

23rd International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties (23rd IMCWP) 20-22 October in İzmir, Türkiye

Theme:

“The political and ideological battles to confront capitalists and imperialism. The tasks of communists to inform and mobilize the working class, youth, women, and intellectuals in the struggle against exploitation, oppression, imperialist lies and historical revisionism; for the social and democratic rights of workers and peoples; against militarism and war, for peace and socialism”.



Communist Party of Australia, CPA's Contribution
By Andrew Irving General Secretary

The Communist Party of Australia is pleased to be able to speak at this important forum and thanks the Turkish Communist Party for organising this important 23rd International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties. Our party seeks to share with comrades and listen to delegates experiences from fraternal parties in attendance.

This year we express our solidarity with the people of Turkiye and recognise the significant actions of the comrades of the TKP providing relief during the earthquake disaster.

We also acknowledge the memorable experiences of our visit to socialist Cuba for the 22nd Meeting. The CPA is proud to restate our solidarity with the Cuban revolution and its people in the difficult period over the last year with the continuing criminal blockade imposed by US imperialism.

Today as we meet, with humanity being pushed to the brink. It faces two looming existential threats that will destroy all peoples: climate change and nuclear war.

The US is preparing for war against the People's Republic of China and is using Ukraine in a proxy war against Russia.

US imperialism and Britain are sacrificing the Ukraine people to seek domination. The EU has also been dragged into the conflict at a great cost to its people.

In the Middle East there is the risk of an escalating war as the US and Israel attempt enmesh Iran in the crime being committed against the Palestinians.

We express our solidarity with the Palestinian people in Gaza and call for the immediate withdrawal of all Israeli forces and to stop the killing in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The CPA supports the struggles of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories who live under an apartheid regime imposed by Israel. We call for the immediate implementation of UN resolutions and recognition the Palestine state.

Israel is undertaking genocide by massacring Palestinians. It has cut off water, food, medicines, electricity and locked the people into its borders. Saying you can only leave but cannot come back.

Since the Nakba in 1948 Israel has taken the lands of the Palestinian people, driving them from their homes, built settlements and carrying out a brutal and inhumane occupation.

Global economic & geopolitical restructuring

The expansion of a multi polar reality is shown by the People's Republic of China is playing an ever greater role in international affairs. Its Belt and Road Initiative offers developing countries alternative sources of funding for development without the negative conditions that bodies such as the IMF and World Bank impose.

BRICS is expanding and increasingly seen as a model for international relations based on peace, cooperation and mutual benefit regardless of a countries economic system. A huge shift in economic power is underway. As countries on the African continent, in the middle east, India and Asia further develop, so the economic power of the US imperialism and Europe weaken.

Climate change

Australia is one of the largest exporters of fossils fuels. Our new federal government claiming it supports action on climate change yet continues to approve new, large carbon fuel projects.

Extreme weather events and record high temperatures are already taking thousands of lives, causing famine, loss of crops, massive flooding, wildfires, environmental destruction and rising sea levels.

Capitalism has created this environmental crisis but is unable and unwilling to change. It has failed both the people and the planet. All of us must take responsibility and re-think about the way we live and function as a society. A socialist revolution is needed to change thinking and achieve the massive re-organisation the global economy that has to happen.

Action in Australia

At our 14th National Congress held under the slogan "Build the Party for a Socialist Future" our delegates strongly endorsed a resolution that continued a commitment to the working-class and the application of Marxism-Leninism to the national conditions and the international challenges that have confronting the workers movement and its unity in struggle against the imperialists.

In Australia there has been a surge in support for struggle for change and a new generation of revolutionaries who are willing to commit themselves to the movement.

This continues providing a real challenge to our Party and its ability to turn this enthusiasm into an organised, disciplined, mature and active force that is committed to scientific socialism and the leadership of the working class. To further advance

expansion of the party and cadre development our party will hold a face to face, national **Organising Conference** in January 2024 that will include a commemoration of the 100th anniversary of death of comrade Lenin.

One of the key areas for this conference will be the development of our understanding of the history of our party, what it is to be a communist, how this contributes to and empowers the working class to win change.

It will include the study and discussion the revolutionary principles, the communist international is based on. How to struggle against the error of politics of the reformist social democratic parties. Importantly why it is a priority to base our policy and actions on a commitment to proletarian working-class internationalism.

That the CPA is a Leninist Party of a new kind which is active and firmly committed to the dictatorship of the proletariat, anti-imperialism and Marxist theory and practice.

The history of our Party's life included the waging of a struggle against left-sectarianism in the form of anarcho-syndicalism, Maoist and Trotskyist tendencies, their destabilising methods and divisive influences in the movement and within the party. We battled with and defeated these deviations from Marxism-Leninism, both "left" or right variety, that manifested and reflected errors in policy, practice, and commitment to the class struggle. Errors that continue to recur. Even till today.

Further our Party continues its commitment to building and promoting national and international campaigning.

A peace & peoples' budget Campaign

Barely a day passes without a story in the British or Australian media that ramps up fear about the rulers in Beijing and frames a massive military build-up by America and its allies as necessary in the face of so called Chinese aggression.

These constant media reports that demonise China and pose it as a risk to regional security.

For example, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), based in Canberra, now has a branch office in Washington DC. Its non-core funders include the US Defence Department, Thales Group, BAE Systems, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Rafael, as well as Facebook and Twitter.

The Australian foreign minister Penny Wong has also, in the best Orwellian traditions, described this unprecedented US military build-up to confront China, as a "contribution to regional stability".

The US military presence on Australian soil is the largest since World War Two. The number of US bases is rapidly growing, with new and enhanced air bases, a planned nuclear submarine base, marines training facilities, and an upgraded string of advanced communications and surveillance sites.

The lack of credible evidence of any direct military threat to Australia has been no obstacle to those preparing the Australian public for a US military build-up, and a conflict with China.

The political class and many in the media routinely tell the public that there's a high risk of foreign interference principally from "enemy" states such as Russia, China and Iran.

In contrast, there's barely any discussion about the penetration of Israeli and American assets in Australia or Britain because they're deemed as friendly nations.

Equally no comment or criticism is made about dozens of Australian former soldiers, including the special forces commander, have been revealed serving as military trainers for troops from the United Arab Emirates while the UAE has been fighting a bloody war in Yemen. This mercenary work has been done with the express permission of the Australian government.

US imperialism continues its dangerous plan to encircle and contain socialist China. Alliances have been formed such as the Quad, Five Eyes, and AUKUS. The AUKUS agreement between the US, UK, and Australia was established by a Conservative government, but support and signed by the new Australian Labor government.

The US its intention of constructing an overwhelming military presence in both the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Most of South East Asia have expressed disagreement with AUKUS. Made worse by NATO's characterisation of AUKUS as a key instrument for NATO's Asia-Pacific involvement.

This presence involves the modernisation and expansion of America's military alliances with Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, and Australia, upgraded security arrangements with Taiwan, Singapore, New Zealand, and Pakistan, and efforts to build closer ties with India.

Australia is set to become a willing proxy for NATO which looks to exert power and influence in Asia Pacific. France, UK, Canada, and Germany joined the bi-annual Talisman Sabre war games organised by the US and Australia in July.

The real threat to Australia's security is from the US war machine which is targeting the People's Republic of China. Neither Australia nor the US could win a war against China. The only winner is the military industrial complex.

Since the announcement of AUKUS the Party took a leading role in establishing the campaign and setting up anti AUKUS groups. It looks increasingly promising that the Anti-AUKUS movement will develop into the strong organised movement that is essential.

The Communist Party of Australia initiated a peace budget campaign; a budget that will create many more jobs and far greater security for the Australian people through much-needed spending on housing, education, medical care, and action on climate change.

It is working class taxes that pay for the weapons and its workers who fight and died in their wars.

Submarines have started to appear secretly in our ports. These ports are in close proximity to residential communities, but knowledge of the activity is not well known. Proposed permanent sites for submarine rotations have been identified in Cockburn Sound in Western Australia, and Port Kembla in New South Wales.

The selling point by Government is boasting for what they call “new jobs, new industries, and new expertise in science, technology, and cyber” – but is really all for war, for death, and destruction. The promise of jobs, that won’t be realised, and is only being used to subdue workers and their unions.

There is also a sinister socialisation and militarisation process underway to persuade schoolchildren about the merits of AUKUS.

Weapon companies are sponsoring and directly delivering STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) education programs to primary school children, with the explicit intention of creating positive attitudes to careers in weapons development and production.

What is occurring is theft of the public purse that is being funnelled to UK and US nuclear submarine industries. Generations of the working class will face austerity to pay for it so that Australian armed forces can effectively be turned into a branch of another country’s military. There is no choice but to take it to the streets – Climate activists, nuclear free activists, peace activists and students are realising their common interest and working together with left and progressive parties, some trade unions, churches, and community groups. We know war and climate change are the greatest threats to our security and existence.

All agree on one thing and that is China is not planning to invade Australia.

Imperialist wars will not end until capitalism is overthrown. We know the declining imperial empire will aggressively and viciously struggle to retain its domination. The losers will be humankind and the planet.

Give us a Peace Budget

Decaying capitalism is turning the world upside down.

Australians are already sleeping in the streets and going without food and health care while half a trillion dollars will be spent on nuclear submarines, long range missiles, hypersonic weapons and more military hardware. This is an immoral, inhuman, inexcusable crime and it must be reversed. We must have a peace budget now.

The recent federal budget showed what we can expect – the skewing of our resources to support the US drive to war with China while wages remain low, jobseeker gets a slight increase, and housing remains lost in a whirl of pretend policies which will not produce one social house until 2025, let alone the public housing this country needs.

In Australia income and expenditure sides of the budget are an expression of the capitalist's systems priorities. The budget is a class document that clearly showing a class divide. It pits working peoples' interests against corporate interests, peace and prosperity against war preparations, private profits, and climate change against the planet.

The Government budget failed to make any significant or structural changes. They stated that "Australians know there are hard days to come, and hard decisions to accompany them." The rich are set to become immensely richer and the poor poorer. Wages are set to fall further. Prices will continue to rise.

Over the past two decades the bottom 90 per cent of Australians on average have received only seven per cent of economic growth per person while the top ten per cent have pocketed 93 per cent.

There are alternative budget items that put people, peace, and the planet first. The costs are indicative of what is possible with a shift in priorities.

Yes referendum campaign, which has become a hole party in campaign with a collective development of work, national engagement with enthusiasm and positive community responses. That has countered sectarian political grandstanding.

The Voice was to be the beginning of a struggle to move past the colonial legacy of Australia towards principles of justice, self-determination, solidarity and friendship between peoples.

Creating a united front of Indigenous community with progressive forces and organised workers to change the Australian Constitution. A unity process that creates a movement that needs to be at the centre of the campaign that if successful, provides the momentum that has the best chance for future advances and success, for treaty and truth telling (history) process.

Unfortunately, racism has won, and the divisive No's campaign convinced people that the status quo should remain despite the urgent need for recognition and real commitment to close the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous people. The struggle will continue for a representative Voice, decolonisation and an independent socialist Australia.

To finish we possess the philosophical, scientific and technical knowledge we need to build a just, democratic, and sustainable social order which functions in the interests of the survival and flourishing of humanity and the environment.

We face a ruling class with a single-minded fixation on profit and power. We face a constellation of powerful institutions and corporate power. The task ahead is monumental but possible. We must act based on scientific socialism principles and a commitment to the leading role of the workers if we are to sweep away the corrupt capitalist system. Humanity can opt for the preservation of capitalism or the preservation of a habitable environment.

Our challenge is to build a movement powerful enough to overthrow the existing destructive order and begin the task of building socialism.

Long live the Turkish Communist Party!

Long live Marxism-Leninism!

Long live international solidarity!