the exchange of experiences and knowledge of new economic and political alternatives among workers at international level.

14. Promote anti-capitalist projects and policies aimed at guaranteeing the economic sovereignty of our peoples (popular, agro-ecological, eco-socialism, popular labor management, and technical, scientific and cultural innovations).

**Action Plan against unilateral and coercive measures and blockades of sovereign peoples and nations**

1. To begin next year solidarity campaigns against unilateral and coercive measures and blockade of the United States and Europe on sovereign nations and peoples, taking Venezuela as a priority, executing the Action Plan of international scope agreed at the Meeting.

2. Implement an immediate plan of international action, from November 21 to December 6 in the defense of the sovereignty of Venezuela in its constitutional right to hold parliamentary elections on December 6 without foreign interference.