

International Meeting of Communist and Workers Parties

Izmir, Turkey

19-22 October, 2023

Contribution from the Communist Party of Brazil (PCdoB)

Dear comrades,

I would first like to greet you on behalf of the Communist Party of Brazil, especially TKP, for the organization of this meeting, in such dire circumstances for all peace and freedom-loving peoples. That we gather here for these days of exchange is yet another sign of our commitment to our common struggles.

Comrades,

In November 2022 in Brazil we experienced a grave moment in our struggle against Neo-fascism. The progressive and leftist sector led a broad anti-Fascist front headed by Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and we won the elections in the second round.

That was a painful victory that cost us a lot of effort and struggle. A gigantic struggle led by the Brazilian working people, who face a harsh reality since 2016, when the coup d'état overthrew President Dilma Roussef, and in 2018, imprisoned Lula, to allow for the victory of the extreme-right, represented by Jair Boslonaro, that same year.

During this period, hunger was again a reality for millions of Brazilians, public resources were wasted to the benefit of the big international monopolies, democracy was weakened, and workers' unions suffered a brutal assault, coupled with intents of criminalizing social movements, the rise in attacks and assassination of political activists, and in proletarian neighborhoods, constant massacres of impoverished workers, especially young and black.

This enormous tragedy was aggravated during the pandemic, when thanks to the inaction and the active boycott by the extreme-right government of Jair Bolsonaro, over 700,000 Brazilians died of COVID-19.

However, despite everything, we won. PCdoB attributes this victory to the Brazilian workers, but we underline that an important part of this great achievement, the election of Lula's government, was due to ongoing international solidarity.

Therefore, I want to take the opportunity to, on behalf of PCdoB and the Brazilian progressive forces, say thank you, comrades, for your solidarity with the Brazilian people.

Comrades, with Lula's victory a new phase in our struggle began. You have seen an attempted coup d'état on January 8 in Brasília aimed at preventing the new Government from starting.

The putschists were repudiated and face criminal charges, some of whom are in prison and many others have been condemned, but the extreme-right remains mobilized and active.

Lula's Government faces a difficult situation in the National Congress, with a conservative and right-wing majority. In the Senate, our upper House, of 81 senators, only 14 are leftist. In the lower House, of 513 representatives, only 129 represent the progressive sector. Even with these challenges, thanks to the political ability of the Lula Government, the work of national reconstruction advances and Lula has been achieving popular support.

In the realm of foreign policy, the Brazilian Government has rejoined in participation of CELAC and UNASUR, normalizing political and diplomatic relations with the brotherly peoples of Cuba and Venezuela, and has worked hard to strengthen multilateral platforms in the Global South, such as Mercosur and BRICS. It has struggled and not surrendered to intimidation for a reform in international governance that gives more voice and protagonism to developing countries, defending Latin American integration and a world where each nation can choose their own model of development and democracy without foreign interference, and in which all peoples can develop.

In the case of Ukraine, the Lula Government has consistently defended a cease-fire without preconditions, as a step towards initiating peace negotiations mediated by countries that are not involved in the conflict. By rejecting a simplistic view of the complex developments in Eastern Europe, Lula has been under all kinds of pressure, which have not dissuaded him from his position.

In Palestine and Israel's case, Lula has made every effort to promote and support peace initiatives for a cease-fire and implement steps for the protection of the population in the Gaza Strip under Israel's bombings, by taking the opportunity of Brazil's Presidency of the Security Council. The cease-fire envisioned is conducive not to the return of the status quo, but to an end to the violence and the implementation of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, culminating in the implementation of the two states solution. It is important to highlight that Brazil has recognized the State of Palestine in 2010, in Lula's second Government.

Comrades,

The world is experiencing a rapid transition, leaving behind the unipolarity that marked the international scenario before the Cold War. The relative decline that US imperialism has faced is met by it with an incrementation of its militarist and interventionist drive, of which the greatest sign is NATO's expansion and the preposterous increase in

military expenditure by the US and the European Union, dragging the world through a new arms race.

China and Russia, allies that have objectively defied the unipolarity of the hegemonic power and defended multipolarity, have faced strong attacks. This is not separate from what is happening in Ukraine, or Israel, where the imperialists support neofascist regimes, one born out of the 2014 coup d'état and the other of a colonial, racist project bent on eliminating the Palestinian people. They have supported these regimes, despite the abysmal loss of life, with billions of dollars in weaponry of all kinds, in the first case to defeat and divide Russia, and in the latter, maintain their foothold in the Middle East by claiming to protect Israel from its neighbors and from the revolt of the people it oppresses.

The responsibility of the US, EU, NATO for the state of affairs in a world on the brink of generalized war is paramount: they have worked through all means to keep war going in Ukraine; provoke China by, for instance, stoking separatism in Taiwan; repeatedly threaten the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; and continue providing Israel with "rock solid" alliance and support in the face of all its crimes and genocidal intent, even if rhetorically condemning its policies at times. Concretely, they enable this wanton massacre, as was more recently proved with the veto in the Security Council.

These and other factors show that the banner of peace has taken a whole new dimension.

In Africa, pushed forward by new winds that put imperialism on the defensive, the nations struggle for freedom from the claws of neocolonialism. Moreover, a case of colonialism persists and has been on the UN list for decolonization for six decades, which is Western Sahara, in its current struggle against occupation from Morocco and the liberation of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic. That the POLISARIO Front has returned to armed struggle in 2020, three years ago, is a show that the imperialist powers and colonial administration continue to prevent the realization of the Saharawi people's self-determination now by supporting or making deals with Morocco. We condemn it and manifest our solidarity with the Saharawi people.

In the Middle East, the Zionist regime in Palestine and Israel continues to commit its crimes against the brave Palestinian people, now with a horrific war that again unmask its true nature. The hegemonic media don't recognize the real and permanent cause of violence and acted as if shocked by the genocidal force with which Israel attacks Gaza and the West Bank. This has to have consequences. It is past time Israel is held to account and Palestine is free! We express our solidarity with the Palestinian people and the communists and peace advocates in Israel who have suffered grave persecution from the Israeli government. PCdoB considers that the only chance for

peace is to have Palestine a sovereign state within the border prior to the 1967 war, with the liberation of the political prisoners and the implementation of the refugees' right to return.

An important victory over imperialism was the readmission of Syrian in the Arab League. Although there still are invaders in Syrian soil, victory by the Syrian people's resistance is promising.

Another promising news was the normalization, mediated by China, of the diplomatic relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Peruvian people has since the end of 2022 struggled against a cruel coup d'état by the extreme-right that assassinated more than 60 demonstrators, in protests that are still active on the streets, against the corrupt extreme-right and for elections. Nicaragua still is under a fierce attack from imperialists, in Chile, Argentina and Ecuador the anti-democratic threats by extreme-right and Neo-Fascism are also strong. In El Salvador the criminal government of Bukele persecutes militants and imprison workers.

The victory in Ecuador of Luiza Gonzáles, of Revolucion Ciudadana, in the second round on the 20th, as that of Sergio Massa in Argentina, will be very important for our region.

We are concerned about the threats to the inauguration of Guatemala's President elect Bernardo Arévalo, on January 14. In Colombia, Gustavo Petro faces an attempted judicial assault in a well known method used by the right wing, but peace talks with ELN and other insurgent forces are moving forward. The consolidation of the peace agreements in Colombia will be a great victory for the region and allow for the concentration of all efforts on eliminating the paramilitary, extreme-right terrorism that exists for decades in the Colombian state apparatus, preventing the country from building a true democracy.

Venezuela and Cuba still need all our solidarity against the imperialist attacks. Cuba, comrades, this example of revolutionary dignity, the country of Fidel and Martí, needs us to unite in a strong condemnation of its inclusion in the list of countries sponsoring terrorism and especially of the criminal US blockade.

In México, the government of Andrés Manuel López Obrador constantly supports Cuba and has defended sovereignty in Mexico and Latin America, including in the face of US policies for an alleged fight to drug trafficking.

Comrades, we have faced different types of enemies that hate seeing democracy deepen and detest our defense of national sovereignty and the struggle for social justice for all peoples. Key parts of the ruling classes are partners of imperialism and continue to be stuck in racist and neocolonialist mentalities. Even colonialism is still

alive to be found in places like Latin America and Africa, with the Argentinean Malvinas, Puerto Rico and Western Sahara, as well as Palestine.

To face and defeat these enemies, it is necessary to secure a broad unity and sovereign, brotherly, progressive processes of regional integration such as in Latin America. The multipolar world that is arising is full of opportunities but also of disputes and contradictions. Only together we can win.

In Brazil, the process of national reconstruction, after six years of a coup and the Neofascist destruction, is unfolding amidst a constant aggression by the hegemonic media serving capital and imperialism. They try to intimidate and condition the Lula Government so that it cannot promote the necessary reforms.

Therefore, a key factor to move forward with a New National Project for Development, which according to PCdoB is the Brazilian way towards socialism, is popular mobilization, as the President himself has asserted. To strengthen the struggle amidst the workers, in direct contact with the masses, to elevate the political and ideological consciousness and strengthen socialist propaganda are some of the main efforts of PCdoB in this period.

In the whole world, peoples struggling against the war, against neoliberalism and in defense of democracy will be, once more, the motor of history.

Long live the IMCWP and the struggles of progressive forces in the world