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En Marcha #2062, del 30 de agosto al 5 de septiembre de 2023
Órgano Central del Partido Comunista Marxista Leninista
del Ecuador

27 SIPRAL, espacio de discusión y lucha de los pueblos



El Seminario Internacional “Problemas de la Revolución en América Latina”, organizado por el Partido Comunista Marxista Leninista del Ecuador y la Juventud Revolucionaria del Ecuador, se ha convertido en una tribuna para el desarrollo del pensamiento crítico, de izquierda, y para la discusión de aquellas dificultades que enfrentan los pueblos para romper las cadenas y alcanzar su liberación. El SIPRAL ha alcanzado su edición 27, con la temática “Las luchas de la clase obrera y los pueblos, y las contradicciones inter-imperialistas”, y va a desarrollarse de manera virtual los días 1 y 2 de septiembre.

El SIPRAL se caracteriza por ser un espacio en el que los partidos y movimientos comunistas, marxistas leninistas, revolucionarios, organizaciones de izquierda y democráticas, confluyen para discutir la problemática del movimiento revolucionario y las dificultades que enfrentan en su trabajo diario. Ecuador recibe a organizaciones de alrededor de veintisiete países, para discutir, en un ambiente fraterno, y llegar a conclusiones que elevan el trabajo de cada movimiento en su país. Este año, por las condiciones políticas del Ecuador luego del periodo de elecciones, se lleva a cabo el Seminario de manera virtual,

para que, desde cualquier parte del mundo, sea posible seguir la discusión y conocer las ponencias de nuestros invitados.

En esta Vigésima Séptima Edición, el tema es “Las luchas de la clase obrera y los pueblos, y las contradicciones inter-imperialistas”, pues es necesario comprender las razones del ascenso de la lucha social. En el último año, especialmente, los jóvenes, los trabajadores y los pueblos del mundo se han levantado en grandes movilizaciones, destacadas por su persistencia, su nivel de combate y su radicalidad; la lucha de la clase obrera en contra de la política antipopular, la guerra y la violencia de los Estados burgueses ha sido una constante en los levantamientos de Francia, Estados Unidos, varios países europeos; Chile, Argentina, Perú, Colombia, México y Ecuador en América Latina. Todas estas expresiones tienen como elemento común el despertar de la conciencia política de las masas, con sus límites y fortalezas.

Este seminario también analizará la lucha inter-imperialista y sus expresiones actuales, caracterizada por la oposición de los bloques imperialistas que pugnan por el control del escenario mundial, en este momento representado en la guerra de Rusia y Ucrania. La participación de varias potencias imperialistas en el conflicto bélico muestra el interés de conquistar la hegemonía en los mercados y la expansión de sus economías. Asimismo, las ponencias analizarán los diversos escenarios en que se desenvuelve la lucha revolucionaria y la resistencia de los pueblos a los ataques sistemáticos de las potencias imperialistas para quedarse con los recursos naturales y la hegemonía del mercado.

El Seminario se llevará a cabo desde el viernes 1 de septiembre desde las 16h00 y el sábado 2 de septiembre a partir de las 10h00, con intervalos hasta las 18h00, en que se realizará la sesión de clausura y a continuación el Acto de Aniversario del PCMLE. Para acceder a las sesiones, ponencias y certificados de asistencia, es necesario inscribirse en el link <https://forms.gle/5fcZ6Tp5v7BBvMZT8>

ARGENTINA REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY – PCRA

Dear comrade organizers and participants of the 27th International Seminar "Problems of the Revolution in Latin America"; I bring greetings of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Argentina to this event, in which we are participating once again with the objective of knowing and exchanging visions on the development of the struggles of the working class and peoples of Latin America and the whole world. The theme chosen is very timely: "The struggles of the working class and peoples, and the inter-imperialist disputes".

We are living in the epoch of imperialism and proletarian revolutions. We reaffirm the validity of the Leninist theory of imperialism which, among other questions, raises the division of the world between oppressor countries and oppressed countries and takes this as the fundamental division of the world today, regardless of whether the countries oppressed by imperialism have predominantly feudal, semi-feudal or capitalist social relations.

The imperialist bourgeoisies not only exploit the working class and oppress the peoples of their countries, but oppress and plunder the whole world, turning most of the countries of the globe into colonies, semi-colonies and dependent countries. We must stress the validity of the Leninist conception, later developed in depth by Maoism, which differentiates the bourgeoisie in these countries into an intermediary bourgeoisie, which subordinates itself to imperialism, from the national bourgeoisie, which can confront imperialism. National liberation movements are thus intertwined with the revolutionary movement of the proletariat. This theory of Lenin's is absolutely valid.

We analyzed in our 13th Party Congress, held in October 2022, the first since the death of our historic general secretary, comrade Otto Vargas, that **there is an aggravation of the contention among the imperialist countries and the factors of war, rebellion and struggles of the peoples of Latin America and the world are growing.**

The invasion of Russian imperialism in Ukraine on February 24, 2022 **produced a profound change on the global stage, opening the possibility of a new world war and a deep economic crisis.**

The pandemic, the war, the alarming inequality in the world where the richest 1% accumulates more wealth than the rest of

humanity, the devastation of nature and climate change, are all consequences of the character and voracity of capitalism in its imperialist phase.

As our party Central Committee headed by comrade Jacinto Roldán recently analyzed, **the economic crisis is accelerating the contention and the dangers of war.**

In **China**, the economic situation is complicated and affects the world economy. We are witnessing the contraction of the world market with a fall in external and domestic demand for industrial goods and a fall in the price of raw materials. In July, Chinese exports fell by 14.5% year-on-year while imports fell by 1-2.4%. That adds to the fall in domestic consumption.

In **China**, the housing bubble burst again. The works that are paralyzed are multiplying while many buyers suspended the payment of mortgage loans, creating a cascade of debts that was affecting their entire economy. Country Garden, a real estate giant that is one of the 500 largest companies in the world, has just fallen. Its losses have been 70% so far this year and its debts are estimated to be between \$160 billion and \$190 billion. The Chinese economy is in deflation, stagnant due to low domestic and international demand, the severe real estate crisis and rising military spending. It had to devalue the yuan this week. Being the second largest economy in the world, this affects the entire global economy.

There were also economic shocks in **Russia**, which is suffering from the cost of war and NATO blockades. The ruble fell by 7% in July from the previous month and so far this year it has been devalued by around 27%.

Europe continues to suffer from rising food and energy prices. Due to the cooling of the world economy, its exports fell. Since 2019, wages have fallen by 3% in Germany, 3.5% in Italy and Spain and 6% in Greece. At the same time, the workers' struggles are growing and there is a phenomenon of growing union membership.

Germany, the main European economy, had zero growth in the April-June quarter. **The Netherlands** has just entered a technical recession (two consecutive quarters with negative growth). **Japan's** government has lowered its economic growth forecast for this year to 1.3% from 1.5%.

The United States has given itself a policy to face the recession and achieve a soft landing of its economy. It was not affected by the price of energy since it has a record production in oil, with more than

18 million barrels per day. It has been controlling inflation. But it does so at the cost of a steady rise in the interest rate. Now the US Federal Reserve has raised the rate to 5.5%. With this increase, it already has had 11 rate hikes within the current cycle of monetary contraction, which began at the beginning of 2022. This is very risky for the Yankee economy because it raises the cost of financing, slows consumption and discourages investment. And although it has made progress in decoupling its economy from that of China, it still has a high relationship in some branches, so the stagnation of the Chinese economy will be a headwind at this time.

That is to say that the current growth of the inter-imperialist contention and the factors of war in the world has as a background this economic situation and the sharpening of the need of imperialisms to place the consequences on the oppressed nations and peoples of the world and secure their spheres of power throughout the planet.

Putin just said that "The war will not end if Ukraine does not surrender." Despite this, **the resistance of the Ukrainian people to the invader is still strong.** After a year and a half of Russian imperialist invasion, Ukraine is a devastated country, with thousands of deaths and immense destruction of its economy and energy, health and education systems.

The **Yankees**, and NATO, are maintaining their supply of weapons, leaving the expense to the Ukrainian troops. This is how they act, according to their more global interests and the **preparations for a world war.**

Russian imperialism, for its part, is sending nuclear weapons to allied countries such as Belarus, which borders NATO member Poland. And it is increasing its presence in **Africa**, as seen in the coup d'état in Niger.

We continue to argue that the only way to stop the war is for Russian imperialism to leave Ukrainian territory, and for both the Yankees and NATO to get their claws out of Ukraine. The Ukrainian people have the right to decide their own future.

In the world, blocs are being configured. In the Indo-Pacific the hand of the Yankees appears behind Taiwan, confronting the Chinese, allying with Japan, South Korea and Australia, with the support of NATO countries. The Russians and Chinese respond with their joint military maneuvers. Thus, the Pacific-Indian Ocean area is totally militarized and is a focus of conflict that can set everything on fire. In Africa there are coups, wars and looting. All of them have

behind them the hand of imperialist contention. Taking this into account, at this time, is of utmost importance for countries such as Argentina, which is part of the dependent countries as are many countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

Comrade Mao Tsetung explained the importance, in countries contested by various imperialist powers, of exploiting the inter-imperialist contradictions, which are concealed in the contradictions among the different groups of the ruling classes in each country.

Mao, in his unpublished writings, argues that "we must consider the struggles between the imperialist countries as important events. Lenin and Stalin described such struggles as reserve forces of the revolution."

In Latin America, the same thing is happening as analyzed above.

The United States is trying to recover positions to continue to be the dominant imperialism in what it considers its "backyard". Great Britain is advancing in its objective of consolidating its dominance of the South Atlantic, maintaining the main NATO base in the southern hemisphere in our Malvinas Islands. China and Russia are contending and advancing in the military and economic field.

In the midst of this contention and in the face of the growing oppression and plunder of our peoples and nations, **in Latin America the rebellion and struggles of the peoples are growing**. There are prolonged, massive and combative struggles, with a broad popular unity of the workers and peasants' forces, with a great advance of the unity of the peoples and original nations, of women and youth.

Large towns burst onto the social and political scene again, occupying squares, streets and highways. These are struggles with advances and setbacks, achieving important gains. The struggles of the poor peasants and indigenous peoples and nations for lands and territories and for agrarian reform against landlords and states linked to different imperialisms are continuing.

We vindicate the struggle of the peoples of Latin America, we strive to establish relations with these currents and their political expressions, broadly and without sectarianism. We maintain that it is in unity and struggle, we fight to go beyond the reformist strategy and we offer our revolutionary perspectives.

After the large popular movements of the 1990s and early 2000s, governments emerged with great heterogeneity that adopted reformist measures and to varying degrees took anti-Yankee positions, constituting a regional axis. Experience shows that not breaking with

dependency and latifundia, not destroying the state apparatus of the ruling classes and relying on one imperialism to confront another constitutes a road to defeat; it leads to a new frustration and makes possible the return of reactionary and right-wing governments in our countries.

The Situation in Argentina

This whole international situation is directly linked to what is happening in Argentina; the fate of our homeland is being discussed not only here, but also in different imperialist capitals that are associated with one or another sector of the ruling classes.

The working class and the Argentine people have a history of great struggles. It was those massive and combative struggles, and the popular protagonism that took place at that time, from the streets and at the polls, that led to the defeat of the Macri right in 2019 and its replacement with the Frente de Todos (today Union for the Fatherland), with special prominence of the working class and the peasantry and the movements we are promoting such as the Class and Combative Current, the National Peasant Federation and Not One Less Due to Drugs. There were also important student struggles against the Macri advances in which the Popular Anti-Imperialist Student Current and the Popular Unity Movement played a prominent role. In the fight against the pandemic, popular organization and protagonism were strengthened and the mass united front movements that we promoted were advanced.

Throughout the last period, putting the main blow on the Macri right that, today together with Milei, was and continues to be the main danger for the working class and the people, we fought for the government to respond to popular emergencies and break the agreement with the International Monetary Fund that validates the Macri scam and brings with it adjustment and dependency.

For 2 months the people of Jujuy have been fighting for teachers' salaries and against the reform of the provincial Constitution, which seeks to facilitate the handing over and looting of lithium to the imperialist monopolies and advances repression, prohibiting strikes and demonstrations. This is a struggle in which the indigenous peoples and nations that are defending their territories, together with the teachers and other popular sectors, are playing a great role, and that has been moving the country.

The recent PASO [primary] elections have opened up a new

scenario. The candidate with the most votes was Milei, with 7,116,352 votes. Second came Together for Change with 6,698,029 votes and third the Union for the Fatherland (UxP), which we formed together with Peronism and other forces, with 6,460,689 votes.

A very large sector chose not to vote (69.6% voted), voted blank (4.8%) or voided their vote (1.2%). Keep in mind that in Argentina voting is mandatory. In total, if we take as a reference the 80.4% who voted in October 2019, there were more than 5 million people who did not vote for any of the candidates. These are votes that are in dispute, when the difference between Milei and Union for the Fatherland was 655,663 and between Together for Change and Union for the Fatherland this difference was 237,340 votes.

The first thing that the elections show is that the anger and weariness of the situation is very strong. We didn't see the magnitude of the vote for Milei. We came from provincial elections in which their candidates had not garnered votes, but important sectors of the masses used it to punish at the national level.

In the vote for Milei, **different sectors converged.** It is true that there is a fascist core that supports it, but it is a minority. The predominant thing among the mass that voted for him are sectors that used him to express their anger. He had many votes among the workers, in the slums, in the towns, among the poor peasantry and the youth.

With his proclamations against the political caste he managed to deceive sections of the masses with his "incendiary" speech. He even uses the slogan "they should all go" which was a popular slogan of the Argentinazo of 2001.

Milei vindicates Menem and Cavallo. His international reference points are Bolsonaro, Vox (the Spanish fascist party) and Donald Trump. He was an advisor to General Bussi, one of the main assassins in the Videlista dictatorship. He has close relations with Eurnekian, a businessowner friend of Mauricio Macri. They have the same general objectives, an Argentina for less than 20 million. Now he says that we must leave Mercosur and that he is going to break the agreements with China and Brazil. His candidate for vice president is Victoria Villarruel, from a military family, who supported the most fascist sectors of the Vindelista dictatorship.

His program and proposals on labor laws, public education, public health, scientific research, national culture, etc. **are profoundly reactionary and need to be exposed.**

Together for Change had a vote below their expectations. Bullrich now has trouble differentiating himself from Milei, compounded by Macri's flirtations with Milei. Macri presents himself as the big winner.

For UxP the campaign was difficult because of the adjustment, inflation, insecurity, we are seeing with this government, and in the face of anger it is not enough to say that there is a reactionary right that is worse. It is not enough to say that they want to take away your rights, when a large part of our people already lives without rights and are having a hard time.

Among the industrial proletariat the need to permanently fight for wages in order to defend them against inflation is creating unease. This is aggravated by the attitude of monopolies such as Techint, which, after lining its pockets with the construction of the Néstor Kirchner gas pipeline, now is promoting the conflict by blocking parity with steel workers and creating layoffs at its Valentín Alsina plant. Or the attitude of Mondelez-Terrabusi, which is not respecting the increase in the non-taxable minimum by making large discounts on wages. The workers of its Pacheco plant, with its internal commission at the head, responded by blocking the gates of the company.

We stated that as part of the front we were campaigning for Union for the Fatherland, with our Ten Measures and for our candidates. And we are pushing everywhere the need for a national strike in solidarity with the struggle of the people of Jujuy and for the growing popular needs.

We carried out the campaign with struggle, without for a moment running away from being at the head of the needs of the working class and the people, and placing the main blow on the reactionary right. It is the popular struggle that unmasks the essence of these reactionary rights; it is here that the masses verify through their own experience the content of their proposals.

In the current international situation, with the deepening of the crisis, the growth of the contention and the growing struggles, unexpected situations may open up. In this process we are fighting to be the vanguard of unity and popular mobilization in order to confront this recalcitrant right and to make a leap in the accumulation of revolutionary forces.

We are fighting to prepare the Party and the masses for abrupt changes. Judicial and repressive attacks on the popular struggles and the movements in general, on the movements of which we are a part,

and in particular on our Party, are a serious matter.

This is a time when the sufferings of the masses are increasing. All sectors of the ruling classes are working to dismantle the struggles and for the masses to play only on the electoral field. But the struggles are growing and the masses are not resigning themselves. We have been playing a big role in those struggles.

The situation tends to precipitate and we are fighting for the working class and people to find the way toward the seizure of political power and thus open the way to the democratic, popular, agrarian and anti-imperialist revolution in uninterrupted march to socialism.

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PERSISTING IN THE STRUGGLE FOR CHANGE

1. So far in 2023, the analysis of international events reaffirms the theses of Leninism on imperialism and once again highlights the validity and correctness of the utopia and the tasks of the international proletariat in this epoch.

As we have pointed out on other occasions, capitalism today maintains the fundamental features pointed out by Lenin in his book: "Imperialism, the highest stage of capitalism," confirming at every step, in addition to its decomposition and agony, the impossibility of going back to the dawn of capitalism, free competition, "peaceful democracy" or the establishment of a society where souls atone and with a purified heart come equality and justice.

A fallacy generally used by those who confuse politics with religion is that of those who preach the salvation of capitalism and the opening up of a humane capitalism, which regains relations of equality, justice and solidarity between men and societies.

To insist on such theses at a time when the characteristics of imperialism, crises and social antagonisms are increasingly evident is not only to defend an anti-communist gimmick but also to side with those who seek to defend the indefensible. Humane capitalism is an impossible theory to realize, fallacious par excellence, which ignores the violence and injustice that is inherent in the capitalist system, yesterday and today, instrument of the rapacity of the monopolies, the profound private appropriation of profit, the extreme and increasing levels of oppression and exploitation, the fusion of monopolies and the state and the adoption of violence as the main method of securing property, power and domination, as well as war seen in the redivision, subjugation and destruction of the sovereignty of the peoples.

Returning to what was stated at the beginning, the decomposition and agony of capitalism in its imperialist phase is reflected in the most relevant facts of the current situation. The big banks and monopolies have closed ranks and are contesting for the domination and control of the planet and cyberspace; the imperialist powers, without avoiding war, are unceasingly promoting and establishing the formation of alliances and blocs for domination, supremacy, control and redivision of the world, the strategic areas, raw materials and energy resources.

The competition and struggle of the superpowers is also opening the way in technological matters, the battle led by the US, China, Russia, Germany, the United Kingdom, India, Japan, Switzerland, Sweden and the Netherlands are moving countless stocks and investments in the world, putting into play new forces and major economic, technological and social transformations. It is clear that in the immediate future the fourth industrial revolution, which is so much talked about these days, will lead to new ways of living, producing, working and relating. It is not a dream to say that the new economic and social activity will be nurtured by virtual and physical systems, which cooperate intelligently and flexibly at the global level. It is already foreseen that the widespread use of intelligent and connected systems will allow not only the fusion and combination of new technologies (genetic engineering, nanotechnology, robotics, quantum computing, renewable energies) but also new scenarios and social antagonisms.

The current battle between the US and China for control of Taiwan is leading to a whole geopolitical, economic and technological struggle. It is a secret to very few that 87% of the world's semiconductor production and market (microchip/integrated circuits used in all industries, electronic products, medical equipment, cars and industrial machines) are being monopolized by Taiwan, South Korea and China. It is also no secret that the "new oil" is in the form of a chip and that the movement and control of the world's economy depends on it. Taiwan and South Korea also produce 83% of the chips for processors, with the growing demand for these, their scarcity could represent a superlative drag on the world economy. The control of the production of quantum computers (which use microchips below 6 and 7 nanometers, capable of processing high levels of information) would put any economy in check and that the new industrial and technological revolution will become another instrument of domination and redivision of the world.

It must therefore be emphasized that the action of the monopolies and in general all the violence used by the imperialists to increase their profits constitute a brake on the development of the productive forces and technical progress, because in some cases they limit it and in others they boycott it, always subjecting them to their designs and interests. It is true that social contradictions exist in the present and new dynamics of the world; it would be profoundly reactionary and obscurantist to deny them, to question them or simply to omit them, as opportunists of all kinds do.

The peoples and the different imperialist countries are insistently clashing over their interests, purposes and policies, while the competing imperialists strive to impose their countercyclical policies on the peoples. The peoples on the other hand are resisting, defending their sovereignty and rejecting the collusion and the society of the oligarchies (major and minor), the monopolies and finance capital which are seeking in the midst of the most extreme anarchy to raise their profits by placing the crisis on the shoulders of the working masses.

The working class likewise is clashing with the bourgeoisies of all kinds, not renouncing the strikes and the struggle to defend their demands and banners as a political subject. A new period in the emancipatory struggle is seen in highlighting the new challenges demanded by the new cyclical crisis and the new impulse to war and the redivision of the world.

The present facts lay bare the validity of the Leninist approach that warns that "Imperialism is capitalism in that stage of development in which the dominance of monopolies and finance capital has established itself; in which the export of capital has acquired pronounced importance; in which the division of the world among the international trusts has begun; in which the division of all territories of the globe among the biggest capitalist powers has been completed."¹

The facts also show that the present period is marked by the sharpening of the fundamental contradiction of capitalism: that between the social character of production and the private-capitalist character of appropriation. This having been shown, the accentuation and exacerbation of social contradictions, the inevitability of the revolution and the end of imperialism is undeniable in the current situation.

2. In the context of the sharpening of the social contradictions that make their antagonisms more evident, these days the international situation highlights the escalation of confrontations in Ukraine, the high uncertainty of the arrival of the recession in several countries, the growth of inflation, the tightening of monetary policy, the anti-colonial struggle of the African countries, as well as the growth of strikes, work stoppages and in general of social mobilization against the countercyclical policies of the imperialists and their interstate agencies.

¹ Vladimir I. Lenin. Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism.

3. The war in Ukraine, as one of the most relevant events of this period, is continuing to show that war is not a matter of the past and that the current confrontations are not less serious than some unbelievers still think. We are witnessing an increase in confrontations for economic and political domination of the world, in this case by the bloc formed by the US, the member countries of NATO against the bloc led by the Russian Federation, China, India and Iran. In the concrete scenario today this is in Ukraine, but with the danger of opening up to other parts of the planet such as the Baltic, southeast Asia or Latin America to maintain and raise the confrontation as a trend.

In this sense the world conflagration is imminent and is increasingly spurred on to the extent that new countries enter the confrontation and is taken up by the imperial powers as the most viable alternative to the serious economic and social crisis that plagues the capitalist world and that deeply hits the governance and "stability" of international financial oligarchy in the different countries.

Disturbing in the acute panorama are the permanent violations of human rights and international human rights, the inability of the UN and its specialized agencies, the growing hardening and militarization of states, as well as the arms race that is rising in all areas.

4. In economic matters, uncertainty and instability are increasing by leaps and bounds, showing the unbridled eagerness of the monopolies and banks to maintain maximum profit and increase the rate of profit.

High interest rates, rising taxes, austerity policies and tight restrictions on demand are becoming the main formulas of central banks and governments to curb the galloping inflation that affects most of the world's economies. The debt and its high interest rates are becoming a very strong noose for the dependent countries, mainly of Latin America, that are unable to comply with the dictates of the IMF, as well as of tracing a path of growth and development for their economies.

The slowdown of the Chinese and Russian economies, the recession in the US and the decline in most countries in Europe and Latin America account for the contraction of the world economy, estimates of the deepening of the crisis in 2023, as well as a possible economic crash or collapse similar to that of 1975 or 2008.

There are concerns about the high cost of fuels and the entire energy crisis associated with the use of hydrocarbons and coal that is becoming widespread and that encourages paralysis, the high cost of

raw materials, fertilizers and food, in a context in which the interdependence of countries for their production and marketing is rising and deepening.

The neoliberal prescriptions promoted by the IMF and the WB, meekly accepted by the oligarchies of the different countries, barely satisfies the social needs that are deepening everywhere, the same happens with those who promote populist recipes or who call for consensus or the social pact (or class conciliation) as an alternative or solution to serious social problems. In times of crisis the gaze of the bourgeoisie becomes more short-term, reflecting its agony and inability to provide and satisfy social needs. Aggravated social and political problems, without a vision that makes it possible to face and get out of the crisis, the future of capitalism can only be that of greater agony, anarchy and uncertainty.

5. Another important aspect of the situation that must be further followed up are the great effects of climate change. Since the industrial revolution, the earth's temperature has increased rapidly due to the increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions created by the growth of industrial activity, the burning of fossil fuels (oil, gas and coal), the destruction of forests and other human activities. Those who study the matter point out that, with the increase in temperature, the poles melt, the sea level rises and the coastal populations will be mostly affected. Agriculture suffers and food security is at risk. Climatic phenomena are more intense, frequent and unpredictable.

In the midst of antagonism and war, anarchy and competition for supremacy on the globe and in cyberspace, as elements that characterize the current international situation in times of crisis, the efforts and goals agreed to internationally are fruitless and ineffective. Thus, while the will and practice of the imperialist powers, the monopolies and the oligarchies of our countries go in one direction, in the opposite direction affirmative actions work for the diversification of the energy matrix, investment in renewable energies (the increases in investment are not commensurate with international needs), reforestation and care of forests, rivers and aquifer formations, as well as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), among other measures.

At this point we cannot fail to mention that today no country is exempt from the effects of pollution, hurricanes, tornadoes, strong winters, droughts, heat waves, etc. In addition, it must be a great concern of ours if we take into account what the UN said, when it points

to Colombia as the third most vulnerable country in the world to climate change.

6. Without fully emerging from the Covid 19 pandemic, in the last year workers have suffered deeply from the effects of the inter-imperialist war in Ukraine, debt, high taxes, rising fuel prices, the large decline in their incomes, the energy crisis and inflation. Wages have been diminished, on the contrary the burdens and sufferings grow. Insecurity and the curtailment of rights and freedoms fall like a sledgehammer, disabling projects and possibilities of a better future. Education, health care, housing, healthy recreation and sports in a context of crisis are also hit hard and the efforts of the popular sectors to access them are greater.

In fact, the oppression and exploitation of the broad masses has increased and the all-sided scenario in which the different countries are developing and suffering shows greater levels of alienation and social alienation.

The profits of the monopolies have also increased and with it greater control and reactionization of the states by the financial oligarchies, who are the ones that make the greatest apology for fascism, authoritarian solutions and war in times of crisis.

As a result of war and pauperization, hunger and growing inequality, and in general of enslavement and lack of opportunities, the world is once again facing a wave of mass migrations, perhaps the largest in human history. Millions of migrants in different parts of the world are facing death, hunger and poverty. The US, Canada, Spain, the UK, Germany, India and Saudi Arabia rank first in terms of the number of immigrants. All the above factors are pushing humanity and nature to greater ruin and hopelessness, in equal measure the only and most just alternative is the revolution and socialism.

7. The panorama of recent months also highlights the resurgence of social mobilization in most countries of the world. We highlight the struggle for independence and sovereignty that is making its way in most African countries, which are courageously confronting French neocolonialism, the indiscriminate exploitation of natural resources, super-exploitation and the violation of individual and collective rights.

In the midst of the war, the absence of gas, the energy crisis, the rising inflationary wave and the arrival of winter, social unrest in Europe is growing, the rejection of the policies of the European economic community is widespread. Strikes, protests, work stoppages

and mobilizations are growing and are having their effects. Several governments have fallen, others are about to fall as a result of the widespread rejection of the masses. The United Kingdom, France, Spain and Italy appear among the countries with the highest number of demonstrators.

Although there are no policy changes in sight from most governments in Europe, confidence in the fruits of the strike and mobilization is beginning to develop among the unions and of the parties left. The immediate future therefore shows greater confrontation and the leading role of the workers in defining the European policies. Another region where protests stand out is in Latin America. Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Peru and Brazil have seen the highest number of demonstrators in recent months. The rise of the struggles of the masses is, however, quite widespread in all parts of the continent. The rejection of the high cost of living, high taxes, low wages, high costs of public services and transportation, and the budgetary cuts to health care, education, as well as subsidies for the most disadvantaged sectors are among the main causes of the growing mobilizations.

Relevant in the Latin American context is the victory of progressivism in countries such as Mexico, Chile, Bolivia and Colombia recently. Although they have not yet managed to demarcate lines with the neoliberal and populist policies that accompanied previous governments in their respective countries, the victory of these progressive candidates has made possible the raising of important popular banners and demands that continue to guide and mark the actions of the mass, democratic and leftist organizations.

The new electoral processes that are taking place in Colombia, Ecuador, Argentina and Venezuela highlight the contention in Latin America between those fascist-prone currents and defenders of US interference and the democratic, progressive and leftist currents. Although the dispersion among these currents has become very characteristic, we cannot ignore the role that each and every one of the members of these currents play in the global geopolitical contention, as in the outcome of the processes and confrontations that are taking place in each of the countries.

In the case of the political organizations identified by advanced thinking and those that make up this democratic, progressive and leftist tendency, the eagerness to enable greater mass leadership and achieve policies that bring about greater social relief in the midst of the crisis is highlighted.

The opening and strength of pro-fascist forces in Central America is disturbing. El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, for example, are a reflection of the growing and almost omnipotent power of these oligarchic forces.

It is also necessary to highlight the advances of the popular struggle in the US, the appearance in this country of numerous social and political organizations, the rejection in events and mobilizations against the Biden government, as well as the manipulation that he has been doing before the public opinion of the question of abortion, the defense of migrants and the right to work.

8. On the other hand, and striving to analyze the various situations in their proper context, we cannot lose sight of the danger that opportunist forces and especially social democracy in the region represent for democratic changes and the development of the various revolutionary processes.

Experience shows us that the bourgeoisie and all its parties and organizations adjust their discourse according to the pretensions they have as a class in power at a certain moment; in times of crisis their purpose is simply to strengthen their domination, opposing changes and the social revolution.

The opportunist forces likewise adjust their discourse and behavior, their purpose, whatever the manner in which they present themselves; overtly or covertly it is just to reconcile the working class with capitalism, to divide and accommodate the workers, their organizations and struggles in the interests of the ruling classes, to promote collaboration with the prevailing system, the state and its policies. They distinguish themselves because in exchange for and as a "prize" for their collaborationist action, they receive countless economic and political privileges.

In Latin America, many governments have been presided over by ideologues and agents representing opportunist forces, opposed to change and the social revolution; they take advantage of the difficulties and vicissitudes of capital to offer and provide their services and collaboration. In recent years, old and new theories have emerged that underpin the old revisionist and social democratic postulates, seeking to serve in some cases as a cushion, in others as a calming agent in the face of the crisis. Sustainable development, 21st century socialism, the citizens' revolution and humane capitalism are competing social democratic obfuscations in the region that are currently being used by different governments to cover up their bourgeois character,

put the people to sleep, promote conciliation and distance them from the struggle for social change.

The progressive international, a variant of international social democracy, in which the current presidents of Mexico, Honduras, Colombia, Bolivia and Chile are active, defend these theories in different ways, but they agree in denying class antagonisms, promoting conciliation, pointing out as an unavoidable purpose in our societies the coming to agreement with the powerful (the oligarchs and imperialists) and the building of a peaceful democracy, friendly to life and the environment. In our concept it is another way of opposing the revolution and encouraging a "reform" of capitalism that accepts and leaves unscathed the profits of the great imperialist powers, the monopolies and finance capital.

Aware of this grave danger, the real forces of change, and especially the revolutionaries and as part of them the communists, have the historic challenge of unmasking in their content and forms, the old and new strategies and policies of agreement and collaboration of classes promoted by the opportunists and in the region the new representatives of social democracy who are advancing them. The current political scenario therefore reflects and fosters a complex and open struggle to win the masses and commit them to the defense and strengthening of a certain project.

On our part, in the perspective of power, we will join forces with democrats and revolutionaries who are preparing to deepen democracy, to raise social participation, confront neoliberalism and the imperialist policies, and in general with all the forces and organizations that fight hard to accumulate forces in favor of the workers and the people.

Seen in this way the panorama and the turbulence that characterizes it, the revolutionary forces must refine and strengthen our political link to the masses, in a perspective that highlights the transformations in favor of democracy, sovereignty and the social rights that the popular masses demand.

Corporation for Research and Popular Education – CIEP

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC COMMUNIST PARTY OF LABOR

THE STRUGGLES OF WORKERS AND PEOPLES, AND THE INTER-IMPERIALIST DISPUTES

The Communist Party of Labor considers the central theme of the Seminar to be very timely on this occasion. In the first place, because the struggle of the workers and peoples corresponds to the need for changes and as a necessary response to the problems posed by imperialist domination; secondly, because the current historical situation of the revolution continues to be one of class confrontation, in which the struggles of the masses for the overthrow of the bourgeoisie occupy a fundamental place; thirdly, because in the present context, the inter-imperialist contradictions are therefore at the order of the day, and it is up to the revolutionary parties and organizations to analyze them in order to derive the lines of orientation pertinent to the great cause of revolutionary change.

THE STRUGGLES OF THE WORKING CLASS AND THE PEOPLES ARE DECISIVE TO FORGE THE REVOLUTION

Marxism-Leninism is the doctrine of liberation of the working class and oppressed peoples; this is a known truth to which it will always be necessary to return with regard to analyses and evaluations of the living and working conditions of the workers, as well as the perspectives of their struggles against exploitation and oppression in capitalist society. The historical resistance of the workers and their victories in different scenarios of struggle are irrefutable examples of their power as a revolutionary social class, as seen in the struggles waged throughout history against capital. The experience of the Paris Commune as the first test of working-class power and the glorious October Revolution of 1917 are illustrative examples of the correctness of revolutionary theory.

The Bolshevik revolution, the most important political event in the 20th century, bequeathed lessons of extraordinary value to the revolutionary cause throughout the world. It was the result of a whole complex process of struggles, accumulation of forces and political tactics, which culminated in the triumph of the revolution. With this experience it was shown that, in the context of the capitalist system, the oppressed workers and peoples can not only aspire to power, but their effective victory and the revolutionary transformation of society

is a viable task when the revolutionary struggle has a vanguard and is endowed with political strategy and tactics. consistent with that ideal in tune with reality.

The building and accumulation of forces in the revolutionary sense challenges communists and revolutionaries to develop ever closer links with the working and popular masses. This task in the current context entails difficulties and obstacles whose overcoming requires a lot of creativity and audacity, just as we strive to carry out the critical balance, the revolutionary parties and organizations in our daily struggle, but the visible results demand much more, much more. We must hammer consciousness into this.

The struggles of workers and peoples for their emancipation are developing in the face of powerful enemies who have at their disposal enormous resources of all kinds. Faced with this reality, the working class and the peoples necessarily require the building and strengthening of Marxist-Leninist parties and revolutionary organizations that, in the heat of class struggles, shape and evaluate their ability of struggle, thus responding to the challenge of promoting the convergence of objective and subjective conditions that make it possible to seize power and begin the beginning of the new society that is the gravedigger of capitalism, socialist society.

THIS STRUGGLE IN THE NEW HISTORICAL CONDITIONS

Marx and Engels established in the Communist Manifesto: " Our epoch, the epoch of the bourgeoisie, possesses, however, this distinctive feature: it has simplified the class antagonisms. Society as a whole is more and more splitting up into two great hostile camps, into two great classes directly facing each other: Bourgeoisie and Proletariat." Lenin, in his classic work "Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism" (1916) consolidated the conclusions of Marx and Engels, characterizing the epoch of imperialism as one of great concentration of monopolies and of the proletarian revolution.

With the victory of the Russian revolution and the organization of the Soviet state, the experience of the Bolsheviks became a universal socialist model that served as an inspiring spark. so that the proletariat in struggle on a world scale would make the leap from "a class in itself" to "a class for itself", trusting in the capacity of its vanguard for revolutionary change and the building of a new society.

Despite all the disorienting maneuvers of the imperialists and

their spokespersons, such as the emergence of the theory of the so-called "end of history and the class struggle", the working class and oppressed peoples have not ceased to fight for their demands against capitalist domination and oppression.

From the disintegration of the Soviet bloc and the impact on society of the scientific-technical revolution, new circumstances have been created in which the capitalist system and imperialism deepen their domination, while their spokespersons from certain academic scenarios and media speculate about the ability of that system to "re-invent itself". and that "revolutions are a thing of the past." Despite this confusing and demobilizing campaign, to the extent that the exploitation of labor power and the oppression of peoples and nations are expanded and deepened, the objective bases of class confrontation continue to mark the course of contemporary society.

This incontrovertible truth is revealed in the various actions of struggle and resistance against oppression and exploitation by the workers and peoples in recent decades in various are was, which have their most recent expression in the extraordinary struggles by workers and other oppressed sectors in France.

The strikes, street fighting, attempts at popular insurrection in different areas, are part of the scenario of contemporary society.

It is true that, in various countries, this potential for rebellion has often been channeled into support for reformist democratic electoral choices that, in many cases, betrayed the electorate, abandoning any idea of democratic and social justice reform. This betrayal is creating great frustrations in broad sectors of society, which together with the continuity of the crisis and its consequences for the working masses, is creating conditions for the strengthening of fascist and neo-fascist choices, as we are seeing in a growing number of countries.

The great challenge is to create revolutionary consciousness in the masses, whose mobilization is the antidote to the fascist danger. This mobilization of the masses cannot be limited to the level of economic demands, it requires action in pursuit of political gains. For this, the role of the vanguard communists and revolutionaries and their party is key. In this sense, the present challenge for the cause of the revolution remains to win the hearts and minds of the masses, placing the workers and youth in the first place, starting from the fact that in capitalist society, of all the exploited classes, it is the working class that is most consistently revolutionary.

On this point, comrade Manuel Salazar proposes the reflection

based on the question before "Who will win over the masses is a very topical question. And it has always been for a force interested in seizing power, having the masses of workers and other popular sectors as the main factor to achieve and retain it" (M. Salazar. *The Revolution is Today*, Santo Domingo (1997), p. 61).

The *raison d'être* for the militants, for communists and revolutionaries, is the political exercise for the overthrow of the reactionary classes and the building of revolutionary political power. For this, the struggles of the workers and peoples are key, because the real revolution must be their work.

In this regard, a text by comrade Pablo Miranda states that, "For the popular struggles to be included in the revolutionary process it is necessary that they (the masses) clarify their understanding of the class character of their enemies. They must understand the need to fight for power, recognize their present strength, their potential, they must identify their true friends and accept the leadership of the Party and its forces." (Pablo Miranda. *The subjects of the revolution*, p. 55.)

It is important to emphasize that this consciousness is achieved, built, with the experience obtained by the workers and other popular sectors in their daily struggles closely inspired by the communist party and other revolutionary organizations. Without this, the masses can be the object of confusion, seduced by the parties of the bourgeois-capitalist system, by which they are diverted.

In response to the adverse conditions in which we are struggling today, and in recognition of the unprecedented challenges we face, in order to raise our capacity for analysis and intervention on an increasingly complex reality, it is worth noting that the revolutionary movement has faced similar situations in the past and has been able to overcome them.

In this regard, referring to the experience of the mass struggle during the period 1905-1907, Lenin warns that:

"The defeat of the revolution resulting from this first campaign revealed... that the forces were insufficiently prepared, that the revolutionary crisis was insufficiently wide and deep.... The great wars in history, the great problems of revolutions, were solved only by the advanced classes returning to the attack again and again—and they achieved victory after having learned the lessons of defeat." (V I Lenin, "On the Road," *Collected Works*, Volume 15, p. 351.; Progress Publishers, Moscow, 1977.) The logic on which the evolution of the capitalist system rests, creates factors of crisis that eventually

lead to a revolutionary situation, that the constancy of the communists and revolutionaries in consistent positions, with firmness and clarity of orientation, their protagonism in tune with the masses, lead us to new revolutionary crises.

That is the true perspective of our work.

INTER-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLES CONSPIRE AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS AND PEOPLES

On a world scale, inter-imperialist conflicts are developing motivated by the interests of this or that imperialist power, regardless of human lives, the destruction of the environment and the destiny of the peoples.

Every day it becomes clearer to the peoples that the war in Ukraine is the theatre of confrontation of the interests of the imperialist powers, which in the framework of this war, are consolidating old and new alliances.

In the context of this military conflict, the United States, which instigated the war together with the United Kingdom, has managed to increase its control over the European Union, despite the fact that the big business of delivering weapons to Ukraine creates benefits for all. It is a fact that in this context the community of interests between Russia and China has also been strengthened.

Assessing the nature of the First World War very early on as a war between imperialist sides, an illuminating text by Lenin states that "Seizure of territory and subjugation of other nations, the ruining of competing nations and the plunder of their wealth, distracting the attention of the working masses from the internal political crises... disuniting and nationalist stultification of the workers.... these comprise the sole actual content, importance and significance of the present war.... Neither group of belligerents is inferior to the other in spoliation, atrocities and the boundless brutality of war" (Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, "The War and Russian Social Democracy," in *Collected Works*, vol. 21,; pp. 27-28, Progress Publishers, Moscow, 1974).

As if it were written today, these ideas confirm the relevance of relying on Leninist theory when addressing the complex phenomena and processes of the national anti-imperialist struggle and the struggle for socialism; the agreements and disagreements between imperialist powers and groups of imperialist countries; the crises in the evolution of capitalism in its monopoly phase, and especially our responsibility for the modification of the current framework, to

promote the emergence of new conditions conducive to revolutionary change, the creation of consciousness, organization and struggle of those exploited and oppressed for national and social emancipation.

GLORY TO MARXISM-LENINISM!

DOWN WITH IMPERIALISM!

LONG LIVE THE STRUGGLE OF THE WORKERS AND PEOPLES!

Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the PCT.
August 31, 2023.

ECUADOR
MARXIST-LENINIST COMMUNIST PARTY

**THE STRUGGLES OF THE WORKING CLASS AND
PEOPLES, AND THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST DISPUTES**

The prolongation of the war in Ukraine, which has now lasted more than a year and a half, is the main evidence of the intensification of inter-imperialist contention. Russia, the United States and NATO all have in this conflagration the location of the most important projections of their future in international geostrategic control.

To this corresponds the extraordinary investment of economic, military and human resources, and that is still not enough for them and they insist on the need to raise them in all meetings and forums on both sides.

But this war is not the only one in the world, nor the only form of inter-imperialist contention. The trade war is intensifying and subsiding as the situation favors one or another power, one or another economic or military bloc, without the struggles and strife between the members of the same bloc disappearing, as is the case with the countries that make up NATO.

This feverish dispute is spreading to all corners of the earth, it manifests itself in the fueling of local conflicts, the encouragement and support for bloody coups d'état, such as what happened in Niger and Gabon on the African continent, the scene of various and recurrent conflicts.

"We are living in a world conditioned by the ups and downs of the confrontation between the imperialist powers and their economic and military blocs and pacts," said the ICMLPO in the May 1 Manifesto. The inter-imperialist war that is taking place in Ukraine is an expression of this, but it is not its only manifestation. Localized armed conflicts are under way in other countries, trade wars, military apparatuses and armies are being strengthened, there are disputes for economic and political control of the entire planet. The inter-imperialist struggles, particularly the one between the United States and China, warn us of the danger of a world-wide conflagration."

The repercussions of this intensification of inter-imperialist contention are manifold. In the economy, in addition to the serious effects on the countries directly involved in the armed conflict, its repercussions are evident on a global scale.

The economic downturn is seriously affecting China, with major repercussions on its exports and imports, which have an impact on the international economy.

The harmful combination of economic stagnation with high inflation rates is another effect, present mainly in the United States and Europe, but also in several countries in Latin America and other regions of the world.

However, the main impact is suffered by the workers and peoples, mainly in the countries of the imperialist NATO bloc. The increase in war budgets and "aid" to the Zelensky regime, public subsidies to the financial sector to prevent its bankruptcy, among other aspects, have impacted and continue to impact the economy of those at the bottom, with the increase in energy prices and the fall in the purchasing power of wages. The precariousness of work, the dismantling of public services and the regressive reforms to social security have been some of the consequences of the actions of the imperialist bourgeoisie, to place the cost of its war on the backs of the workers and peoples.

The working class and peoples are responding to the offensive of capital

The most important struggles in the world that have taken place in recent times have been led by the working class and broad working masses.

"Now is our time!

"In all countries the demands for higher wages and better working conditions have begun to grow: mobilizations, strikes, demonstrations have increasingly become the way to impose themselves on the bosses. It is a tendency, with different levels and rhythms, that can be seen in all countries; the class struggle, the strength of the workers when they fight together, the importance of the working class, have become more and more affirmed", says the Communiqué of the European section of the ICMLPO. It is referring to the powerful actions of struggle developed in France where, under the slogans: *"No to 64 years", "Enough is enough, this time it is no", "No to exploitation, no to work to the grave",* were promoted since the beginning of this year against the increase in the retirement age of workers.

But also there were repeated actions that took place in Germany, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Norway, Turkey, etc.

Meanwhile, in England, on February 1, a media outlet described:
"Schools closed, trains were paralyzed, officials were absent from multiple ministries. On Wednesday, the United Kingdom saw its largest day of strikes in eleven years with stoppages in many sectors, united by the demand for higher wages against an inflation rate of 10.5%.

"Some 20,000 schools in England and Wales were affected by the first of seven days of strikes called for February and March by primary and secondary school teachers, adding to protests that began months ago in many other sectors."

Even in the United States, countless workers' strikes were joined by writers, screenwriters and actors in the lucrative film industry.

In Latin America, multiple and repeated actions are developing throughout the region.

The popular rebellion in Peru stands out for its magnitude, in response to the parliamentary coup that removed Pedro Castillo from the government and replaced him with Dina Boluarte. It reached great levels of breadth, radicalism and persistence for a period of 2 months. Only the ferocious repression that claimed the lives of more than 60 combatants, together with the blatant support of US imperialism and the right-wing governments of the region could – momentarily – break the rebellion.

In most countries of the region there have been multiple expressions of protest in which the role of the working class has been clearly highlighted, but they have also had the incorporation of broad sectors of the popular camp.

Ecuador, scene of great class battles

Our country is facing an acute economic, social and political crisis. The impossibility of the bourgeoisie as the ruling class to provide an solution and respond to the fundamental needs of our peoples has led to the increase in poverty and extreme poverty, high unemployment and the accelerated concentration of wealth in the hands of the big bourgeoisie.

The presence in Ecuador of the most important international drug trafficking cartels, connected at different levels with State institutions, has precipitated an unprecedented institutional crisis, political instability and the increase in crime and insecurity in the country.

These factors have determined a complex scenario in which the

class contradictions between the bourgeoisie and the working class and other exploited and oppressed classes are expressed and exacerbated, as well as the inter-bourgeois contradictions that have acquired particular significance.

In this scenario, the popular camp, with the action of the working class, broad strata of non-proletarian workers, the indigenous movement, youth, women and sectors of small and medium producers, has played a fundamental role in multiple and significant actions of struggle.

On June 13, 2022, the popular indigenous strike began and lasted for 18 days, winning a victory with a decrease in the prices of gasoline and diesel, the non-expansion of the oil exploitation, the prohibition of mining concessions in protected areas, among other gains.

"The massiveness of the struggle was accompanied by its combativity," says comrade Guido Proaño in the pamphlet: The June strike, eighteen days to win a victory. *"The mass movement has learned from its own struggles and this was expressed in the struggle in the streets, in the building of barricades, the use of mechanisms and instruments of protection and self-defense, mass actions in the cities, the seizure of governorates and institutions, the closure of main roads to affect the productive apparatus. the blocking of cities taking over key points, the organization of relays, the assembly of logistics to sustain the fighters in the capital."*

This momentous battle was not the only one. In multiple and repeated days of mobilization and struggle, the working class, mainly grouped in the organizations that make up the United Workers' Front, has shown its opposition to the attempts of the neoliberal regime of Guillermo Lasso to impose privatizations of strategic areas and social security, of wanting to implement labor flexibility, as a supposed pillar to confront unemployment.

The day of mobilization on May Day 4 months ago took place in 50 cities of the 24 provinces of the country, reiterating the firm position of the working class, leading the popular camp in the complex scenario of political and institutional crisis that confronts Ecuador.

Of course, the camp of the social and political struggle in our country has incorporated multiple sectors affected by the action of the big bourgeoisie in power. Rice producers, dairy farmers, banana growers, Popular Front organizations, peasant social security, university students have been involved. Of particular importance was the

struggle promoted by the teachers grouped in the National Union of Educators, who broke the arrogance of the government and won the right to equal pay.

The very episodes of the development of the political crisis, with the impeachment of President Lasso, the declaration of cross-death [in which the president can dissolve the assembly] and the early elections, have not only been expressions of inter-bourgeois contradictions, but also a consequence of the high and persistent levels of combats of the working class, the indigenous movement and other popular sectors.

The struggle in the streets and squares, the strikes and roadblocks has been combined with the presence of the electoral contests.

In opposition to the different alternatives of the bourgeoisie, the revolutionary left and the popular forces have contested the different areas of representation in local governments, in parliament and even in government with their own alternatives.

In the recent early elections, in addition to the 6 presidential candidacies of the bourgeoisie representing different tendencies of the right and so-called progressivism, the popular and left alternative was presented by Yaku Pérez for the Presidency, with the alliance "Claro que se puede" [Certainly we can].

We were in the front row of the contest until the terrible assassination of candidate Fernando Villavicencio. This reprehensible event shook the political scene and favored the two alternatives of the bourgeoisie, which will contest for the government in the second round. Neither of them are an alternative for the working class and peoples of Ecuador.

By way of conclusions:

The revival of the struggle of the working class at the international level affirms the validity of the fundamental contradiction between capital and labor, between the working class and the bourgeoisie.

The recent experiences of struggle of the working class confirm Lenin's theses of the obligation of revolutionaries to participate and get involved in the big trade unions or trade union federations and to fight for the consciousness of the great working masses.

It has also been shown that in the multiple battles, the working class does not act alone, that broad strata of working people are

incorporated who, without being strictly part of the working class, are victims of the capitalist system and of the policies of the imperialist bourgeoisie and its natural ally, the big bourgeoisie in the dependent countries.

In several Latin American countries , indigenous peoples are playing an important role in driving the social and political struggle.

A prominent role has been played by youth and women, who are incorporated and involved with determination in all these struggles.

However, the multiple actions of struggle carried out on an international scale also reveal their limitations that prevent this potential from being projected in a meaningful way to the struggle for revolutionary transformation, for the overcoming of capitalism.

These limitations are seen, on the one hand, in the weaknesses in mechanisms of coordination and unification in the most important moments of the struggle.

The lack of a clear political goal that articulates and projects these struggles is one of the most important and evident limitations, which prevent this struggle from being linked to a project of change, to a revolutionary channel.

Of course, when we speak of these limitations it would be wrong to hold the working class and the working masses responsible for them. It is necessary to take up the new and great challenges that are presented for revolutionaries, for Marxist-Leninist parties, to improve and expand our activity to place ourselves at the height of the current development of the class struggle, and to lead that process and lead the social struggle into the revolutionary channel, to the struggle for political power, for the revolution and socialism.

August 1, 2023

ECUADOR
REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH OF ECUADOR, JRE

TO FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE IS TO FIGHT
AGAINST CAPITALISM!

In the world there are 1200 million young people who represent 16% of the world population; by 2030, this figure will grow by 7% and there will be more than 1300 million (UN, 2023), the largest number of young people in history. Youth is the most dynamic factor of production, of cultural, technological, communication and social development. However, this is not recognized in a world in which, in addition to economic exploitation, ethnic, gender and age marginalization is imposed. But, marginalization is far from being a "moral" issue, and, in fact, 60% of young people in the so-called "developing" countries have no work nor education. It is estimated that 39% of young people and adolescents in Latin America live in poverty and up to 10% in indigence; the homicide rate among young people is 33 per thousand inhabitants, suicide remains the second leading cause of death for adolescents and half of sexual abuse is committed against women up to the age of 15 (UNFPA, 2022). The world is turning its back on those it claims are "its future."

But, it is not just any "world"; we are talking about the world in which 1% of the population hoards twice as much wealth as the rest of the population together and, not satisfied with this, has taken 63% of the new wealth created in the last two years (OXFAM, 2023). We are talking about a world in which, while people are starving, dozens of active military conflicts (the most important is the Russia-Ukraine war, but it is not the only one) are being carried out and military spending has increased to more than \$2.24 trillion. This exceeds the average spending during the Cold War and the main ones are the powers that are contesting for the world: the United States, China and Russia (SIPRI, 2022).

We must also talk about a world that, in the midst of the pandemic, could not guarantee the lives of 15 million people (WHO, 2021), in which there are 207 million unemployed, in which 140 million remain outside the educational systems, in addition to the 90% who suspended their studies for up to a year. We are talking about a world that is on the verge of a new mass extinction, due to the serious environmental crisis to which the voracious actions of the mega-

transnational corporations are leading us. This world is capitalism, in its final stage, imperialism.

On the other hand, the peoples are rising up to reject the policy of hunger, rape and death by the global and local elites. In Europe, workers and peasants mobilized against the announced austerity measures, even in countries such as Britain, Germany and Austria. In France, the struggle against the government's labor reform turned into a major rebellion. In Africa and Asia, movements are persisting that confront neocolonialism and demand democratic reforms. The women's and environmental movement are growing and, despite the agendas of NGOs, they are taking on anti-system overtones.

Latin America, in turn, remains the center of disputes and contradictions. While U.S., Chinese and European imperialism continue to vie for economic, political and military control, using their old and new neoliberal, "progressive" and even pro-fascist faces, the struggle of the indigenous people, workers, peasants, women and youth are continuing to unfold in several areas. In all these battles, the young people are fighting on the front line, they are revolutionizing communications and organizing themselves in different ways. The building of truly popular and left-wing projects is still a work in the making.

In Ecuador, the neoliberal offensive is seeking to privatize strategic areas, social security, to hand over resources to mining and oil transnationals, to impose labor flexibility and reduce investment in health care and education. As part of the strategy of global domination and the US security doctrine, work is also being done to strengthen the repressive apparatus and demonize the popular struggle.

The people have resisted this new onslaught and, there have been protests in the agricultural sector, hunger strikes and mobilizations of teachers, resistance in areas threatened by extractivism, the women's struggles against femicidal violence and for the right to abortion in cases of rape; students have also demonstrated for the budget for education and admission to universities. A high point of this struggle was the strike of June 2022. At present, the people are demanding solutions to the serious crisis of insecurity that has taken over the country, hand in hand with organized crime and the corrupt State.

Young people are suffering the consequences of this serious situation in a particular way. Only 9.9% have adequate employment, 195 thousand students did not return to the classroom after the pandemic, between 250 and 300 thousand young people stay out of

university each period, 3 out of 10 face mental health problems and 41 thousand adolescents from the age of 14 become pregnant every year. In the midst of this abandonment, young people from the popular sectors are being recruited by criminal organizations, but they are not the majority; more than 80% of young people are demanding urgent solutions to insecurity.

In this scenario, marked by a deep institutional crisis, there is the unprecedented event of the decree of cross death [by which the President can dissolve the National Assembly] and call for early presidential elections; the left forged a unitary process that, for various reasons, among those highlighted are the resurgence of political violence, did not achieve the expected results and today we are facing a second round in which two right-wing alternatives are being debated. Faced with this situation, maintaining our class independence, the popular organizations are promoting the null vote. An important milestone that was achieved is the victory of the popular referendums in Defense of the Yasuní and the Chocó Andino, which opens the doors for the fight against extractivism under new conditions.

Intertwining these ideas, we can state that, while the youth continues to move the world, capitalism, while filling the pockets of a handful of rich people, is denying a future to the millions of young people and, in the process, is placing the whole world at mortal risk. That is why, naturally, discontent, social mobilization and protest have become a necessary resource, even in the Europe of the so-called "first world" and, with it, the perspective of the revolutionary transformation of society is still present, although the capitalists are arming for war abroad and at home.

The youth of Ecuador and the world yearn for change, despite the brutal ideological onslaught to disarm, demobilize, and confuse them; they are continuing to be the protagonist in the struggle for rights and the preservation of the planet. They continue in the search for alternatives and, in this way, the efforts of the left must be oriented towards affirming its relationship with the youth, knowing their reality, their subjectivity, fighting their battles, organizing them, intertwining the concerns and aspirations of the youth to the strategic objective of the revolution and socialism.

Long live the struggle of the youth, workers and peoples of the world!

September, 2023

ECUADOR POPULAR UNITY PARTY LIST 2

THE STRUGGLE OF THE WORKING CLASS AND PEOPLES, AND THE INTER-IMPERIALIST CONTENTION

Popular Unity as a political party of the revolutionary left of Ecuador, which participates in this 27th International Seminar, expresses its position regarding the struggle of the working class and peoples, and the inter-imperialist contention taking into account the current events of the world capitalist system and the statement made by the leader of the Bolshevik party and one of the leaders of the Russian revolution and builder of socialism from 1917.

"We are living in the epoch of imperialism and proletarian revolutions." Lenin

On the other hand, we are guided and supported by the Manifesto of the Communist Party of Marx and Engels who stated.

"The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles." "Society as a whole is more and more splitting up into two great hostile camps, into two great classes directly facing each other: Bourgeoisie and Proletariat."

With these statements we place imperialism, which is the highest stage of capitalism, as the main enemy of the working class and peoples, that the antagonistic contradictions between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat are in force; that at present there are inter-imperialist contentions that are seen mainly between the United States, China and Russia, that the working class and peoples confronting their class enemies are organizing, mobilizing and fighting against the capitalist system, defending their rights and victories and seeking alternatives for change. However, we note that there are political and ideological limitations; it is necessary to have a revolutionary party based in Marxism-Leninism and in constant development that can lead the working class and peoples of the world for social and national liberation, to seize power and advance in the building of the new society of the workers at the service of the workers themselves, socialism, the New Fatherland.

The imperialist powers are present and developing their contention, up to military confrontation; this is for the control of strategic areas, the plundering of the natural resources of the countries, for the desire to dominate regions and countries, for the dispute over markets. They are establishing military bases and economic groups for

the contention and a new redivision of the world.

Imperialism imposes itself with the force of arms, with wars of conquest and plunder, with occupation troops and the formation of puppet groups in dependent countries.

Most recently, the inter-imperialist contention exists in the war that Russia is carrying out with Ukraine; in this confrontation the contention is between Russia and US imperialism that acts with NATO together with the government and the army of Ukraine. It is a localized war of contention over territory and natural resources in an area of strategic influence; the most affected are the workers of Ukraine and other countries. In the economic and commercial sphere, the disputes are in the trade war between the United States and China, which have reestablished tariff restrictions and free trade agreements, in areas and markets of influence mainly between the imperial powers such as the United States, China, Russia and the European Union.

The war of aggression and plunder is another expression of the inter-imperialist contention, the United States, waving the banners of freedom and democracy, has invaded Libya, Syria, Panama and is threatening North Korea.

France, another imperialist power, is intervening politically, economically and militarily in its former colonies in Africa.

Russia as an imperialist power has been actively involved in Syria and Libya in the contention over these territories with US imperialism.

China so far has not carried out military incursions, but it is the third military power and is arming itself continuously; it has been establishing commercial relations with several countries of the world and has political links with some governments and in Latin America with the so-called progressive governments.

The confrontation and contention between the imperialist powers in no way eliminates the nature of imperialism, because the concentration and accumulation of wealth is the product of the surplus value created by the working class of the imperialist countries, by the workers of the developed capitalist countries, by the workers and peoples of the dependent countries and also by the plundering of natural resources in agreements with the puppet governments of imperialism.

The cyclical economic crisis is another scenario of inter-imperialist disputes, but this crisis is placed on the shoulders of the workers and peoples by the bourgeoisie, imposing economic, political and labor measures that are decided by the IMF and World Bank and are

carried out by the governments of the bourgeoisie. The present and the future of the working class and peoples who are fighting for their rights and aspirations, for their independence, have as main actors the workers, youth, women and other popular sectors. We see this clearly in the protests and mobilizations in France, the United States and some European countries, and in Latin America Chile, Peru, Colombia, Mexico and Ecuador. However, we must point out that in certain cases these processes are in the hands of the bourgeoisie and in others there is the presence of the petty bourgeoisie who are influenced by social democracy and revisionism. The proletariat continues to struggle, but it has limitations in its associations, in its political and ideological organization, and it cannot easily get out of imperialist domination of one or another power in contention, as well as confronting the domination and exploitation of the bourgeoisie to lead to the struggle for social and national liberation by maintaining and promoting its class independence.

For the battles of the working class and peoples for national independence and social liberation to achieve victory, it is indispensable, necessary for the leadership of these processes to be led by the working class and its revolutionary party in order to fulfill their historic mission: to overthrow the capitalist system and imperialist domination, to seize power and build the new system of the workers at the service of the workers themselves, socialism, the New Fatherland.

The contradictions, discrepancies or disputes between the imperialist powers do not at all eliminate, nor do they relegate to the background, the fundamental contradictions between labor and capital in the capitalist and imperialist countries or the contradictions between the oppressed peoples and their imperialist oppressors, between socialism and capitalism. These are the deepest and irreducible constants that can become more acute and lead to a new situation in the scenario of each country and at the international level.

In the current economic, social and political scenario, where the disputes of the imperialist powers and the struggle of the working class and the peoples exist, it is up to us to uphold, defend and affirm the revolutionary principles and theses that "there is no good imperialism." Neither China nor Russia, nor the United States and the imperialist countries of the European Union can be considered or treated as friends of the workers and peoples. They do not help the development and independent progress of the countries; their interests are

focused on the extraction of surplus value created by the working class, in the plundering of natural resources, in having governments that are dependent on them. Therefore, we cannot state that there are good imperialisms, as some petty bourgeois social-democrats and revisionists try to claim, distorting the principle of the class struggle. They speak of relying on one or another imperialist power to confront U.S. imperialism, which they consider the most dangerous. It is another thing to have the wisdom to know how to take advantage of the contradictions that arise between the imperialist powers to advance in the process of accumulation of forces and provide alternatives in the struggle for social and national liberation.

It is up to the revolutionary parties to advance in the organization and struggle of the working class and peoples, not only for their economic demands but also to aim for the political struggle for the seizure of power and the building of the new society, socialism and the new Homeland, always guided by Marxist-Leninist principles. Here we quote the following: "The working class, which lives exclusively by the sale of its labor power and which is linked to the most advanced form of production in capitalist society, which is concentrated and subject to the discipline of the capitalist enterprises that exploit it, is the most interested in the struggle for liberation, it identifies the class enemies who exploit it, it is in a better position to assimilate its own ideology and is willing to adopt forms of organization and discipline needed in the struggle for social and national emancipation." Line of the PCMLE

The working class, therefore, is called upon to unite the other exploited social strata and classes, not only in the struggle for their economic demands, better wages, stability, collective bargaining, defense of social security, but it must raise its level of organization and political and ideological consciousness to advance in the political struggle and carry out its historic mission. Counting on the leadership of its revolutionary party guided by Marxism-Leninism, it must be ready to give battle using all forms of struggle to confront and defeat the bourgeoisie and imperialism, to seize power, and to build the new society, socialism, the New Fatherland, that guarantees security, work, education, health care, social security, housing, justice, freedom for the majority, and having free and sovereign countries where the exploitation and domination of the bourgeoisie and imperialism has been put to an end.

**Long live the unity and struggle of the working class and
peoples for their social and national liberation.
Long live the struggle for socialism and the New Fatherland.
September 1, 2023.**

ECUADOR
GENERAL UNION OF WORKERS OF ECUADOR, UGTE

**THE ECUADORIAN WORKING CLASS: ECONOMIC AND
POLITICAL STRUGGLES THAT FORGE UNITY WITH THE
PERSPECTIVE OF ACHIEVING POWER**

The working class is one of the fundamental social classes of the capitalist system, whose role in the production of goods and services is essential, since its labor power, sold in exchange for a wage, makes possible the action and operation of the machinery, tools and, in general, the means of production for the transformation of nature, raw material into useful articles for the satisfaction of society's needs. This leading role of the working class in the machinery of capitalist production also gives it a historical responsibility; that of leading the revolutionary struggle of the other working classes and strata of society for their emancipation. This will free themselves from capitalist and imperialist domination in order to establish a just society under the workers' government, socialist society, and to build a new world free from all forms of exploitation and oppression, communism.

For several decades important battles have been fought that have confronted the just aspirations of the immense working majorities of the population with the interests of the ruling class, the capitalists, entrepreneurs, owners of the means of production and, therefore, owners of the economic and political power of the world. This trajectory has forged the spirit and character of the working class, which has understood that struggle is the only valid and effective way to achieve and defend its rights by confronting its bosses who, with violence, have tried unsuccessfully to appease the popular courage in this unequal struggle.

This path carved in victories and defeats of the struggles raised in all regions of the planet has confirmed the revolutionary task of the working class, which although it understands its just demands, knows that no one is going to grant them peacefully, that it must snatch them from the hands of its enemies with the strength of unity and the struggle of the impoverished majorities who have been subjected to centuries of exploitation; showing that the abundant injustice of this world dominated by capital will come to an end and the peoples will build a better world on its ashes.

WE LIVE IN THE EPOCH OF IMPERIALISM AND THE PROLETARIAN REVOLUTIONS

The capitalist system reached its highest stage of development at the end of the 19th century, imperialism. The economic powers consolidated their domination over vast territorial areas through the importation of capital, the expansion of their industries and the monopoly of markets; the poor peoples and nations succumbed to this system by handing over in a sustained manner their natural resources to the exploitation of these powers as part of the international division of labor.

However, this division of territories and markets among the superpowers, now converted into imperialist countries, has not been peaceful. Intense struggles have been unleashed among these nations to grab markets and the natural resources of poor nations; these contentions have even led to fateful world wars justified by the assassinations of emperors. or the mental deviations of leaders, in order to solve the deep crises produced by the excessive accumulation of wealth in a few hands and the conquest of new markets, transforming world geopolitics.

These bloody inter-imperialist contentions have claimed the lives of millions of human beings from the working class and the other working classes and strata, under the illusion of a false patriotism instilled to satisfy the capitalists' lust for power and accumulation. Even now, these disputes are evident in open wars such as those in Syria and Ukraine or in a hidden way such as the technological and arms race of the United States against China or the signing of free trade agreements. This excessive accumulation has caused greater impoverishment of the dependent nations, the chains of domination have implemented policies that cancel the labor and social rights; this has provoked an organized and firm response from the class of workers and youth, which throughout this period have gone from national paralysis to social revolutions. All this has provided great lessons for the development of the struggle, raising class consciousness and marking the perspective of the necessity of the seizure of political power for the material realization of its just aspirations and needs.

THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STRUGGLES OF THE WORKING CLASS IN ECUADOR TODAY

The last years have been marked by intense struggles against the

anti-popular policies aligned with the demands of the International Monetary Fund, placing the burden of the economic crisis on the working majorities, increasing taxes, the cost of fuel, freezing wages, eliminating economic benefits, among others. After the era of Correa, whose discourse paraphrased in leftism confused a good part of the Ecuadorian population and the international community, hiding the nature of government at the service of the interests of large national capitals and new imperialist nations such as China; the people faced a blatant and arbitrary implementation of neoliberalism. This benefited and propped up industrial and banking capital that accumulated greater wealth even in the midst of the pandemic.

The great indigenous and popular uprisings of October 2019 and June 2022 marked a milestone that promoted a high level of consciousness of the working classes; they were actions of a general nature in which the majority of the population and the peoples rose victoriously. They reversed the economic measures that the governments of Lenin Moreno and Guillermo Lasso tried to apply with blood and fire, carrying out barbaric repressions that sacrificed the lives of brave social fighters, for whose deaths justice is still being demanded until now.

These episodes were transformed into political struggles; it showed the iron unity of the working class through the consolidation of the United Workers' Front as a place for cohesion of the largest trade union federations in the country; they opened the dialogue with the Indigenous and Peasant Movement, teachers, youth collectives and environmentalists for the consolidation of a National Leadership Collective that more later on would bring about an electoral political proposal that in 2021 reached the third place in the presidential elections, with the participation of the indigenous leader Yaku Pérez.

A similar phenomenon occurred in the last regional elections of 2023, when the political forces from the center to the left reached important spaces within the Decentralized Autonomous Governments and in which the workers' organizations and trade union federations played a leading role in defining the new local authorities in the electoral context.

This political process resulted in the formation of the class independence of the trade union organizations, which have assumed their historical responsibility, moving away from the immediate and demagogic political practices of the candidates of the right and social

democracy, learning to differentiate the class interests that separate us from those who have the political and economic power that are responsible for and beneficiaries of the crisis and the problems that are overwhelming all the people, including the serious crime wave that puts us in danger and anxiety.

Thus, in the last electoral process of August 2023, the trade union organizations took sides head-on in favor of the only candidacy with popular representation that included in its government plan the aspirations and demands that have caused us to take to the streets in these years: to defend the IESS, eliminate the salary ceilings, collective bargaining, a new labor code that improves workers' rights, among others. At the national level and in several provinces we signed public political agreements with the presidential candidate of the Alianza Claro que se Puede [Alliance, We Surely Can], Yaku Pérez and their candidates for provincial Assembly representatives.

We are discussing this scenario head-on in each union, on the nature and origin of the problems of insecurity, drug trafficking, lack of employment, lack of social investment, as opposed to the good health enjoyed by the businesses of allies of the government. With the presence of the candidates of this political alliance, it was possible to reverse the demagogic offers of the other candidates who were trying to deceive the workers. This is a scenario in which the workers played a significant role that projects the struggle on the workers: the need to build one's own government in alliance with the other oppressed classes as the only way to resolve the serious situation.

Unfortunately, a reprehensible episode, the assassination of a presidential candidate, whose intellectual and material authors have not been clarified, abruptly disrupted the electoral scenario, causing the opportunity to go to the second round in these elections to evaporate. However, the lessons of this process are important; we have learned to recognize our enemies and understand that it is inevitable and necessary that we become the leaders of the political struggle, that we can and must be a government to guarantee the rights of our people and that there is a guiding light of transformation through the revolutionary struggle to definitively end the injustice, oppression, violence and corruption to which we have been subjected for decades.

ECUADOR **NATIONAL UNION OF EDUCATORS, UNE**

THE STRUGGLES OF THE WORKING CLASS AND THE PEOPLES AND THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST DISPUTES

The National Union of Educators celebrates 79 years of struggle in defense of public, secular, free, scientific and quality education in which it is necessary to ensure the labor, professional and social rights of the teachers.

The UNE has played a fundamental role in defending public education as a fundamental human right. We have strongly rejected the anti-people policies and measures, the attempt at the privatization of education and the demand for greater budgets for this important sector. We are promoting the pedagogical proposal for emancipation, the new school that is one of the decisive instruments for social transformation and the building of the New Homeland.

The struggle of teachers in defense of labor rights. The organization has worked tirelessly to ensure fair working conditions, because without them, there will be no educational transformation. Stability and security for teachers in the exercise of their profession. The UNE has led different measures, in fact, to demand respect for the labor rights of educators, job stability, timely payment of salaries and the implementation of teacher training and modernizing policies with mobilizations and the greatest expression of rebellion, hunger strikes. We have confronted authoritarian governments, tyrants and military dictatorships, who have used and abused public force and in 1973 they assassinated Rosita Paredes.

During the government of Rafael Correa in Ecuador, the National Union of Educators (UNE) played a crucial role in the resistance of the peoples and defense of the rights of educators. During that period, the government promoted a series of measures and policies that directly affected the educational community.

One of the main struggles of the UNE during the period of Correa was the resistance against the criminalization of the social struggle, against an individualist, meritocratic, hierarchical, standardized, authoritarian education, against the politics of subjection and fear that limited the autonomy of the teachers, a policy implemented by imperialism through its multilateral organizations. The UNE denounced the attempts of the Correa government to impose a unique and biased

vision on education that affirms capitalism, that is, the reproduction of the conditions of exploitation, inequities, a dictatorial and populist regime.

We confronted a series of reforms that sought to control and direct educational content towards an official narrative. The UNE defended the need for a critical, pluralist education that respects diversity of thought.

The UNE also faced a series of direct attacks against the labor rights of educators, during the period of Correa there were repeated attempts to weaken the union by withdrawing the dues check-off, removing its legal existence, creating parallel organizations, dismissal of a score of union leaders none of which they were able to bend, so the government took over the headquarters of the organization. The UNE resisted these actions and fought for the dignity and rights of teachers to free organization. And we are still standing here.

It is important to note that the resistance of the UNE during the Correa was not easy. The Correa government exerted strong pressure on unions and UNE leaders through disqualification, the imposition of sanctions and political persecution. However, the UNE remained steadfast in its defense of the rights of educators and the quality of education. In 2015, as an expression of trade union and political unity, we joined the United Front of Workers together with the working class; we continued the defense of the rights of the peoples of Ecuador.

In October 2019 the UNE together with the workers' movement, peasants, indigenous, students, unemployed, women, black, mestizo and montubio [the mestizo people of the countryside of coastal Ecuador] people, the neighborhoods, and social organizations were leading forces in the indigenous, popular uprising against the neoliberal policies of the Moreno government that tried to place the crisis left by the Correa forces on the shoulders of the popular sectors with the creation of new taxes, rising fuel prices, and consequently, the rise in fares, the old dream of the right, the privatization of strategic state enterprises, the reduction of public servants. The popular struggle won a victory with the repeal of Decree 883; this was a turning point in the struggle of the peoples of Latin America.

The teachers were the first social sector that confronted the government of the banker Guillermo Lasso, demanding the revaluation of teachers. We fought for equal pay; we got the Legislative Branch

to ratify the reforms to the Organic Law of Intercultural Education. The government was determined not to comply, so the protest rose and the second hunger strike declared that ended with the resolution of the Constitutional Court in favor of the teachers. The deepening of the social struggle was seen in the forceful mobilization of "May Day" that foresaw the dissatisfaction of the rebellious people, who condemned the announcements of privatization, the anti-worker labor policy, the inability to solve the problems of the people.

The organized popular sectors paralyzed the [government's] activities, due to the continuous deterioration of living conditions, the application of the neoliberal proposal, the insistence on the sale of public companies, the tax amnesty, the usurpation of the workers' voices before the IESS; again the right used its strategy of attacks with harsh repression. However, the force of unity cornered the government and we defeated it.

The vitality of the social struggle and the measures of the government, the low acceptance of the actions of the two functions of State, led to the dismissal of the President of the Republic, Guillermo Lasso, for his inability to solve the problems of the country. In the midst of a wave of violence, an increase in crime, with the forced recruitment of minors for small-scale trafficking, hired assassinations and sexual exploitation, with 200,000 students who have not returned to school, the increase in many-sided poverty, the consequence of the application of neoliberal measures, the Executive declared a cross death [in which the president dissolved the National Assembly], a withdrawal of the bourgeoisie and called for early elections. In the runoff, two representatives of the right are participating who are responsible for the crisis of the country; the people were left without a candidate and the form of rebellion is the call to vote null. The UNE, consistent with its principles, played a leading role in the defense of nature together with the social organizations and activists; it was possible to stop oil exploitation in the ITT Ishpingo, Tambococha and Tiputini area and mining in the Chocó Andino sector. Both areas have been declared Biosphere Reserves due to their diversity of fauna and flora, and their conservation reduces global warming and the sweltering era.

We defeated big international extractivist capital and gave an example to Ecuador and the world that it is possible to defeat imperialism; we will remain vigilant so that the decision of the people is respected.

Our struggle continues, we continue to build the road to the dictatorship of the proletariat, because only the people can save the people.

Workers of the world, unite

Today is a unique moment in our reality and in the World; the face of imperialism is seen in every gesture and in every act in public education in Latin America, today more than ever teachers must unite and break the chains imposed by imperialism. In the face of educational neoliberalism we propose education for the emancipation of the peoples.

For this reason today from Quito, the Middle of the World or, we want to raise the voice of hope and encouragement, so that the social activists of the World know that we are continuing to stand in struggle, strongly grasping our ideals of freedom, patriotism and solidarity organized in all sectors and covered by our red flag.

We call on all teachers' unions in Latin America in their different areas to create political education websites with a focus on the social struggle and the teaching of education for emancipation, in order to fight using the computer media, as we have done in the streets of Latin America and the world.

ECUADOR WOMEN FOR CHANGE

"THE STRUGGLE OF THE WOMEN AND PEOPLES FOR THEIR RIGHTS AND FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION"

Women represent 51% of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean, which in numbers is 334,628,227; in Ecuador we are 9,016,398.

This 2023 Seminar is taking place under conditions in which capitalism is showing its most inhuman and brutal face characterized by wars of imperialist aggression, colonial and cultural subjugation promoted by the great powers, in order to subjugate the population of the world to a situation of poverty and denial of their fundamental rights. The whole planet is being conditioned to the development of the contradictions inherent in capitalism. In particular, we are witnessing the sharpening of the inter-imperialist contradictions that shows the intention of the great powers to implement strategies that allow them to maintain themselves or become the undisputed masters of the world. We see how the powers are forming their economic and military blocs and pacts to defend their interests by destroying the living conditions of millions of human beings. The war between the great imperialist powers in Ukraine is an expression of this, but there are also armed conflicts in other countries: Sudan, Pakistan, Myanmar, Yemen, the Middle East and other trade wars with which the military apparatuses and armies of the imperialist powers that are contending for the economic and political control of the world are strengthened. The inter-imperialist struggles, particularly the one between the United States and China, warn us of the danger of a world war.

Women, who are part of the peoples, cannot take sides for one or another imperialist power, for one or another economic and political alliance of the capitalist states, because they all represent the interests of the big international monopolies, of imperialist finance capital. For this reason, we reiterate our condemnation of the inter-imperialist war and all forms of aggression against the peoples, because we have the experience of the history of humanity that shows that in conflicts it is we become spoils of war. We are women, and therefore, we raise the banners of peace, which means fighting in defense of the life of the working classes, the women and peoples and in defense of our right to a dignified life.

What is happening in today's world with so much exploitation,

inequality and violence is the result of the sharpening of the contradictions of capitalism that places capital over life, the interests of the big bourgeoisie over the working classes and peoples. This is a situation that places before us the challenge of strengthening the organization and consciousness of women to demand from the governments the unrestricted application of human rights and in particular our rights as women and to work against all forms of exploitation and subjection to capital.

As women of the delegation of Ecuador, we express our solidarity with the women and peoples who are victims of aggression by foreign powers, who are confronted by the reactionary and conservative patriarchal practices that are killing millions of women in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

We cannot remain impassive in the face of the growth of poverty in the world and watch as more than 258 million girls and boys do not attend school, which represents 1 out of 5 children; The wage gap between men and women is increasing to 24%. In Ecuador, women's wages are lower than men's, there are more women unemployed, 39% of men have full employment but only 27% of women. Serious problems of access to health services are causing the death of 21,300 people a day. That is to say, one person dies every 4 seconds, while the fortunes of a few billionaires have multiplied since the pandemic, since the 1% of the richest population in the world has hoarded about 20 times more wealth than 50% of the world population, which represents 4 billion human beings. Of the poorest population, the largest percentage is women, with 252 male billionaires owning more wealth than one billion women and girls in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. Currently 2.1 million people die of hunger annually.

Violence against women, girls and adolescents is the greatest scourge today at a global level and knows no borders, because it extends throughout the world in its various manifestations: femicides, violence, sexual trafficking within the family and in all social areas is multiplying; sex trafficking, forced child marriages, genital mutilation, death due to the criminalization of abortion, trafficking for organized crime is the order of the day. The fight against violence against women is mobilizing millions of people and has created awareness of other problems of inequality and exclusion faced by different sectors of the world's population, who now claim their rights to diverse and free identities and ways of life.

But it is also encouraging the awakening of millions of women,

youth and workers who are organizing and fighting against the power of capitalism on all continents; the popular struggles are put the exploiters against the wall, as in France, Germany, Latin America and the Caribbean. The Women's Movement and Women in the world constitute a revolutionary and emancipatory force for women and the peoples.

It must be borne in mind that the women's and feminist movements form a diverse and contradictory movement, because within them there are ideological and political forces that aim to lead half of the world's population in accordance with their purposes. They are forces that identify with the left, social democracy and those who defend the status quo and the power of the big bourgeoisie using the just demands of women. This is happening in Ecuador and Latin America; however, it is also encouraging to note that in the struggles for the demand for women's rights there is a majority popular, leftist and anti-imperialist current that is mobilizing thousands of women to put an end to the historical patriarchal oppression that keeps us subordinate and linking this struggle to action against capitalism and for social transformation.

THE CURRENT SITUATION IN ECUADOR AND WOMEN'S LIVING CONDITIONS

Our country is characterized as having a backward capitalist development and dependent on the decisions of the great imperialist powers, especially US imperialism and to a lesser extent Chinese imperialism and the European Union. This condition of submission is expressed in the dependence on productive, scientific, technical development, as well as in the external debt and the conditions established by imperialism through the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other mechanisms through which the country is forced to apply neoliberal policies.

Ecuador, together with all the countries of the region, is going through a crisis in all economic, social and political aspects. On May 17, President Guillermo Lasso, in agreement with the Armed Forces and the support of the U.S. Embassy, decreed the "Cross Death" with which he dissolved the National Assembly and called for early elections of President and Vice President; of national and provincial assembly members to complete the term from 2023 to 2025. In this period Lasso has the power to govern by executive decrees. This decision constitutes a temporary solution to the political crisis since the

serious problems of insecurity, the increase in drug trafficking and organized crime remain, because those responsible are in the highest spheres of bourgeois institutions: in the executive, in the organs of justice, in the top ranks of the Police, the Armed Forces and the Navy; they are owners or shareholders of banks, powerful companies and large media. The government has declared itself incompetent to deal with this problem by declaring, in Lasso's words, that this "is a war between you and crime."

The abandonment of the Ecuadorian State to the population is not only expressed in the issue of insecurity; the same is happening in aspects that have to do with the life and well-being of the working classes and people. The public health sector – including the social security system – is experiencing a critical situation, without a sufficient number of professionals, with a deficit in infrastructure, lacking medicines. Hundreds of educational establishments have been destroyed or are in terrible conditions; there is a deficit of teachers at all levels of the education system. According to INEC (National Institute of Statistics and Census), about 195,000 children and young people did not return to the classroom after the pandemic, there are not enough spaces for the men and women can go to universities. The Ministry of Education does nothing to ensure that children and young people can count on safe classrooms in the face of the increase in sexual harassment and rape that is causing deaths in educational institutions; the State does not create sources of employment because public investment is practically non-existent. However, the rulers are agile and quick to comply with the demands of the International Monetary Fund or to find mechanisms that give millions of dollars to the most powerful economic groups, as established by the proposal to "compensate" the bankers because interest rates have been raised internationally. The State is an instrument at the service of the big bourgeoisie through the implementation of laws and measures that have been established by the different governments of recent decades, not only Lasso but also the governments of Rafael Correa and Lenin Moreno. It is evident that they are the most efficient defenders of the big economic groups of the country and the big imperialist monopolies.

The economic crisis in our country is seen in the increase in poverty. The National Survey of Employment, Unemployment and Underemployment 2022 (ENEMDU) of June 2022 states that "as of June 2022, poverty at the national level stood at 25.0% and extreme

poverty at 10.7%. In urban areas, poverty reached 16.7% and extreme poverty 5.2%. Finally, in rural areas, poverty reached 42.9% and extreme poverty 22.7 %. This means that 25% of Ecuador's population or about 4.5 million people are mired in poverty, that one in four Ecuadorians lives on \$87.57 a month (\$2.91 a day). It means that they can barely cover 12% of a basic basket [of necessities]. People living in extreme poverty, who earn a per capita household income of less than \$49.35 per month (\$1.65 per day), represent 10.7 per cent of the population.

In the educational field, the Transform exam was eliminated. The system has been applied in the country since Correa to select those who enter public universities, which is why in the last decade, more than a million and a half young people have been left out of higher education. This has been a demand that we have raised because, like what the ENES and the Ser Bachiller were, it responds to a standardized, exclusive and anti-scientific conception of the university admission system. Its elimination is an achievement, however, the government has transferred the problem to the universities, therefore, each of them will determine the means and entry requirements of the new bachelors, the struggle continues for free admission.

In the particular case of women in our country, the reality we live in is very complex because we are discriminated against because of our gender, class and ethnicity, so it is necessary to expose numbers, data that show this discrimination despite the fact that we constitute the majority of the population.

As of August 2022, according to INEC, Ecuador has a population of 18,009,591 inhabitants; 51.05% are women. According to ESPAC 2021, 72.73% of men and 27.27% of women are engaged in agricultural production. 22.8% work in the area of commerce. The INEC published monthly figures that show that the unemployment rate stood at 4.7% in April 2022; when analyzing unemployment by sex, the results show that women have a higher rate than men. At the national level, 5.8% of women in the EAP (economically active population) were unemployed, while the rate for men was 3.9%, a statistically significant difference that establishes that women do not have equal conditions to access the right to a job.

The wage gap also remains wide; for March 2022 the average work income of a man with a job was \$453.60, while for women it was \$412.30; the case of women first that does not reach the basic salary of \$425 and, worse the basic basket, which, as of June 2022

according to INEC data, the family basket reaches a value of US \$751, 04.

The above shows us the feminization of employment and precarious work; it is women who work in flower farms, paid domestic workers, rural workers, on shrimp and banana plantations, broccoli plantations, among others. The inequities and discriminations that prevail against women in the world of paid work are often linked to reproductive obligations and productive activities. Domestic work is still considered an almost natural obligation of women, but this is NOT so; it must be distributed among the members of the household to achieve equal conditions for women and men in all areas of life.

With regard to education by level of instruction, half of the female population of Ecuador has achieved at least basic general education ; but **only 13 out of each 100 have higher** or university studies. On the other hand, there is still a significant group that lacks any type of studies.

According to MIDUVI, as of December 2020 the housing deficit was 2,744,125 households, **housing is one of the basic necessities**. Female-headed households, persons with disabilities, single parents, those with dependent children or adults, devote a high percentage of resources to the care of their family members. Therefore, their possibilities of participating in the formal labor market are limited, thus increasing their level of vulnerability.

Although Lasso signed Executive Decree No. 452 in which he ordered the implementation of control operations to prevent price speculation in basic necessities, inflation reached 3.86% as of July 2022. The high cost of living, the rise in the prices of basic necessities such as bread, milk, flour and oil has greatly affected the economy of households in the popular sectors , so we demand the fixing of prices of basic products of the family basket. On the other hand, regarding the health care and life situation, the Statistical Registry of Live Births and Fetal Deaths from 2013 to 2020 establishes that 16.3% of women become mothers from 15 to 19 years, 49.7% from 20 to 29 years and 17.8% from 30 to 34 years. Ecuador has one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in the Americas. And in the case of girls, more than 3,000 girls under the age of 14 become mothers as a result of rape in Ecuador every year. Behind these figures are the lives of girls dealing with not only the physical but also the psychological and social impacts of having survived rape and being forced to become mothers when they did not want it or were not prepared for it. **That**

is why the struggle for legal, safe and free abortion is a JUST, URGENT AND NECESSARY DEMAND.

In our country, violence against women is an alarming situation; 65 out of every 100 women have suffered at least one violent incident in their lives: 57% psychological, 35.4% physical, 33% sexual, and 16.4% patrimonial. Violence came from their partner in 42.8% of the cases, 32.6% in the social sphere, 20.3% within the family, 20.1% at work and 19.2% in the educational arena.

To the situation of violence and insecurity that is striking Ecuador is added another hard and persistent reality; until May 2022, violence against girls, adolescents and women has increased; until March 2023 56 femicides have been counted. In 2022 there were 332. Cases of sexual violence against children and women is also a very serious problem as is the increase in enforced disappearances due to abduction and human trafficking.

The Lasso government has been unable to respond to women's demand for the budget for the implementation of the Law on the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women and its political decisions are in the line of demagoguery and non-compliance. In November 2022, the Ministry of Women's Affairs was created, which in no way has meant a change for the situation of working women and the different popular sectors.

In the current process of presidential and assembly elections, the women's movement won an important victory because the National Electoral Council was forced to change the regulations for the integration of candidacies after an important action of struggle that unified national and local organizations in the demand of unconstitutionality. Today full parity is established for all offices in addition to 25% of young people and representatives of cultural diversity. After the first round of elections, we can affirm that it is not enough to respect gender parity in these processes, which leads to the nomination of candidates by 50% and also to the election of women to the different offices. For women from the popular sectors, it is urgent to work for the training of political leaders in order to gain spaces with women committed to the demands of the working classes, women and the people.

In the second round we do not have a choice that represents the demands of women and all popular sectors of the country and for this reason, WOMEN FOR CHANGE CALLS FOR A "NULL" VOTE as a show of rejection of the choices forged by the ruling classes.

Our participation in the Third Meeting of Women of Latin America and the Caribbean – Brazil 2023

We held the Third Meeting of Women of Latin America and the Caribbean in Brasilia – Brazil, South America, from July 21 to 23, 2023, with great revolutionary joy and combativeness. In the three days, several women of various ages, black, urban and rural workers, students, women with disabilities, unemployed, artists, self-employed workers, intellectuals, indigenous women and women from maroon colonies from 11 countries, learned about the economic, political and social situation in which working women, their families and their peoples live. We learned among ourselves the different forms of struggle and forms of organization that the women's movement has developed in the countries: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The Ecuadorian delegation was made up of 84 women and young people from 14 provinces and 32 women's, feminist, human rights organizations and collectives, local authorities and representatives of trade union and political organizations in the country.

The Meeting was an extraordinary scenario to analyze in depth the reality of women of the popular sectors of our countries, to identify their main problems and their causes, to establish actions that let them strengthen the struggles of women organized in each country with solidarity actions at regional level.

The resolutions adopted in Brazil last July must be taken up by revolutionary organizations and parties to strengthen the struggle of the working classes and peoples against capitalism and for social transformation. The following are the main resolutions that must not only be disseminated, but must be channeled for implementation through the broad and democratic organization of women in each of our countries, because we are aware that despite the progress made in the development of women, the rights of women won through the struggle so far are still not enough. Not only because what is written in the law does not guarantee its application in reality, but because we are convinced that the only guarantee to win the equality and emancipation of women is with the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of socialism in Ecuador, Latin America and the world.

Our tasks for the coming years, for which we must fight:

1. Work for the strengthening of left and revolutionary women's organizations and their active involvement in the struggles of the working classes and people for their rights.
2. Strengthen the Meeting of Women of Latin America and the Caribbean with the integration of all the countries of the region and the broad and democratic participation of women's organizations from popular sectors of our countries.
3. Actions for the defense and nationalization of natural resources and confronting the policies of surrender, imperialist plunder and plunder.
4. For labor and wage equality, for a general increase in wages, for the guarantee of well-paid work and employment with social security for the four million unemployed women in the region;
5. Organize actions to fight against the high cost of living, for the freezing of prices of basic necessities and against the effects of the escalation of inflation on the living conditions of working families and the popular sectors.
6. Promote a broad campaign for a continental emergency on violence against women and for more investments to end the cult of violence that victimizes more than 4,400 women each year throughout Latin America;
7. Fight against any threat of fascism, militarization and coups d'état in our countries. Demand punishment for the political crimes committed against the working class, women, political activists who have been persecuted, disappeared, imprisoned, tortured and killed by the State and by authoritarian, fascist, military and coup governments, yesterday and today.
8. Fight for the right to autonomy of women's bodies, with a broad campaign for the legalization of abortion, which must be legal and safe for all countries in Latin America and the Caribbean;
9. To promote action against prostitution and trafficking in persons. Ensure access to employment for women who have subjected to sexual exploitation;
10. Fighting for the full rights of migrant women and their families
11. Abolition of all laws that STRENGTHEN the mechanisms of women's subordination;
12. Continental day for the suspension of payment of public debt to international financial organizations; the immediate audit of all debts;
13. Continental day for the right to free and quality services in

comprehensive education and care centers for children and education for all children and young people.

14. Days of struggle for the rights of women and their families to health care, housing, education, recreation and political participation.

Here, woman, forging unity, for the new homeland, for freedom!

ECUADOR
FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
OF ECUADOR, FEUE

THE STRUGGLE OF UNIVERSITY YOUTH

"The fundamental clay of our work is youth, in it we place our hope and prepare it to take the banner from our hands." Che Guevara

In the region, young university students agree that struggle is the path to victories and with it we undertake actions against measures that threaten our historical demands and the human right to education that is a problem for groups in power that try to monopolize not only our wealth, but also our access to knowledge.

Education is liberating and breaks the chains that the bourgeoisie tries to impose in its different aspects, but with the same class character. Faced with this, the youth under the organization and struggle constantly rejects the violation of their rights throughout Latin America, the Caribbean and the world.

As examples of struggle, Peru is facing repression against students and the violation of university autonomy, which the youth has resisted through large and important mobilizations against Boluarte, an authoritarian and bloodthirsty government. In Mexico, there is a call for a student strike against the abuse of power by the authorities of the University of Guadalajara and their arbitrary measures.

In Colombia there is the struggle for the modification of Law 30, so that it establishes education as a fundamental right and no longer as a service. While in Panama young university students say no to mining contracts, no to the high cost of living and no to the bar exam, which is nothing more than a way that seeks to commodify one of the careers most in demand in their country and make it only for the elite. On the other hand, in the Dominican Republic there are mobilizations against the ARS and the AFP, the demand for the return to 100% face-to-face classes, in addition to the struggle for a larger budget for the University which remains a historical problem.

In Ecuador there have also been struggles. As a matter of principle, for us, the youth are rebellious and the events in the region are evidence of that. As FEUE our fundamental role is to channel this rebellion by implementing it with conviction and firmness in favor of the rights of the popular, social and historically-violated sectors of the country.

Faced with the 1st report of Reform to the LOES, we mobilized outside the National Assembly for a democratic, scientific and quality LOES. This resulted in the elimination of harmful elements for the IES and a 2nd report that included among better conditions our proposal for greater student participation in government, paid practices, more scholarships, control of Private Universities, blocking budget cuts, measures against harassment and abuse of power, etc. Faced with this, the government legislators together with the pro-Correa forces and the Social Christian party shelved the Law, turning their backs on Public Education and with this action UNES, now called RC5, of the pro-Correa forces shows once again their true class nature linked to the right and groups of economic power.

In Quito we led the largest mobilization of this year with more than 4,500 students in the streets demanding security; it should also be mentioned that, through organization and sit-ins, we pushed back the perverse intentions of violating free education in the UCE [Central University of Ecuador]. From AFU and HCU our comrades in Guaranda demanded the dismissal of harassing and abusive teachers with a forceful mobilization, obtaining results never before seen in their University. As a result of the struggle, the comrades of the UTC achieved the universal election of authorities and the application of 50% of student participation in government. In Guayaquil we undertook sit-ins against the precarious admission process and the struggle for free admission, while Esmeraldas united and mobilized for security.

In Los Ríos, our comrades have been victims of constant political persecution by the authorities for their rejection of poor academic conditions and their unwavering struggle for an increased budget and quality education at the service of the people. In Ibarra, as in other cities in the country, the constant debate in defense of Yasuní, nature and life, won a historic victory in the popular referendum, not only for the country, but for the world.

This FEUE of the people, with its characteristic of being supportive and combative, was one of the leaders of the debate and struggle, raising together with the Popular Front the slogan "DOWN WITH NARCO-GOVERNMENT" and "LASSO OUT NOW", through sit-ins, rallies and mobilizations outside the universities, governorates, streets and plazas of the country, condemning the ineffectiveness and servility of Lasso to the power groups, the opening to the international mafia, the rise in insecurity, etc. In this scenario, the worsening of the labor, economic, educational and political crisis in our country

is seen with the increase in social chasms and the deepening of neoliberal measures, but the struggle is also evidence of the unstoppable struggle of the youth for change and transformation.

The debate and struggle has been permanent, even in the struggle as young university students to participate in government in the general elections. This FEUE of the people is part of the forces that are fighting for the social transformation of Ecuador.

Ecuador is on the verge of the second round of elections with two candidates representing the right-wing. On the one hand, the pro-Correa forces; whose action in government was characterized by the repression of youth. The most visible case was that of Marcelo Rivera, former president of the National FEUE, who in the struggle for the demands of the student movement was repressed and imprisoned.

The interventions in the Universities as in the case of the UTC that fought and resisted, the imposition of the LOES that until today is regressive in terms of rights and has turned the Universities into managements, not into a democratic space and development of science and knowledge at the service of the people. In addition they seek to make the public Higher Educational Institutions for the elite and meritocracy, and especially to favor Private Universities, which is seen in the increase in their enrollment rate and expansionism, while thousands of young people fail to access free public higher education. That is, they were already in government and do not represent a popular choice, much less a leftist one.

On the other hand, Daniel Noboa Azín in his government plan seeks to increase the number of contributions to the IESS and raise the retirement age, that is, to place the government debt on the shoulders of the workers, and the shrinking of the State, which means massive layoffs. In addition, the statements of concern of his presidential team, which proposes the privatization of Education and Health Care, therefore, seeks to deepen the neoliberal policy in the country and essentially benefit entrepreneurs through the so-called incentives that translate later into benefits, favors and forgiveness for millionaires.

The FEUE of the people does not see the elections as an end but as a means of contention for the social consciousness of the masses; therefore, the university youth and the people have no candidate in the second round; we firmly call for the Null Vote as a powerful ideological element and for a resounding rejection of those responsible for the current crisis in the country.

As rebellious youth, our struggle is in the classrooms and the

streets to achieve a quality Public and Scientific Higher Education at the service of the people and not to give way to the violation of our rights and those of the peoples of Ecuador.

"Education is a weapon whose effectiveness depends on who has it in their hands and for whom it is aimed" - Joseph Stalin

"Let us be the nightmare of those who seek to take away our dreams"
– Che Guevara

Nery Padilla President National FEUE

ECUADOR
UNITARY CONFEDERATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS OF
ECUADOR. CUBE

THE NEIGHBORHOOD STRUGGLE IS PART
OF THE FORCES FOR REVOLUTION.

The anti-people policies of the bourgeois governments in office mean hunger and misery for the popular sectors of the population, located in marginalized neighborhoods in the different cities of the countries of the world.

In our country as in others, the abandonment by local and national governments is evident, these neighborhood sectors are ones in which there are families, residents who live in extreme poverty, and others with lower incomes, who suffer the consequences of the policies of the governments and the bourgeoisie, as opposed to sectors/neighborhoods where those with higher incomes and some members of the ruling classes live, with luxuries and their needs met. In Ecuador the neighborhoods are part of the social organizations that have fought and struggle against the bourgeois governments and their policies.

Thus, in recent years the participation of the inhabitants of the popular neighborhoods has been very important; they participate in the indigenous and popular uprisings, opposing measures that affected the popular sectors such as the increase in fuel prices and for respect for collective rights.

Thus, in the indigenous and popular uprising of October 2019, the neighborhoods participated together with other popular sectors; we mobilized and were in the streets. We must particularly highlight the presence of neighborhoods in the south of Quito that joined the struggle in the streets, going to the places of greatest confrontation, blocking streets. They were in the streets of the country with marches and sit-ins, a struggle to which the Moreno government responded with bullets from the army and the police, with more than 11 popular fighters killed and with the loss of eyes of men and women fighting in the streets.

In June 2022, again together with the indigenous sector, workers and different social organizations, we in the neighborhoods were there, supporting with food, giving lodging, and also in the streets and plazas. There were thousands of us residents of the popular neighborhoods, against the neoliberal and extractivist policies, in

defense of the water that the government of Lasso wanted to impose and for the respect of their rights. We confronted the army and police, who were overwhelmed by thousands of poor people whom they faced, regardless of combat tanks that tried to intimidate the population, tear gas bombs by the thousands, an action that counted with important actions in several cities of the country.

As part of our actions was the approval of the Organic Law of Social Interest Housing (LOVIS), in which we managed to include some elements that enable the population of millions of families that do not own housing to rely on it, to force the state to fulfill this human right, which was approved in the National Assembly in March 2022.

Another important aspect is our participation in the electoral struggle, for which the debate was and is necessary that we are capable of exercising public offices of popular election; we obtained important results, which also allowed us, together with the "Certainly we can", to run candidates for the National Assembly.

The population demands remain in force, basic works, health care, education, social housing, which includes security, where we have begun to organize security committees with the inhabitants themselves. For this it has become necessary to hold meetings in which the importance of neighborhood integration was analyzed, recovering public spaces and placing community alarms to more than chat groups, as a form of self-defense against government ineffectiveness.

In the midst of this process, the community organization, the neighborhood committees, youth organizations, women's organizations, senior citizen's groups, sports leagues, etc., are being strengthened; these have been integrated into the Neighborhood Federations in each canton and at the national level, in the Unitary Confederation of Neighborhoods of Ecuador "CUBE." We have a great job ahead; we should also get involved in urban proposals of the bourgeoisie in order to apply the resolutions of HABITAT III, although the COVID 19 pandemic modified some of them.

We invite the different political organizations participating in this 27th International Seminar, to build their own space to analyze and discuss the problems of the different cities of our continent and the world.

From the Middle of the World we send our fraternal and revolutionary greetings.

Quito, September 1, 2023

EL SALVADOR
SALVADORAN TRADE UNION COORDINATOR

**"THE STRUGGLES OF THE WORKING CLASS AND
PEOPLES AND THE INTER-IMPERIALIST DISPUTES"**

A combative and supportive greeting on behalf of the Salvadoran Trade Union Coordinator. We especially greet the Revolutionary Youth of Ecuador and the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Ecuador for organizing this seminar. Likewise, to the different popular, trade union, political and revolutionary organizations that are participating and giving life to this important platform that allows us to express ourselves and discuss the problems of the revolution in our countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. The theme of this 27th SIPRAL allows us to take stock of two situations; on the one hand, the **inter-imperialist disputes**, and on the other, the **struggle of the working class and peoples**.

In this sense, it is necessary to be clear about the basis of our approaches to imperialism, since we cannot only speak in general of imperialism; that can be done by anyone who belongs or does not belong to our proletarian class. Just as one is not a Marxist who only recognizes the class struggle and denies the dictatorship of the proletariat, neither can one be a Marxist-Leninist who considers that there are "good" imperialists and "bad" ones, that one must wager on a "multipolar" world, or worse, that there is a "savage" capitalism but that it can be "humanized". Many of these deviations about imperialism have caused and continue to cause much damage to our movement, as they disorient the struggle of the working class from achieving the goal of the seizure of power. Instead of taking advantage of the inter-imperialist and inter-bourgeois disputes or contradictions that currently exist, we weaken ourselves in discourses that end up falling into opportunism, in continuing to reproduce theses such as those of the 20th Congress of the CPSU of 1956 about "peaceful competition", "peaceful coexistence" and "peaceful transition from capitalism to socialism", or even older theses such as those proposed by the Second International.

In this period of development of capitalism, imperialism, we find the big monopolies, the capitalist states and their associations in conflict and vying for control of territories or regions for the extraction of raw materials, energy sources, transportation routes, energy sources, markets, etc. In different parts of the world, especially in

Asia and Africa, wars are being waged with tragic results for the peoples and the working class, wars that are promoted and financed by the imperialist powers in favor of their monopolies; billions of euros, dollars, rubles, yuan are being invested in the arms industry. Government budgets intended to meet popular needs are being channeled into banks and big business, rescue plans are being drawn up and state-owned enterprises are being privatized. Fascist "puppets" or "personalities" or fascist-tinged governments are being used to carry out imperialist plans and keep the people subjected. Coups d'état are promoted to impose governments in favor of one or another imperialist power, as is currently happening in some African countries; terrorism, dirty and low-intensity warfare are still used. In almost every corner of the world the impact and consequences of imperialist and bourgeois struggles are being felt, which tend to become more and more acute; the crisis of the system is deepening and each solution proposed within the framework of capitalism, in addition to perpetuating its existence, sinks it deeper into crisis. The imperialist alliances such as the BRICS led by China and Russia that recently had their 15th summit do not represent an alternative for the peoples but a way out so that the so-called emerging economies can compete with their hegemonic rivals and continue to reproduce the system.

One of the great tasks we have is to deepen this analysis of imperialism with Marxist-Leninist criteria; we must strengthen our positions whose foundation is the class struggle, clarify to the people and the working class the nature of the system and define the tasks. Marxism-Leninism, scientific socialism, makes it possible to understand the laws of the system, to scientifically pose the bases of exploitation and to define the historical project of the proletariat. And above all we must always bear in mind that "Imperialism is the eve of the socialist revolution of the proletariat." (V.I. Lenin).

ON THE NATIONAL REALITY IN EL SALVADOR

In El Salvador we are at a very difficult juncture due to the Bukele government, which has already completed more than three years in the executive branch. His government has meant a hard blow for the unions and social organizations; however, there are still organizations like ours that have been able to confront the attacks and attempts to want to drown out any voice that denounces the anti-labor, anti-union, anti-popular and anti-democratic measures of the current government.

It has been more than a year since the emergency regime was

imposed, a measure that has served on the one hand to contain the rise of the gangs, but at the same time to contain and impose terror on the popular struggles. About twenty union leaders and unionized workers have been arrested so far by the regime; of them, one died behind bars, dozens of community leaders such as those of Santa Marta and Cabañas are imprisoned.

The indigenous populations of the west of the country have been severely hit; children of indigenous leaders are imprisoned as in the case of the sons of tata Santos Zetino, from San Antonio del Monte, or the children of other leaders from Nahuizalco and other areas of Sonsonate. Organized communities in Chalatenango or the Bajo Lempa Zone (San Vicente or Usulután) are being harassed by the army and police. Approximate 65,795 people have been arrested from last year until March 15, 2023, and more than a hundred have died.

This represents a panorama in which two percent of the adult population of El Salvador is held in prisons; that is, there are 1,200 prisoners per 100,000 inhabitants, mostly young people between the ages of 18 and 30. The government in its propaganda accuses all these detained people as being "gang members or terrorists" and anyone who criticizes the emergency regime or government measures can easily be arrested, accused of collaborating with gangs.

Last year, in the first months of the implementation of the emergency regime, the Minister of Labor, Rolando Castro made the call and even gave the order to the National Civil Police to proceed against all the people who took to the streets to demonstrate to commemorate May 1st, accusing all the demonstrators of being collaborators with the gangs.

As organizations we see the actions undertaken by the government as a great danger since the Constitution of the Republic is being easily manipulated by the ruling party to favor its business group and the capitalist class of which it is its representative.

The blows that the ruling majority bloc of New Ideas has been giving out, from the Legislative Assembly to the Judicial Power, only suit the interests of the economic group that Bukele represents and some oligarchic sectors. The three branches of government are controlled by the ruling party, just as institutions such as the Office of the Procurator for the Defense of Human Rights (PDDH) are kneeling to the regime. This situation closes off the democratic openings in the country and puts in place an authoritarian, dictatorial and

militarized government like those we had at the time of the military dictatorships from 1932 to 1979.

The working class has been hit hard since Bukele's coming to office. Since June 1, 2019, approximately 12,637 illegal and forced layoffs have been carried out in the executive branch in more than 45 government agencies. In about 25 municipalities governed by the ruling party, 3,838 layoffs were added and in the Legislative Assembly 2,550 workers were dismissed. In total, the number of layoffs in different state and municipal agencies (as of March 2023) amounts to 19,025 people. (*According to data presented by the Permanent Table for Labor Justice – MPJL.*) On the other hand, in the private sector, especially in the textile industry where mostly women work, 3,331 layoffs were reported as of January of this year, due to the closure or reduction of personnel in at least thirteen factories established in the different Free Zones of the country.

The State has been one of the main violators of labor rights and has focused its attack on the union organization, the imposition of Rolando Castro as Minister of Labor has caused many unions to become illegal since legal status is not granted to organizations that are not pro-government; also, there have been delays in providing authorization to the leading bodies for up to nine months; it has taken over large unions such as the historic STISSS. The Ministry of Labour continues to be useless in the face of the serious violations of labor rights that are committed on a daily basis, mainly in the private sector, thus benefiting the employers. In the same way, it has remained silent in the face of the criminalization of trade union activity.

A recent case is the dismissal of three general secretaries of trade unions who were negotiating a new collective agreement at the Ministry of Public Works. No significant increase in the minimum wage has been gained and the National Minimum Wage Council under the Ministry of Labour exists in name only.

On the issue of pensions, a reform was approved that is not paying off any historical debt, since the privatization of the pension system is continuing and the savings will continue to be in the hands of the Pension Fund Administrators-AFPs; in addition, the government has a free hand to dip into pension savings to solve its financial crises, without major restrictions. It is noteworthy that \$233 million has been cut from pension funds by the government in order to finance the upcoming elections.

As for the living conditions of the population we can say that the

cost of transportation, electricity, drinking water, telephone, internet have increased; the cost of basic necessities has gone through the roof, the price of gasoline and diesel, the price of gas, and agricultural inputs are very high and there is no price control by the competent institutions; before that the latest increase in the minimum wage is a mockery. The "bitcoin" was approved as a currency, which has only created fraud, speculation, waste of public funds and corruption. Faced with this situation, as organizations we keep up our banners of struggle, which are:

- a) Stop excessive government borrowing (as of March 2022, the debt represented 80% of the Gross Domestic Product)
- b) Restoration of democratic freedoms and constitutional order.
- c) No presidential re-election.
- d) Reduction of salary and unnecessary expenses to senior officials and deputies.
- e) General increase in wages, elimination of VAT [Value Added Tax] and price controls on basic products and services.
- f) Elimination of the AFPs and creation of an Independent Institute of Social Welfare.
- g) Respect for freedom of association, collective bargaining, and job stability.
- h) Non-criminalization of trade union organizations and activity.
- i) Access for the people to free and quality health care, water and education, decent housing within reach of the working class, stable work and social security.
- j) Defense of the natural wealth and the environment, stop the granting of environmental permits to producers such as the Dueñas, the Pomas, the Regalados and the transnationals. End the eviction of communities to develop luxury urban projects, hotel zones among others.
- k) Freedom for all innocent people unjustly seized under the state of emergency.
- l) We categorically demand for working women a living wage, equal remuneration for work of equal value, equal and equitable labor benefits, working hours in accordance with the provisions of the law, the fulfillment of social rights. No employment discrimination and freedom to organize in unions, no sexual and labor harassment.
- m) Respect for the autonomy and independence of trade unions by the government and employers.

n) Reclaiming the great popular and working-class struggles, promoting the union of organized and unorganized workers, the union of manual and intellectual workers and all sectors, youth, students, women can no longer continue to have isolated struggles.

Only the organized and conscious power of the working class can carry out the great social, economic, cultural and political transformations to put an end to the exploitation and oppression imposed on us by the capitalist system.

Long live the 27th international seminar

"Problems of the revolution in Latin America"!

Long live proletarian internationalism!

"From dispersion to the unity of the working class"

GERMANY
MARXIST-LENINIST PARTY OF GERMANY. MLPD

Dear comrades, and friends

On behalf of the Central Committee of the MLPD I would like to express my sincere thanks to the PCMLE and the JRE Youth League for the invitation to the 27th Seminar "Problems of the Revolution in Latin America".

Due to the acute political development in Ecuador and the tasks arising from the dissolution of parliament and new elections, unfortunately it could not be held face to face. Based on the publications of "En Marcha", we have also reported on the profound events in Germany and will continue to do so.

Of great importance and even growing explosiveness is the theme of this year's seminar: "**The struggles of the working class and peoples and the inter-imperialist conflicts**".

My name is Anna Bartholomé and as head of the MLPD for South America, I am very happy to participate in this seminar – as I have done many times.

I greet you very cordially from the chair of the MLPD party, Gabi Fechtner, and from Stefan Engel, leader of our theoretical organ, the REVOLUTIONARY WAY. I also bring you greetings from the head of the international section of the MLPD, Monika Gärtner-Engel, who performs the task of main coordinator of the world revolutionary organization ICOR and who is currently co-chair of the international anti-fascist and anti-imperialist organization. Children's Red Fox.

I apologize that our contribution to the seminar could only come to you late, but you can imagine that our tasks in party building and the class struggle and internationalist responsibilities place very high demands on us.

Parallel to the international seminar in Quito, from August 31 to September 3, the **III International Miners' Conference** is taking place, in which I myself will participate. For international finance capital, the attempt to drain old and new mining projects is of paramount importance, above all for the conversion of capitalist production to digitalization and electric mobility. This goes hand in hand with immense environmental destruction, against which fierce resistance is being waged.

The international miners' conference took place for the first time in Arequipa, Peru in 2013 and for the second time in Ghodavarikani,

India in 2017. The current conference is taking place in Germany and active miners from 18 countries, as well as many supporters of the miners' movement, are meeting, debating and making decisions on how they can work together even better at the international level and to coordinate struggles together for their interests.

To give you an idea, we want to show you a short video of the opening day:

...

We are currently witnessing a far-reaching evolution of human history, without exaggeration, which challenges the clarity and determination of the revolutionaries of the world.

Humanity is in a latent existential crisis.

The **war in Ukraine** with the acute preparation of a world and nuclear war, like the **global environmental catastrophe that has begun**, has the potential to bring all of humanity to ruin. The world imperialist system and the single dominant international finance capital are responsible for this. The international socialist revolution has become an urgent necessity.

The global environmental catastrophe that has begun brings with it a "year of records": record heat in southern Europe, record forest fires with enormous damage, record floods in Pakistan, Slovenia, China, etc.

The global environmental catastrophe marks a development that is also bringing heavy mortgages for the building of a socialist society.

The processes of the complex biosphere system, which have developed over millions of years and have now been irreversibly disturbed or destroyed, cannot be reversed by individual technical measures! Self-reinforcing irreversible tipping points have been created or bypassed. The melting of the permafrost and of glaciers cannot be stopped. Just like one cannot stop the ecosystem of a rainforest that has evolved over millions of years.

For environmental awareness to develop and for people to fight for survival and take up the struggle for survival, we need clarity about the situation in which we find ourselves and a scientific approach.

The will among the masses is growing, despite all the agitation and criminalization of young environmental activists. This is also shown by recent surveys. However, to achieve a socially transformative struggle there is nothing more important in the struggle for the

environment than to do this theoretical work to get ahead of development!

A supplement to REVOLUTIONARY WAY No. 35, "Catastrophe alarm, what can be done against the wanton destruction of the unity of humanity and nature?" under the direction of the party leadership and editorial director Stefan Engel together with a team of competent experts on the world environmental catastrophe, will appear in the coming weeks. And this book will certainly be translated as soon as possible.

As to the alternative already mentioned by Rosa Luxemburg – "fight for socialism or perish in capitalist barbarism" – it is perfectly clear that the masses of the whole world do not want to perish in the barbarism threatened by war, environmental catastrophe and massive impoverishment. They are taking up the fight for their future and that of the children and young people.

In Europe, we participated in a "militant spring" with general strikes and mass struggles in France, Greece, Portugal and Italy, which were not only directed against impoverishment by rapid inflation, anti-mass pension schemes as in France, but partly also against the warmongers, the gigantic rearmament for the war in Ukraine, etc. In Germany we are witnessing an awakening of class consciousness on a broad front with a tendency to further development. The social confusion spread by the rulers, their mass media and the so-called social media is beginning to dissolve into a struggle unfolded by the mentality.

Large sections of the population are disappointed and extremely dissatisfied with the government formed by Social Democrats, Greens and Free Democrats, the so-called "traffic-light" coalition.

Especially among young people and the very active environmental movement, an increasingly global critique of capitalism is developing under the slogan "system change, not climate coincidence". This includes the search for a fundamental social alternative without already having a clear "we" over the "how".

As a counter-movement, the rulers are pushing for a right-wing development, especially through a populist, racist, misogynist and divisive agitation against refugees – in particular to build an increasingly openly fascist party, AFD – the so-called Alternative for Germany.

In this polarized situation, the MLPD together with its youth federation REBELL has launched an offensive to help **genuine**

socialism gain new prestige against all anti-communist reservations. It is a dialectical negation of the latent existential crisis of humanity, which also produces tendencies to the cult of spontaneity, but also to resignation and panic.

Without underestimating the real gravity of the situation, it is necessary to encourage the masses to fight for a better world with proletarian optimism.

The final declaration of the 26th International Seminar on Problems of the Revolution in Latin America was also signed by the MLPD by decision of the Central Committee. We completely agree with the evaluation:

"The invasion of Ukraine by Russian imperialism has turned this country into the scene of a war in which the economic, political and geostrategic interests of several capitalist-imperialist countries are at stake. This aggression and the immediate intervention of US imperialism and its allies in the European Union and NATO in the conflict are an expression of the intensification of the inter-imperialist contradictions to the point of being waged on military terrain, turning this conflict into a war of an inter-imperialist character."

The economic war against Russia, justified by the war, has far-reaching consequences for the masses all over the world with inflation, famine, increasing exploitation of man and nature.

The war in Ukraine is the open outbreak of the struggle between the old and the new imperialist countries in the multipolar world, which has been dormant for years.

In this phase, German imperialism has clearly reinforced its ambitions to become the leading military power. The world has never been so close to a third nuclear world war. Putin wants to increase his intervention army to 400,000 men. Calls are being made through mobile phones, which are monitored everywhere. Thousands of people are fleeing. In Ukraine, tens of thousands of people are trying to get out of military service, which is no problem for the rich, given the rampant corruption: small farmers, artisans and workers are sent to the front as cannon fodder.

The growing weariness of war in all countries directly or indirectly involved is a special obstacle for warmongers.

German imperialism is trying to become the first military power. During a visit, War Minister Boris Pistorius complained about the decline in numbers of recruitment of soldiers. He criticized the Bundeswehr's previous advertising campaigns with adventure films and

stressed that recruits must be suitable for missions abroad. The core is the "will to defend the country and the alliance" and that soldiers must be willing "to risk their own health for the safety of others". And, of course, not only their health, but their lives, but more and more young people are not willing to do so. In the struggle for peace, questions of principle and ideology must also be clarified in the international revolutionary and workers' movement.

There are crude falsifications which are being spread in Germany especially by the old revisionist party, the DKP, and former employees of the secret service of the GDR, the Stasi.

They describe only the USA is imperialist. Even German imperialism, as a vassal of the US, is underestimated in its independent aspirations. The revisionists use this to justify their policy of supporting Chinese and Russian imperialism. Such revisionist argumentation leads today directly to social-chauvinism.

Of course, there are major and minor imperialist powers. But we are against every imperialist –we don't pit the biggest thief against the smallest one.

Starting with the superpowers USA and China, they are attempting to form blocs in their quest for world domination. The recent BRICS conference is a case in point.

The new focus of international tension in Niger, Africa, is an expression of this intensified international competition.

We must promote the growing critique of capitalism, the growing openness to a socialist alternative, especially among young people, with our efforts to help genuine socialism gain a new reputation.

This requires not only good arguments, but we want to achieve small-scale low-threshold work with mass effect with all the appearance and image of the party. At the same time, we must develop systematic educational and consciousness-raising work.

Thus, we take the upcoming 50th anniversary of Pinochet's fascist coup in Chile as an occasion to refute all the illusions of a "peaceful road to socialism" that the revisionists have pursued until today and to convince people of the need for revolutionary struggle.

Last year's final declaration states: *"We call for strengthening the unity and organization of the workers and peoples to confront the owners of capital. This unity must be anti-imperialist and anti-fascist and express the internationalist character of the struggle. From this America, where the peoples are struggling for their emancipation, we express our solidarity with all the peoples of the world who are*

struggling for work, life, freedom. We are united by the same ideals, we know that we are right, and also that we have the strength."

Forging such an anti-imperialist and anti-fascist united front is more urgent today than ever.

Proletarian internationalism of transnational cooperation and coordination is an adequate response to right-wing development, fascism, war and the world environmental catastrophe. For all its military, political and economic power, imperialism is weak. It can no longer solve the problems of humanity. The workers and masses are mobilizing; the question is, where is their protest headed? We have to influence it, organize the workers and the masses, collect their protest, unite it, coordinate it, radicalize it and revolutionize it through the work of consciousness.

We would like to appeal to all organizations, parties and individuals gathered here to participate actively in this great work and become members of the Anti-Imperialist United Front.

Thank you very much for your attention and I wish for a continued exciting and successful seminar.

Long live international solidarity!
Anna Bartholomé

HAITI SOCIALIST REGROUPMENT FOR A NEW INITIATIVE

THE STRUGGLES OF THE WORKING CLASS AND THE PEOPLES, AND THE INTER-IMPERIALIST DISPUTES

We must explain why we have chosen to treat the main theme from a different perspective than the one proposed above, without departing from the spirit of the 27th International Seminar of SIPRAL (Seminar Problems of the Revolution in Latin America). To give it more emphasis, we will limit our development to the case at hand, that of Haiti as a theatre of struggle. Therefore, we call our contribution: **"The Haitian popular masses and their struggles for their demands."**

Although workers' struggles have an international character, we base ourselves on dialectical materialism to say that they are always related to the national specificities of each country. Karl Marx taught us this clearly in the Gotha Programme when he wrote that:

"It is altogether self-evident that, to be able to fight at all, the working class must organize itself at home *as a class* and that its own country is the immediate arena of its struggle. In so far its class struggle is national, not in substance, but, as the *Communist Manifesto* says, 'in form.'"¹

In fact, Haiti is at the crossroads of two imperialist powers, France and the United States of America. And in recent years, Canada has participated as a logistical and complementary support for its large neighbor to the south. If in the past these two powers polemicalized and defended divergent interests in order to seize the main national resources, the situation would change during the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century.

With the occupation of 1915, U.S. imperialism established itself, along with the dominant Haitian puppet cliques, as Haiti's main governing force. This new nation which, thanks to the very bravery of the slave legions, declared itself independent on January 1, 1804, after defeating the most powerful colonial, slave-owning and racist army of the time, that of Napoleon Bonaparte, no longer has a monopoly on its sovereignty. As I wrote in one of my articles in May 2011 "National sovereignty is still at half-mast".

¹ Marx in "Critique of the Gotha Programme", FLP Peking, 1972, p. 20.

The Haitian masses have never surrendered to the excesses of their reactionary governments.

The Haitian people, always against their successive governments, have never lost their fighting spirit. They have always jealously guarded their right to self-determination. Among other limitations, for example, during the 19th century several U.S. governments attempted to sign a perpetual lease with the Haitian government to make the Bay of Môle Saint Nicolas a coal deposit. Their measure has always been rejected. They had to take advantage of multiple internal and external circumstances so that, on July 28, 1915, they could invade and occupy the country by force in order to satisfy their imperialist ambition. However, this crime would never have been possible without the participation of the country's unpatriotic ruling minority. The invaders took advantage of the pretext of fratricidal struggles between different fractions of the large feudal landlords and compradors to carry out their crimes. They mobilized the peasant masses by offering them seductive proposals in order to come to power. More than one of the different strata of the population took the bait before they were disappointed, and far from establishing calm and peace, as they claimed, the occupation forces formed a prototype of a government that was unsatisfactory for Haitian realities but corresponded to their own interests. They defeated the indigenous army that emerged from the War of Independence and created their own army, a true watchdog of their advantages. Today, this army, after its dissolution by former President Aristide who came out of exile in 1994, has been replaced by a police force that plays the same role. It is this model that remains dominant to this day; a model that the popular majority has never accepted.

The Yankees were not and never will be welcome here. They were met by the guerrillas of Charlemagne Péralte in 1916. At the head of a guerrilla group made up mainly of members of the poor and middle peasant class, these fighters fought with obsolete firearms or almost unarmed for more than two years against this rising power. This peasant guerrilla against the US occupation lasted 5 years, from 1915 to 1920, and diminished after the assassination of Péralte and Benoit Batraville. It should be noted that petty-bourgeois intellectuals, professionals, trade unions and students also fought against the occupation, although this struggle had a different rhythm and temporality in relation to peasant struggles. This resistance has been fierce,

determined and admirable. One of the immediate consequences of the imperialist invaders was the expulsion of the peasant masses from their lands for the benefit of the US capitalist multinationals. They were violently proletarianized in order to create surplus value in enterprises such as the Dauphin plantation in northeastern Haiti and the sugar factories of Cuba and the Dominican Republic. The racist white soldiers, whose vast majority were originally from the South, as usual without ethics, used the most mischievous tricks to put an end to the popular resistance, but without being able to destroy its spirit.

The second major guerrilla, which manifested itself during the years 1968-1969, was that of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists (PUCH), during the dictatorship of François Duvalier. This was also savagely suppressed by the Tontons Macoutes, the military and the CIA. Their goal was not only the end of the dictatorship, but also the building of a socialist society.

How to talk about the class struggle in Haiti?

If we mention these first two great struggles, one of which was identified as anti-imperialist and the other more complete, which had socialism as its ultimate goal, this does not mean that other forms of resistance never existed. The class struggle in our country has a special character because it has never been led by the proletariat. This particular character is not only due to its numerical weakness, as quality could be transformed into quantity, to quote Engels in "The Dialectics of Nature", provided that conditions were met. Among the obstacles that have been raised against the development of the national proletariat, we can cite the persistence of the various dictatorships that have succeeded each other in the course of our history, some of which were more ferocious than others, such as that of the Duvaliers, which lasted 30 years. Dictatorships also helped paralyze the proper development of progressive trade unions. There are several trade union federations. With some rare exceptions, such as that of Batay Ouvriye (Workers' Struggle), which is a left-wing organization, they do not espouse a left-wing ideology. Since the symbolic departure of the occupiers in August 1934, all successive governments have united with great tenacity against communism. Revolutionary parties always developed clandestinely until the fall of Jean-Claude Duvalier on February 7, 1986. Systematic anti-communist repression also greatly damaged the formation of unions close to the working class. This is one of our revolutionary tasks at the moment.

However, the Haitian masses have never surrendered to the atrocities of these reactionary governments. All the struggles that have been waged to overthrow reactionary governments have had an anti-imperialist character, because these governments have always been conceived in the laboratory of the U.S. embassy. If the working class is inevitably the ruling class of any socialist revolution, for the moment it is the masses of people as a whole who constitute the driving force of the anti-government battles and, therefore, of anti-U.S. struggles. We cannot fight our reactionary powers without associating them with their de facto boss, US imperialism and its ambassador, who behaves like a proconsul.

It is in this perspective that we, the Socialist Regroupment Party for a National Initiative of Tou Nèf (RASIN), declare that the Monroe Doctrine is still in force in Haiti. The following example alone can help us understand this statement.

"On Thursday, January 10, 2019, at the OAS, Haitian diplomacy, by order of former President Jovenel Moïse, voted in favor of the United States but against the legitimacy of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. The latter won the support of the majority of his people in an election, which resulted from an electoral system recognized even by former President Jimmy Carter as one of the best in the world. This system may be more reliable than that of the United States of America, which began to reveal its weakness with the election of the second Bush and the current Donald Trump. This infamous act consisted of a double violation: that of trampling on the internationalist principle of the founders of the Haitian nation-state and that of not having the minimum decency in politics to remember the benefits of a power that supported your government while the international community mocks you to the fullest extent of the term.

"This act has also demonstrated, once again, an obvious truth: the irreducible subjection of the traditional Haitian political class to US imperialism and the incoherence of the current leadership team. Haiti's ambassador to Caracas, Lesly David, officially participated in President Maduro's inauguration, while her colleague, Mr. Leon Charles, Haiti's representative to the OAS, voted against the Bolivarian revolution on behalf of the same Haitian head of state, who had recognized the victory of President Maduro in May 2018, less than

a year ago."² This infamy is based on the logic of the Punta del Este vote of the Duvalierist dictatorship.

The vote of Punta del Este.

"On January 13, 1962, in Uruguay, at the seaside resort of Punta del Este, the Haitian vote of shame took place. The Organization of American States, OAS, or to put it better, the U.S. government, needed one more voice to get socialist Cuba out of this diplomatic tool founded in 1948. It is an instrument created by U.S. power to breathe new life into the Monroe Doctrine. That is why it has always been placed almost exclusively at the service of U.S. capitalist interests. The blackmail of dictator François Duvalier to sell his vote is further proof that the internal is decisive in conflicts, even with foreign powers. The sinister Papa Doc, who did not smell sweet to President Kennedy, made the support of his government conditional on financial aid. He resisted all the pressures of the U.S. diplomat Dean Rusk until he found what he was looking for, money for his power. The Alliance for Progress, founded the previous year by President Kennedy to block the road to communism, had brought him nothing. In reality, however, his primal anti-communism placed him closer to U.S. than to the Cuban revolution, as President Kennedy well knew. To defend his immediate interest, Duvalier was able to make a display of his determination to be independent. Anthony Georges-Pierre, who has always been a faithful Duvalierist, stated the following:

"On this occasion, President Duvalier had kept two irons in the fire. In condemning the communist regime in Cuba, he sided with the United States. By criticizing U.S. economic aid policy to Haiti, he took advantage of favorable circumstances to fight back and demand more reasonable U.S. assistance. The OAS rostrum in Punta del Este offered him an extraordinary opportunity to defend the Haitian cause and force the United States, in a gesture of solidarity, to open their wallets to poor Haiti."³⁴

² Marc-Arthur Fils-Aimé. La doctrine Monroe est toujours en vigueur en Haïti (The Monroe Doctrine is still in effect in Haiti). Article published in *Haiti Liberté of January 30 to February 5, 2019*

³ Anthony Georges-Pierre "François Duvalier Titan ou tyran" ("François Duvalier Titan or tyrant" – 2nd edition. Printed in Educa Vi-son Inc., p. 771

⁴ Marc-Arthur Fils-Aimé Jr. – Ibid

The inter-imperialist conspiracy under the leadership of the CORE GROUP

Today, the country is under the control of an association of foreign embassies known as the CORE GROUP. The CORE GROUP is like a union of the most powerful embassies in the country, and brings together Canada, France, Germany, Spain, Brazil, the OAS, the United Nations and the European Union under the leadership of the United States of America. This association even gave itself the authority to appoint the country's presidents, as was the well-known case of Michel Martelly in 1910. The former representative of the United Nations Secretariat, Ms. Lalime, of U.S. origin, congratulated herself at a United Nations Assembly for having united the gangs that today besiege Port-au-Prince, the capital, and other parts of the country, committing the most heinous crimes .

Since the installation of this coalition of embassies, the popular masses have never ceased to mobilize against the reactionary governments and the foreign forces that support the latter in all their unconstitutional measures. As we pointed out earlier, the masses have initiated different forms of struggle in search of their well-being. Even if, for the reasons we have considered, these struggles have not been carried out under the leadership of the working class, they nevertheless have a class character. The various peasant organizations have always opposed the landowners, such as Têt Kole Ti peyizan Ayisyen and Mouvman Peyizan Papay (MPP). They claim the land for those who cultivate it. The working class, in addition to strikes within the assembly plants, often demonstrate in the streets demanding better living conditions. These demonstrations have always been savagely repressed, often resulting in deaths. Unfortunately, these struggles are not coordinated and remain very sectoral. This is one of the immediate tasks of the revolutionary parties. In more oriented protest movements, the masses, in a broad popular alliance, shout anti-U.S. slogans, in demonstrations supported by the revolutionary left, sometimes gathering several thousand people, even when these demonstrations were planned against the power in place.

The activists who claim to be left-wing are very numerous. But for reasons that must be studied on another occasion, they are content to live isolated from each other. However, for some six years many efforts have been undertaken to unify certain currents of the revolutionary left. We meet under the name "Group of Five – RASIN,

AKAO, Kontra Pèp, Ayiti Djanm, Gwoup Rezistans Benoit Bartraville”. This effort is not limited. The regroupment is in negotiations with ASO to reach unity, without forgetting the peasant federations and the women’s associations of the left. The great perspective must be the task of the Haitian revolutionary left to unite to form a real force to accompany and nurture the popular masses, to participate in the transformation of their anti-U.S. instinct into a revolutionary consciousness.

Marc-Arthur Fils-Aimé
Secretary General

Camille Charlmers
Spokesperson

August 17, 2023

MEXICO
COMMUNIST PARTY OF MEXICO, MARXIST-LENINIST
CLASS IN ITSELF, CLASS FOR ITSELF.

The general crisis of capitalism in all its economic, political, cultural, ecological, ideological and social aspects is accentuated and aggravated with each cyclical crisis it goes through. This is part of the epoch of imperialism and therefore must be the epoch of proletarian revolutions.

Economic crises manifest themselves as crises of overproduction of commodities, which have as their main basis the tendency of the rate of profit to decrease, which during this five-year period had some moments of recovery, partially achieved by the use of new technologies. Agenda 2030 is the best planned imperialist strategy of recent years, where the representatives of the most powerful monopolies have agreed to try to give a long life to capitalism, in which new technology – including Quantum Computing and Artificial Intelligence – aims to displace the human workforce and develop complex processes to solve unsolved problems and prevent the advance of the proletarian revolution.

After the crisis of 2008-2009, the world capitalist-imperialist system went into an economic recession that led to the outbreak of a new crisis between 2019-2020, which, after a small and weak growth in 2022, led to the technical recession in the United States, Germany and the United Kingdom; growth in 2023 will be low and even the representatives of capital predict a "recession" by the end of this year.

This situation shows that neoliberalism has fewer and fewer options to avoid new crises and, on the contrary, has deepened them. In this scenario, some capitalist sectors accompanied by the petty bourgeoisie are implementing the return to the welfare or Keynesian state, to the internal market or "nationalism", combining these economic policies with the same neoliberalism. In other countries, new forms of fascist or militarist governments with right-wing populist discourses are reemerging.

These elements, plus others such as unpayable national debts, the ecological destruction of the planet, the decline in industrial production, unemployment and layoffs due to new technologies, low wages, the aging of various populations of the planet, the growing and forced migration, the sick financial speculation and the decline of the dollar,

are bringing the capitalist-imperialist system closer to a new and disastrous global economic crisis.

Ukraine and now Niger are part of an accumulation of military conflicts that add to those that have been dragging on in previous years, in which we see the same actors in Sudan, Libya and Syria, Yemen, Palestine, Saharawi Republic, etc., which are leading a large part of these nations to a new redivision, to their atomization or dissolution into small territories occupied by foreign forces.

The perspectives of the struggle of the working class and the working masses after 36 years of the existence of neoliberalism are showing a relevant role. In a new upsurge of the proletarian movement, it is up to the most advanced of the movement, the proletarian parties, the Marxist-Leninists, to influence, organize and lead these mobilized masses to defeat the bourgeois and petty-bourgeois vision that weighs on these actions, which also seek to trap them by reformism and opportunism, instruments of capitalism itself to undermine the historical perspective of the proletariat, the proletarian revolution and socialism.

Therefore, it is necessary to continue to show the masses, today with greater intensity, that neoliberalism is capitalism-imperialism, which has already played its historical role and must disappear and give way to a socialist society, through the proletarian revolution. All forms of struggle are valid and must be subordinated to the political struggle. We must bring the bourgeois political crisis to the revolutionary crisis in order to establish a workers', peasants' and people's government, through proletarian and popular constituents or assemblies. The building and strengthening of the parties of the working class is necessary to lead to profound and definitive victories for the proletariat over the financial oligarchy and its servants.

In Latin America, social democracy exercises power as a "progressive" alternative now in its second "wave", a social democracy on the right; even when it has an anti-neoliberal discourse, as in Mexico, they continue to implement it. All these variants impose constitutions, laws and norms that sustain capitalism and govern by affecting labor and human rights, as well as the freedom of assembly and organization of millions of workers who create social wealth.

The migratory flows in the world are expanding in the face of conditions of misery, marginalization and insecurity. The reactionary violence that the elites promote in various areas through so-called organized crime and paramilitaries is used as a mechanism of social

control, as well as control of territories and natural resources. Also, through ideological control over broad social sectors, it is deepening while new mechanisms of repression are being implemented. The pandemic and war, interconnected phenomena in which a decadent social order is expressed, are useful to deepen the control and subjugation of the languages and favor the implementation of military coups that mean a greater subjugation of the peoples.

The ideological struggle between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat is part of the struggle for political power, for control of territory and material resources, just as the political struggle and military war share the same objectives. The ideological struggle is an expression of the class struggle that has so far failed to overcome the ideological hegemonic control of the capitalist-imperialist system. Much work remains to be done by the revolutionary and communist organizations to overcome this situation, to encourage the class consciousness of broad sectors of workers in the countryside and the cities, as well as other sectors of the people. In this sense we must achieve greater impact with our propaganda to put at the center of the debates our positions on national and world problems, particularly on the tasks that the new proletarian revolutions must win.

Class consciousness is the ability of the members of a class to assume their historical project in relation to the development of the productive forces and the mode of production in which they live. This is how Karl Marx defined it in 1840. The proletariat does not become a class for itself until it fully understands the importance of being the producer of all wealth that exists, and that it is its collective strength that can bring about significant change in the political and economic system that exploits and oppresses it. Only once they clearly take up this class consciousness do they struggle to liberate themselves and in turn liberate all classes oppressed by capitalism, because this represents the most advanced class project, above any other progressive position.

In Latin America this class consciousness has been restrained by repression and the most savage dictatorships, but also because in different historical moments, since the emergence of capitalism, the nationalist bourgeoisies have won for their ideological position by calling for the defense of the homeland and defense of the country. Other moments when, after the end or defeats of the dictatorships, the revisionist and social democratic positions have deceived broad sectors of the people, confusing them with their versions of bourgeois

democracies and libertarian and populist ideas, artificially displacing the understanding of the fundamental contradiction between capital and labor.

This struggle is of capital importance for communists, because it forms the basis of the subjective conditions for carrying forward revolutionary movements towards the historical goals of the workers. Faced with the power of imperialism, this battle has a fundamental role, to concretize the construction of national and world anti-imperialist fronts, which incorporate all oppressed sectors with their various forms of organization against capitalism and imperialism under the same slogans and programs.

COMMUNIST PARTY OF MEXICO MARXIST-LENINIST
Proletarians of all countries, unite.
AUGUST, 2023

PUERTO RICO COMMUNIST WORKERS AND STUDENTS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (TECCS)

Good afternoon. Revolutionary greetings from Communist Workers and Students for Social Change (TECCS) of Puerto Rico. We want to express our solidarity and gratitude to the Communist Party M-L of Ecuador in this twenty-seventh seminar.

Thank you for the invitation.

A revolutionary greeting to all the communist parties present. I want to establish that our organization was formed in the face of the political and ideological vacuum that exists in our country, Puerto Rico. Our name responds to the desire to distinguish ourselves from other, reformist organizations that identify themselves as Marxists and communists, which in their methods of struggles or practices use legalistic methods to achieve power, but leave intact the economic, political, legal and banking structures that make up the exploitative capitalist system. In our case, Puerto Rico, a classic colony, dominated by Yankee imperialism since 1898, 125 years ago, there is the dynamic in the anti-imperialist struggle of the "left" sectors, which put in the foreground the independence of Puerto Rico, thus subordinating the class struggle by the national struggle.

For us, in TECCS, it is not a matter of "Yankee Go Home" to make way for the national bourgeois local aspiring capitalists who, in the name of love of country, continue to exploit the working class. There are those who think that the anti-imperialist struggle is a revolutionary struggle and we want to clarify that being anti-imperialist does not make them anti-capitalist or revolutionary. That is, one can be anti-imperialist and pro-capitalist. Nor do we believe that it is necessary, once independence is achieved, to go through the process of anti-imperialist bourgeois democracy and then enter the stage of the dictatorship of the proletariat. There are currently 35 independent Latin American countries and practically all (neo-colonial) capitalist. Being an independent country does not mean being a country free from exploitation. Therefore, we as a colony advocate the independence of the working class to free itself from all exploitation, whether it comes from imperialism or from the aspiring local bourgeoisie.

We live in difficult times. The currents and winds are moving in another direction – fascism. Uncertainty reigns. We do not know the future. But what is clear is that no empire lasts forever. We are

currently seeing the displacement of the most powerful empire in the history of mankind. A new world social and political order is being forged. The globalists with their imperial agenda are entering into struggle to preserve their control and hegemony. Inter-imperialist rivalry is the order of the day. The old Soviet bloc has become the battleground for the resurgence of the world fascist movement, with the support of declining U.S. imperialism and NATO; its acronym is best represented as the Nazi Alliance Terrorist Organization.

This reality is not new. The difference is that its opponents are the second nuclear military power, Russia, and the second economic world power, China.

What role are communists playing in this new historical, conjunctural reality? What are we doing? What should be our tactics and strategies? How should we look at the current historical reality? How should we look at the reformists, social democrats and liberals? Should united fronts be created with center-left organizations? Should we participate in elections? Can socialism or communism be achieved by peaceful or electoral means? Is there such a thing as revolutionary nationalism? Is there progressive capitalism? Is it necessary to pass through the stage of bourgeois democracy? Is it necessary to pass through stages from semi-feudalism to bourgeois democracy and then to socialism? Are some capitalists better than others? Is there a less bad imperialism? Does being anti-imperialist make you revolutionary? Is being progressive the same as being revolutionary or being of the left the same as being a communist? What should be our stance on the Identity Politics (LGBTQ+) struggle as communists? What should be our position on racism and ethnocentrism? What should be our position on Pan-Americanism and Pan-Africanism? What should be our position on ethnic, racial and national chauvinism? Is wage labor necessary in the stage of the development to communism? Should we apply the principles of historical and dialectical materialism with its historically proven science or venture into other "unknown" horizons? How should we interpret and analyze this new global reality? Is Russia imperialist? Do Putin and the Russian Federation represent the working class?

As communists, what should be our answers to these questions? Can we speculate on the answers or should we allow ourselves to be guided by the science of historical and dialectical materialism? In our organization, Communist Workers and Students for Social Change, we prefer to count on the science of the principles of Marxism-

Leninism with its proven history, which with all its victories and failures, is the only social-economic science that responds to our reality known as class struggle.

Comrades, these are just some of the many questions we have to ask ourselves. The answers are not easy but it is up to us as revolutionary communists to search for these answers if we truly aspire to changes and a new communist society free of exploitation. We will make mistakes, but mistakes are not the same as betrayal. Only revolutionary practice applying the principles of historical and dialectical materialism will lead us to victory.

As for our country, Puerto Rico, it is exemplified by being a capitalist industrial colony that does not need to go through the stage of bourgeois democracy. However backward contemporary colonial and neocolonial countries may be, national and international relations are capitalist in nature. Therefore, we must not fall into the trap of supporting the anti-imperialist local bourgeoisies. Ultimately, history has shown that eventually these so-called progressive anti-imperialist sectors will defend, first and foremost, their class interests, the exploitative capitalist system, and sooner or later they will form alliances with imperialism. Such is the case of the inter-imperialist struggle between the Russian Federation, Ukraine, NATO and the USA, which are fighting for the best piece of the pie. Fascism is nothing but capitalism in crisis and the current war between Russia and Ukraine is the struggle over who will control world economic political hegemony. It is a war between economic blocs. As workers and communists we must view the class struggle from an internationalist perspective and stand in solidarity with the world working class who are the victims of the capitalist system. Our slogan, the workers' struggle has no borders, the working class has no borders, is on the order of the day, as is the slogan of Marx and Engels, "Proletarians of the world unite. We have nothing to lose but our chains."

Long live communism! War on war!
Long live proletarian internationalism!

Thanks a lot!

SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

UNITED STATES
GEORGE GRUENTHAL

THE INTER-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLE AND
THE CLASS STRUGGLE IN THE U.S.

Towards Marxist-Leninist Unity

The most important inter-imperialist struggle in the world today is the war in Ukraine. It is a war between the puppets (particularly the neo-fascist government of Zelensky) of the US-NATO and Russia. Because we are in the US, we have to place emphasis on the struggle against "our own" ruling class, although we have to make it clear that Russia is also an imperialist country to which we cannot give any support.

Unfortunately, our so-called "left" is very weak and mostly confused on this issue. The Social Democrats, particularly the Social Democrats of America (DSA), including Representative Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Bernie Sanders support the war, and vote for all funding for the war.

Most of the so-called "anti-imperialist" groups, on the other hand, support Russia in the war, although some only attack the role of US-NATO, without any mention of Russia's role. This also does not help to clarify the nature of the war as a war of redivision.

Only a few groups, such as the comrades of the American Party of Labor, explain the war as an inter-imperialist one.

How does the war affect the situation of the workers and the class struggle?

For many years the ruling class has mostly been waging its wars without using its own troops. In Ukraine, as they say, it is fighting "to the last Ukrainian." In other parts of the world it is using its military technology as drones.

In Ukraine the U.S. government has spent \$113 billion as of June of this year, on top of the highest military budget ever. There are only three methods of paying for it, all of which have a harmful effect on the living conditions of working people:

1) raising taxes, 2) cutting social benefits, and 3) printing money, which leads to inflation. The present government is mainly using the second and third methods, particularly the third, because this can disguise the connection between inflation and war.

The corresponding rise in prices has caused some complaints

among the masses, and has helped a rise in the strike struggle and trade union organization. Members of the Writers Guild of America (WGA) have been on strike for nearly four months, and have been supported by film and television actors of SAG-AFTRA, who have been on strike since July 14. They only avoided a strike by UPS teamsters because of government pressure on the union, and with a contract with a combination of good and bad elements, which affect the many part-time workers. Now the 150,000 automobile workers are fighting for a new contract. They are trying to reverse the concessions they made during the 2008 recession. Many workers at Starbucks and other companies are also organizing into unions.

One problem is that most of the masses do not understand the relationship of the deterioration of their living conditions and the war in Ukraine, and they do not understand why the US government is supporting the Ukrainian puppet government against Russian imperialism. It is the duty of every revolutionary, of every Marxist-Leninist, to explain this and to organize against the war.

**USA – end the to support the neo-fascist government in
Ukraine!
Dismantle NATO!
Russia out of Ukraine!**

URUGUAY

REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY OF URUGUAY

Political situation

After three governments of the Frente Amplio [Broad Front], a front led by social democracy, revisionism (PCU) and social populism (MPP, of former President Mujica), a coalition of the traditional right and the fascist ultra-right has governed since March 2020, which won the 2019 elections by 1.5%.

The National Party of President Lacalle Pou leads the coalition; it includes the Colorado Party of former President Sanguinetti, Cabildo Abierto of retired General Manini Ríos, an ultra-right party with a military leadership very committed to the defense of the fascist military dictatorship and its crimes; the PI, Independent Party, a social democratic party, and the People's Party of the liberal right. It is noteworthy that Cabildo Abierto has 20% of the parliamentary seats of the coalition and weighs decisively on all issues.

What the 3 Frente Amplio [FA] governments did and did not do

- 1) The Law of Impunity** was not repealed, very little progress was made in Truth and Justice and Manini ended up being promoted as the commander-in-chief of the army, an oligarch and member of a fascist lodge.
- 2) Salaries** – The FA took over after the crisis of 2002 when salaries had fallen by 40% and there was no rapid increase in wages; the wage level was regained only after 10 years, but at the cost of sharp conflicts of the workers and not by government decrees
- 3) IMF-External Debt-TPPI** – This was immediately agreed with the IMF. The debt multiplied by 3 in 15 years and implied accepting the conditions they imposed, including not investing in OSE (state waters), for example, and giving perks to agribusiness, forest monocultures and soy plantations. They approved the Irrigation Law, promoting private dams, with disastrous consequences. On December 28, 2005 the TPPI (investment protection treaty) was signed with the Yankees with whom a Free Trade Agreement was even attempted.
- 4) Earth** – In 2005, the first year of the government, the largest foreign takeover and concentration of land in history occurred in one year. The Minister of Agriculture was Mujica. After 15 years most of the land was in foreign hands.
- 5) Privatizations-PPP-Outsourcing** – Attempts were made to keep the water privatized in Maldonador despite the successful

plebiscite. Progress was made in privatizations and PPP (public-private partnerships) that created with them a hidden debt and huge businesses for financial capital.

6) Tax Reform – They promised to remove the tax on salaries and they put it on the IRPF [Personal Income Tax] paid by 80% wage earners and the IASS [tax on pensions] to retirees, while there are US \$3,000 million tax exemptions a year for big capital. The Value Added Tax is 22%, one of the highest in the world.

7) Social Security - the AFAP [Pension Fund Management Companies], which profits from the contributions of the workers and takes finances from the BPS (state social welfare bank), was maintained. Most pensions are miserable.

8) Papeleas – The establishment of paper mills, UPM 1, Montes de Plata was promoted and authorized and committed to UPM 2.

9) Industry – The process of deindustrialization of the country continued. The few factories rescued after the crisis were supported by Chávez.

10) Health – There is still one health-care system for the rich and another for the poor.

11) Education – It is far from reaching 6+1% of GDP as was promised.

12) Corruption – There were important cases of corruption – PLUNA (state airlines), ANCAP (state fuel), State Casinos, etc.

The current right-wing coalition government

A few days after taking office, it decreed the contraction of the state budget by 15% and that only 1 in 3 vacancies be filled in much of the state. Then there was a five-year National Budget, with strong fiscal adjustment. From there and with the excuse of the pandemic, a generalized salary reduction for more than 3 years.

It is a government that went full steam ahead against the people and immediately promoted the LUC, Law of Urgent Consideration, with almost 500 articles that are largely repressive and punitive, limiting the right to strike, prohibiting occupations and pickets, with a great attack on public education.

Faced with this law, there was a great popular battle in the streets, with strikes, mobilizations and a Referendum against 135 articles, for which 800,000 signatures were achieved and then with 1,078,000 votes, losing by 1.5%.

The reactionary onslaught continued in each of the annual budget

accounts and with the approval of the reactionary Social Security Reform, which in reality is only a pension reform, which increases the required retirement age from 60 to 65 years and obligatorily extends the AFAPs to all savings banks and all workers regardless of the amount of their salary.

The AFAPs are a system of individual pension savings and imply a real emptying of the BPS (state), of US \$1,200 million per year that come out of the contributions by the workers under this capitalist-imperialist system that imposes more and more job insecurity and super-exploitation. The reactionary chorus then speaks of the BPS's supposed deficit of \$600 million annually.

The AFAPs are a real scam at the service of financial capital that was imposed by the conditions of the IMF and other imperialist agencies. They were eliminated in most of the countries where they were established when it was seen in practice that they do not provide services other than pensions and that in the vast majority of cases these are very low.

This government has deepened its dependence on Yankee imperialism and acts as a battering ram of its policy in the region and on the continent, permanently attacking Cuba and Venezuela as dictatorships and at the same time promoting an FTA with China, which has been the main buyer of U.S. exports: meat, soy and cellulose in recent years. It is a government that conceded a monopoly of loading and unloading of containers in the port of Montevideo to the Belgian company Katoen Natie for 50 years. It carried out the establishment of a second plant of the Finnish paper company UPM, taking charge of the state of a railway, road and bridge infrastructure for US \$4,000 million. It is advancing the privatization of public companies, breaking up the Portland plants, and part of the fuel supplies in ports and airports, today in the hands of the ANCAP [National Administration of Fuels, Alcohols and Portland]; the same is happening with the state electric power company UTE and the telephone company ANTEL. With OSE, the state water company, a negotiation was approved with the construction monopolies, in the midst of the water crisis, the Neptune project to pump water of the Río de la Plata, which is questioned by scientists, environmentalists and the workers' union, because it implies privatization and the place of the occupation, Arazatí, has high levels of salinity and pollution.

Economic situation

Due to the crisis furthered by the pandemic, GDP fell sharply in

2020, the first year of the current government, by -6.1%, there was a recovery of 5.3% in 2021 and 4.9% in 2022, mainly due to the high prices of the main export products, meat, soybeans and pulp and construction works. of UPM2 and the great infrastructure that surrounds it.

In the last two quarters of 2022, a slight technical recession was reached and a poor GDP growth of 1.3% is expected for this year. This reflects the "normalization" of international prices, the serious effects of the drought that mainly affected soybeans, a large drop in meat exports due to the drop in purchases from China and the end of the aforementioned works. In the first half of 2023, soybean exports fell -76% and beef exports -32%. In 2022, the main export destinations were China (29%), the European Union (15%), Brazil (14%), Argentina (9%) and the USA (5%).

A factor that is greatly influencing the national economy is the backwardness of the economy, with a dollar that depreciates against the peso and artificially increases the production of goods and services in the country. The basis of this problem is in the issuance of bonds in UI (indexed units), in Uruguayan pesos that adjust for inflation and also pay high interest, which favors the speculative business. What successive governments have been doing with the argument of combating inflation in fact subsidizes all types of imports and permanently increases the public debt.

Global public debt is around \$50 billion and about \$20 billion in interest. To this we must add the indebtedness concealed by the PPP [Purchasing Price Parity. The GDP forecast at the end of this year 2023 is US \$73,000 million.

In these years exploitation has increased, the percentage of submerged wages of less than \$25,000 covers 33% of workers, about 550,000. 75% of workers do not reach the average family basket [of necessary goods], which today is \$124,000, about US \$3,100. There has been an increase in job insecurity, outsourcing and self-employment, much of which is "informal", covering some 350,000 workers.

Poverty has increased, there are 650 irregular settlements where some 250,000 people live and with the pandemic popular pots have become widespread.

The current workers' and people's struggles

March 8 – National strike of 24 hours by Women of the PIT-CNT (labor federation).

March 23 – Partial General Strike from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. against the government's reactionary pension reform.

April 25 – 24-hour National General Strike against the Social Security Reform, the day it began to be voted on in Parliament.

June 27 – Partial General Strike, 50 years after the Fascist Military Coup in commemoration of the heroic 15-day General Strike, carried out by the CNT in 1973.

August 22 – Partial General Strike for wages, in defense of public companies and solidarity with those in conflict.

Between January 1 and June 30, 2023, 60 labor disputes were registered in which 1,198,385 workers were involved. In the month of June there was an increase in sectoral conflict that was more than double that of the previous month and the highest figure in this period of government. This is explained by what happened mainly in construction and education.

The struggles of the workers have been making their way despite the hegemony of opportunism in the leadership of the PIT-CNT, in a year in which a reactionary pension law was approved, the annual Budget Accountability is under parliamentary discussion, the last of the period, and the 10th Round of the Salary Councils. To this is added the struggle for drinking water, given the water crisis and very important conflicts in the unions of public companies (MSCE) against privatizations and for personal income.

The class struggle currents have been advancing in influence and coordination in the Coalition of Trade Unions, and their weight has been decisive in achieving the general strikes and also in the launch of the Social Security plebiscite underway.

Plebiscite for Social Security

On August 10, in the Representative Table of the PIT-CNT, won an important victory by achieving a majority in its plebiscite proposal. The text proposed by ATSS (BPS workers) had the support of the class point of view, that of our party and that of the UP. The campaign to collect the required 300,000 signatures is already being prepared and then for the 1,200,000 votes needed in October 2024, together with the national elections. A constitutional reform is proposed to maintain the retirement age at 60 years, set a minimum retirement equal to the national minimum wage and eliminate the AFAP.

The Revolutionary Communist Party (PCR) and the Popular Unity (UP)

The center of gravity of the mass work of the PCR, which commemorated its 50th Anniversary in December 2022, is in the labor movement and the unions, its members are part of the Class Trade Union Current. At this stage, we are fighting for a democratic, agrarian and anti-imperialist revolution in uninterrupted march to socialism.

Since the end of the dictatorship in 1985, we joined the work in the Base Committees of the Broad Front, within the radical left. In 1989 we participated in the founding of the MPP (Popular Participation Movement), with the MLN-Tupamaros and other organizations. We were there until 2001 when the right-wing line of Mujica and Huidobro took over the leadership.

From there we continued in the FA to try to defeat the traditional right and make an advanced popular experience, which was achieved in 2004. In 2005, due to the government's agreements with the IMF and other measures already mentioned, we withdrew from the FA and in 2006, together with the March 26 Movement and the Left Current, we founded the Popular Assembly, today Popular Unity.

The UP, with a consistent anti-imperialist program, won one deputy in the 2014 elections, with 27,000 votes, which we could not maintain in 2019. We persisted for 17 years and prepared for the battles of the plebiscite and the elections of 2024.

International situation

The international situation shows a sharpening of the inter-imperialist contradictions whose center is the imperialist war of aggression of Russia in Ukraine, with the increasing involvement of Yankee imperialism and NATO and the growing danger of a third world war. The use of nuclear weapons is increasingly possible if the situation were to escalate.

This situation is taking place in a context of international economic crisis that was enhanced by the Covid 19 pandemic, and changes in the relations of forces of the imperialist countries. Yankee imperialism remains the main power in terms of its economic, political and military power, but it is in decline and in a multipolar world where Chinese imperialism is seriously contesting for hegemony and the BRICS is being enlarged.

The imperialist powers are once again resorting to war and the arms industry to get out of the crisis and divert the class struggles within their countries. There is an alarming and generalized growth of ultra-right and fascist parties and organizations in the imperialist countries and also in Latin America.

At the same time the proletariat and the oppressed peoples of the world have been developing very important struggles, confronting the adjustments against the wages and budgets for health care, housing and education for the people, and reactionary laws such as the reform of social security and those that limit the right to strike, with which international finance capital seeks to place the crisis on the backs of the workers.

The struggle of the popular women's movements that have become protagonists of great mobilizations is developing throughout the continent. In the case of Uruguay, these have reached 300,000 people on March 8, in Montevideo alone. These struggles have been making very important advances in the struggle for women's liberation and social equality.

The imperialist exploitation of the natural resources of the oppressed countries is being aggravated, which is taking place in the midst of a great inter-imperialist contention over these resources and over the strategic infrastructure control. In Latin America China is making a great advance, both at the commercial level, where it is already the main purchaser in general, and in investments and infrastructure, ports and airports, also advancing in political influence.

In our America the great struggles of the working class and peoples in the face of the crisis opened the way to the electoral defeats of the parties of the right in government, in Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Colombia, where governments oriented by various forms of "progressivism" were established. In general, they quickly disappoint their peoples by not taking the necessary measures to break with dependency and carry out the fundamental reforms essential to really improve the situation of the workers and people.

In Bolivia the heroic struggle of the people managed to defeat the fascist coup that overthrew the MAS government, headed by Evo Morales, and in Peru the struggle against the institutional coup that overthrew President Pedro Castillo is persisting.

**FORWARD WITH THE STRUGGLE OF THE WORKING
CLASS AND PEOPLES OF OUR AMERICA!**

URUGUAY
REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY OF URUGUAY

ADDITION: 30 YEARS OF STRUGGLE IN DEFENSE OF
PUBLIC COMPANIES AND WATER RESOURCES.

Our Latin American countries have been conquered for our resources and common goods, our peoples oppressed, exploited and plundered.

Our peoples then suffer the oppression exercised by the imperialist countries with their policy of plunder and struggle for the division of the world. This is a policy emanating from the dispossession of other nations that are connected internationally with international agencies such as the IMF, WB, WTO, ICSID [International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes]. Another link in this chain of oppression and exploitation is that exercised by monopoly companies, corporations that export capital to our countries favored for economic policies, under investment protection agreements, free trade agreements, etc. Part of this chain are the governments of our countries that accept and apply these prescriptions emanating from international agencies doing nothing more than fulfilling the sad role of lackeys of imperialism, of the financial oligarchies, of the local pro-imperialist bourgeoisie who benefit from these crumbs while the workers and people, victims of oppression and looting, are subjected to the most extreme poverty.

Our country of backward and dependent capitalism is facing a water crisis, which is the responsibility of all governments until today that is derived from the mismanagement of soils and water resources, beyond climate change. This has impacted agriculture with a great drought, and the metropolitan area, with more than half of the country's population, has had its water supply affected.

The struggle in defense of water begins with the defense of Public Companies. In 1992, the effort to advance in an accelerated manner on the path of privatization and surrender by the government of National Party was faced with popular street mobilizations that were later channeled into a popular initiative that by its content was an anti-imperialist struggle in defense of the national patrimony, centered around the workers' (PIT-CNT) social organizations such as FUCVAM, FEUU, sectors of the political parties, opposed to the Law of Reform of State Enterprises, inflicting a defeat on the government

and the promoters of the law ending with 70% support of non-privatization of public companies in general.

The progress in water privatization began with the privatization of drinking water and sanitation services. The government through the parliament made concessions in the Department of Maldonado east of the Maldonado stream on the provision of drinking water and sanitation; this fact goes unnoticed by the union, but not for the neighborhoods which mobilized without managing to modify the situation.

In 1995, the parliament introduced into the five-year budget law the power to grant concessions in the remaining 17 departments in the interior of the country. Thus, in 2000 it handed over concessions to the west of the Maldonado stream after a strong struggle with the neighborhood together with the union, then making concessions to Aguas de Barcelona, a subsidiary of the Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux, to the east of the Maldonado stream, and to the west the waters of Bilbao consortium made up of Kartera Uno, Iberdrola, and Aguas de Bilbao. These events create the conditions for a serious struggle with all the people in defense of the public company, the defense of a source of work and of water resources. On this basis we define our objectives:

- Declare surface water to be in the public domain
- Declare access to safe drinking water and sanitation a fundamental human right.
- Demand that the provision of drinking water and sanitation services be carried out putting social reasons before economic ones.
- That drinking water and sanitation service should be provided exclusively and directly by a state legal entity.
- Demand a water and sanitation policy based on the principle of sustainability of the resource.
- Demand the participation of users and civil society as a whole in the planning, management and control of water resources establish river basins as basic units for their management.
- Recuperate the concessions ceded by the Uruguayan state.

This struggle took place in the light of what was the water war in 2000 when the people of Cochabamba in Bolivia rose up, fanned by the regional situation of structural adjustments imposed by the international credit organizations (IMF, WB, IDB) under the guidelines of the Washington Consensus and the Brady Plan promoted by the United States.

In 2002, in view of the eminent progress of the concessions and the announcements of the government in office, a national commission (CNDAV) was formed, which from its beginning was made up of the trade union movement (PIT-CNT), the Federation of Students (FEUU), the Federation of Housing Cooperatives for Mutual Aid (FUCVAM), neighborhood social organizations, religious organizations, political organizations, to block the way through a popular initiative, a referendum, with the demands previously raised, thus ensuring in that process a path of difficult return if the reform was achieved.

Once the reform was achieved in 2004, together with our people, there was reflected in the constitution the preservation of water resources for future generations, access to drinking water and sanitation as a fundamental human right, and the non-privatization of OSE [State Sanitary Works]. However, since every struggle of the people did not end there, we understood that those who promoted this battle had just begun.

Many struggles had to take place, in principle due to the withdrawal of the concessions made by the government of the Colorado Party in 2000 to a private foreign company, later undone by the reform. However, the new, pseudo-progressive Frente Amplio [Broad Front] government, which just took office in 2004, promised to maintain the concession, ignoring the popular verdict. Then, as a result of the struggle and because the business was no longer profitable for them, they did not allow water concessions in the rest of the country, they withdrew.

In the 1990s, the governments promoted neoliberal policies, stimulating foreign investment, opening space for agribusiness, when the privatization policy was defeated which was established in the country. From here, monoculture forest plantations, soy monoculture, the establishment of three mega pulp-chip production plants (paper mills) Estora Enso, UPM I, UPM II, and in 2012 the intention to establish an open-pit mine in the center of the country, which provoked popular resistance, and the mobilizations were not long in coming.

Already in 1992 the forestry law, which prepared the establishment of the paper mills, was put into question; this subsequently divided the trade union movement where opportunism, which is the majority in the leadership of the trade union movement. It considered, together with the government of the pseudo-progressive FA [Frente

Amplio] the social block of changes, following the government and its policy, supporting the establishment of pulp mills, of open-pit mines, the possibility of oil extraction by fracking, ignoring the environmental, economic and social consequences that this implied. On the one hand, the deepening of the foreign take-over of the land and the displacement of medium and small producers in the countryside, the establishment of forest monoculture on a permanent basis, soil degradation and the reduction of runoff to the water source, strongly impacting the water balance, the contamination of the fresh water sources, etc. As a consequence of this policy that is opposed to the interests of the workers and the people, it led us to the agricultural crisis, a product of three consecutive years of drought and deficiency in the management of soil and water. This year it hit hard the medium and small producers in the countryside who were already indebted, and the popular sectors in the family basket [of basic needs] due to the shortage of fruits and vegetables.

As a corollary of this policy, the FA government promotes a modification to the irrigation law that ultimately privatizes water sources. Broad sectors took up the struggle in the street and, before the promulgation of the law, a popular referendum began against the law, which we could not defeat as we did not get the necessary number of signatures, although we did still achieve more than half of the necessary number.

The modification of the irrigation law then promoted the concentration of land in a few hands and the hoarding of water for irrigation by private and foreign capital, meaning more contamination of fresh water reserves that could be used by the OSE to purify it for human consumption. Today in the metropolitan area, with more than 1,800,000 inhabitants, we lack access to drinking water.

Finally today this coalition government of the traditional right with the fascist ultra-right, in order to prevent a great drought in the supply of water to the population of the metropolitan area, proposes to incorporate into the current system a new water treatment plant to extract water from the Rio de la Plata to purify it. This project, carried out by private companies, is a good business for the private company Neptune. It is not only unconstitutional, as a private initiative that the management of OSE is conceding to a private company for 30 years; it is also an environmental setback for the place where it is intended to

establish it, in Arazati, department of San José. Along with the ecological risks that this entails, there are the costs that benefit these private companies that are transferred into a tax, in short, to the people.

Carlos Sosa – Secretary of the Trade Union Front of the PCR-U and former leader of FFOSE (Federation of Officials of the State Sanitary Works)

VENEZUELA
MARXIST-LENINIST COMMUNIST PARTY OF VENEZUELA

**THE STRUGGLES OF THE WORKING CLASS AND
THE PEOPLES AND THE INTER-IMPERIALIST DISPUTES**

If we analyze the economic, political and social reality at present attached to the orientations of Marxism-Leninism we must emphasize the fact that we are in the epoch of imperialism, a situation that determines the development and characteristics of central aspects in the economic and political life of the different countries. All this is connected to the dynamics oriented and fed from the structures of financial capital. This means that the aspects on which society rests itself, including the production of material goods, is subjected to the development imposed by the aforementioned financial capital. The emergence of monopolies, their decisive influence on the economic and political activity of countries is a characteristic part of the imperialist epoch.

The big banks and industrial corporations merge, thus forming financial capital with which they acquire an enormous power that decides on essential aspects of the life of millions of people, such as food, health care, education, in addition to developing various mechanisms including war to seize the territories and resources of the peoples.

In this sense the works of Marxism-Leninism have correctly and clearly exposed three characteristic aspects of the imperialist epoch, its fundamental contradictions, namely: The contradiction between capital and labor, the contradiction between imperialist associations and imperialist governments, and the contradiction between the imperialists and the peoples.

In highlighting the first contradiction between capital and labor, we must emphasize the actions of the workers in order to advance in their struggle to confront the measures and mechanisms that the imperialists are adopting to impose their objectives in the framework of the division of the world.

At present the different contentions for the resources and territories desired by the different imperialist blocs are characterized by a series of actions carried out by them with the aim of displacing their competitors, and being able to take the control of resources to be used in their favor.

In this context the imperialists are carrying out actions to readjust themselves, execute tactical steps in the economic, political and social fields, thus defining their allies, and in turn agreements are being expressed in the formation of organizations with common objectives, in the short, medium and long term, such as the Davos Forum, St. Petersburg, Shanghai, the BRICS, each of them obeying the tactics of one or another group that is an expression of finance capital.

This is how the imperialist blocs manifest themselves, they develop their actions within the framework of the redivision of the world, thus seeking to consolidate their position. In their struggle for a new division of the world, the dominant imperialist powers and the big monopolies establish relations that lead to the formation of blocs that develop tactics and behaviors that generally express a directionality in the search for common objectives, without this preventing them from being able to achieve common objectives. Contradictions are experienced within it, the causes of which are found in the economic and political situation of a particular moment.

As we have said, the world is currently experiencing a process of imperialist rearrangement, in which elements such as the United States and the EU and its armed wing NATO are carrying out their activity to try to consolidate their dominance in Europe, while trying to maintain or expand their dominance in areas such as Africa, Latin America and Asia. At the same time, China and Russia are developing mechanisms to carry out this contention by creating places in which they can strengthen their alliances. In this sense BRICS stands out, with which they have direct entry into Latin America, whose territories are already seeing the actions of expansion of the capital of China and Russia. They have advanced with firm steps in the continent, reaching important advances and influence in the economic, political, and military field; this represents an open challenge to the US-EU bloc. The US bourgeoisie in particular still regards Latin America as its "backyard".

It is necessary to emphasize that the development of the imperialist blocs is not exempt from contradictions within them, as has been seen in the contradictions of the USA with some EU countries, or among members of the EU itself. Likewise, in the China-Russia bloc, they maintain relations within the framework of the search for common objectives with actions guided by agreements in which various

mechanisms and tactics of domination over the peoples are deployed, which in the end seek to guarantee the redivision of the world.

The rearrangement of the imperialist blocs is creating scenarios that the workers must understand very well to be able to confront them successfully.

In the deployment of their actions, the imperialist blocs are developing different tactics with the aim of strengthening their routes of domination over the resources and peoples. But the latter will exert a fierce resistance in various forms of struggle, a difficulty that the imperialists try to overcome with the application of sophisticated, violent and non-violent methods. They resort to strengthening mercenaries who, together with the conventional repressive agencies, will develop shock actions against the proletariat and the peoples.

Particularly in Latin America, capitalism is experiencing a period of transition from the domination of one imperialist bloc to another, a situation that is developing within the framework of the imperialist rearrangement in our region. To concretize this transition, the capitalists are relying on different forms of government, sometimes petty bourgeois and social democratic, at other times openly bourgeois and reactionary governments, both exponents of the bourgeoisie associated with big capital.

On our continent, some bourgeois democratic governments, despite their reformist character, develop contradictions, particularly against Yankee imperialism, which is creating conditions for the advance of the revolutionary popular movement in terms of the anti-imperialist struggle of the peoples.

This advance will not be created automatically; for this it is necessary that the revolutionaries in general and the Marxist-Leninists in particular can correctly orient the broad masses. This in turn means precisely determining that imperialism is the main enemy of the peoples and that, according to the particular circumstances of some countries such as ours, this antagonism reflects in its characteristics the main contradictions in the imperialist epoch.

What task is imposed on the workers and peoples today and the revolutionary organizations today.

The redivision of the world by the imperialist powers will have

its counterpart in the formation of mechanisms of resistance and struggle by the peoples in general and the proletariat in particular. These actions, which are part of the perspectives of revolutionary organization and the struggle against imperialism, require and demand overcoming the dispersion and weakness of the revolutionary movement, raising the levels of political qualification and ideological struggle against those positions that draw the attention of the proletariat and the peoples away from the main enemy, as well as against opportunist and revisionist positions that contribute to the dispersion of the revolutionary forces. The ideological struggle is exacerbated in these scenarios, which require that the political and ideological strength of revolutionary organizations and parties, in particular the Marxist-Leninists, to make the best efforts to assertively guide the struggle of the workers and peoples by exposing the opportunists of the left and right, preventing the danger of fascism or fascistization that in the current scenarios has regained strength and ascendancy in the popular sectors.

In this sense, strengthening revolutionary organizational references involves overcoming the practices that keep us away from the attention of the broad masses as an important option. To overcome part of these weaknesses, it is necessary to strengthen spaces of unity for political action on the part of the revolutionary forces, taking into account the demands of the political moment imposed by the national and international reality. To advance in political action, initiatives such as the popular front are required, which is a task of the first order at the present time. In this sense, it is urgent to develop a policy of alliances and agreements within the democratic and revolutionary forces with practical sense and revolutionary impetus in order to advance today and to be able to build concrete paths for small, medium and great victories of the revolutionary popular forces.

The above are part of the tasks of Marxist-Leninists today; this should contribute in its various forms and development to the strengthening of the tactical elements in the struggle for national liberation and socialism for which it is imperative to achieve an effective expansion and understanding of our proposals for national liberation by the workers, peasants, communities, youth, women, managing to attract them and incorporate them into the anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist struggle.

It is a complex scenario; it requires attention to the development of the very accelerated dynamic and that is expressed in economic, political and social field, characterized by the actions of the imperialist rearrangement. In particular on our continent the contention is characterized by a rise of the China-Russia bloc, expressing itself in greater economic and military agreements. It is in this region that the US-EU bloc tries to stop this advance while experiencing greater difficulties when some of its "unconditional" allies in the region are being displaced.

The peoples in general and the proletariat in particular have their choice of liberation only by strengthening their capacity for struggle. Inter-imperialist disputes are creating scenarios that point to the expansion of wars; our continent is not exempt from this. Since we have numerous strategic minerals, large deposits of oil, water, great biodiversity desired by the imperialist blocs, our continent will experience the effects of the inter-imperialist contention more and more.

This situation can be seen in some electoral scenarios where the candidates rush to declare the conditions they offer as government proposals to one or another bloc.

Particularities of the inter-imperialist contention in our country.

The imperialist aggression against our country continues to develop through carrying out actions in the economic and political fields. The consequences of these actions have terrible effects within the popular sectors in general and in the proletariat. In particular, the US-EU bloc has carried out a series of actions, including economic sanctions, which have been one of the main causes of the abrupt economic downturn, the pauperization of the living conditions of the exploited and oppressed majorities.

Certainly, we must emphasize the fact that the different actions of imperialist aggression have concentrated on affecting the popular sectors and especially the workers in multiple ways. Based on the control they exercise over the means of production, imperialism has applied mechanisms to extract the greatest quantity of surplus value. The attack on the workers has also been expressed in the revival of speculation, as one of the tactics of the bourgeoisie to crush wages and thus fulfill its objectives of destroying the living conditions of the workers.

It is also worth mentioning that part of the economic policies taken on by the government have worked as a catalyst for the pauperization of the workers' living conditions, by showing their ineffectiveness in stopping the effects of the harmful consequences of imperialist aggression actions, or by establishing mechanisms that are addressed more to the interests of the big bourgeoisie to the detriment of the popular strata and the proletariat.

Faced with the aforementioned situation, part of the popular sectors and the proletariat have raised and supported proposals within the framework of worker, peasant and communal control of production, while they have deployed their actions in defense of the same. In response to the lessons bequeathed by the struggle of the proletariat, the experience of the popular front has been promoted, under the premise of adding and coordinating the capacities and forces of the popular and revolutionary movement to confront imperialism and its agents. This initiative of anti-imperialist struggle has been connected with actions of organic construction, developed by workers, peasants and communal organizations in various parts of the national territory, thus highlighting their class character and their clarity about the need for revolutionary unity. Although they are experiences that still require greater strength and consolidation, they are in frank struggle against all the obstacles and attacks of economic and political sectors of the small and big bourgeoisie, the workers, these experiences are part of an objective that expresses ways and forms to resist and fight against the imperialist offensive, avoiding falling for the sweetened lies that the class enemy is trying to sell.

Our task as Marxist-Leninists is to join, direct and strengthen the experiences of our people in the anti-imperialist struggle, contributing with honesty and discipline to their political and ideological qualification towards the struggle for national liberation and socialism.

FINAL DECLARATION OF THE 27TH INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR PROBLEMS OF THE REVOLUTION IN LATIN AMERICA

THE STRUGGLES OF THE WORKING CLASS AND PEOPLES, AND THE INTER-IMPERIALIST DISPUTES

These are not good times for capitalism, its inevitable internal contradictions are the source of the serious problems from which it suffers. More than a century ago it entered the stage that marked the beginning of its decline, and the struggle of the workers and peoples continues to tear down the walls of capitalist exploitation. Now, the world is witnessing a new wave of protests, expressing the discontent and rejection of the peoples of a system that only offers them uncertainty, oppression and exploitation.

Tens of thousands of workers on strike, massive protests of workers and youth in the streets, violent confrontation with the repressive forces, has characterized the political-social scenario of the main capitalist economies of Europe in the preceding months. This has been the response to the offensive of capital that places the crisis on the backs of the workers, and to the efforts of the big monopoly bourgeoisie to finance its war budgets with measures that cause the decrease in wages and the increase in unemployment.

Europe has become an epicenter of the struggle of the working masses, but it is present on all continents, in the countries with the greatest capitalist development such as the United States and China and in the countries with the least development, trapped by dependence on imperialism. The confrontation between the bourgeoisie and the working class, an expression of the contradiction between capital and labor, is gaining strength and is animating the actions of revolutionary organizations on the planet.

In the Americas, along with the struggle of the workers, poor and middle peasants, and youth and women, there is a component that, due to the characteristics of our countries, is of strategic importance: the indigenous peoples and nationalities. The mass struggle has stopped the anti-people plans of the neoliberal governments and those that present themselves as democratic and progressive; it has blocked the way to the conspiracies of the fascist right – as in Brazil – and has won, by electoral means, important political victories that, in several cases, have been betrayed by the inconsistency of those who benefited from those victories.

The sharpening of this contradiction, together with the exacerbation of those that occur among the imperialist states, configure a particular scenario in today's world, a context that confirms the thesis that capitalism-imperialism is a source of sharpening of the class struggle, of the struggle of the peoples against foreign domination, of the contention between monopolies and capitalist-imperialist states over spheres of influence and of the origin of conflagrations that can take the form of world wars.

The war that has Ukraine as its theater of operations is the most bitter expression of the contradictions between the monopolies and the imperialist powers, but it is not its only manifestation. Today's world is not conceivable without these confrontations, which at times reach levels like today, which even warn of the danger of a world war, and at other times appear relatively "relaxed", and which are present at all levels: in the field of trade, in technological-scientific development, in the financial field, in the arms race, in the cultural field, etc.

The agreements, treaties, joint actions, the composition and re-composition of economic, political and military blocs that are occurring among the largest economies on the planet, confirm that for decades we have lived in a multipolar world, in which US imperialism has played a hegemonic role (now in decline), which is not synonymous with being the only imperialism. That hegemony is now contested by Chinese imperialism and for this it has also made agreements, accords and investments that allow it to put into circulation its financial capital, no less exploitative and oppressive than that coming from any other imperialist country. No imperialist power, as well as no economic bloc commanded by imperialist monopolies, can be a source of independent and sovereign development for the dependent countries, as is now intended to be presented with regard to the plans that China and Russia have with the bloc known as BRICS, with which they intend to contest with US imperialism and its allies. We reiterate what has been said on other occasions: there are no good imperialisms, they are all part of the world imperialist system and they are all enemies of the workers and peoples.

Latin America and the Caribbean is the object of inter-imperialist contention, U.S., Chinese, Canadian, British, Russian, German, Japanese, etc. capitals circulate in the economy of our countries exploiting oil, mining, agricultural resources; in the financial system; in hydroelectric projects; in military equipment, etc. The massive presence of Chinese capital has gone hand in hand with the "progressive"

governments that have fulfilled and are fulfilling the role of renegotiators of the external dependence of their countries.

In the struggle to win social and national emancipation, the revolutionary forces must present to the workers and peoples a strategic project oriented by a policy of class independence that means: having a program that aims to meet and resolve the material needs and rights of the workers and peoples, affect the interests of the owners of big local and foreign capital and, defend the sovereignty of our countries; to rally the motive forces of the revolution and isolate the enemies of the revolution; to fight imperialism in all its expressions. In this sense, for the revolutionary struggle to advance, the building and strengthening of powerful Marxist-Leninist parties is a necessity.

The attendees of the 27th International Seminar Problems of the Revolution in Latin America reiterate our repudiation of the imperialist war in Ukraine, we demand immediate peace, we demand the departure of Russian troops from that territory and that the US and NATO take their claws out of Ukraine; we ratify our solidarity with the people of that country and with the peoples who suffer from the imperialist confrontation.

We support the national liberation struggles of the peoples of Palestine and Western Sahara who are waging legitimate and just battles, above all against U.S., British and French imperialism, as well as against the apartheid regime of Israeli Zionism and the occupation by the Moroccan feudal monarchy of the Saharawi national territory, in open violation of the right to self-determination of the peoples. We express our solidarity with the workers, peasants, youth and peoples who on all continents are struggling against the effects of the domination of capital, for work, land, shelter, for freedom, for life. In these struggles lies the germ of the revolutionary torrents necessary to put an end to the world of capital.

Revolutionary Communist Party of Argentina (PCRA)

Revolutionary Communist Party – PCR – Brazil

Communist Party of Colombia (Marxist–Leninist)

Communist Party of Labor – PCT – Dominican Republic

Communist Party of Marxist-Leninist of Ecuador

Popular Unity – Ecuador

Revolutionary Youth of Ecuador

Ecuadorian Association of Friendship with the Saharawi People

General Union of Workers of Ecuador – UGTE

National Union of Educators – UNE (Ecuador)

Women for Change – Ecuador
Salvadoran Trade Union Coordinator
Socialist Regroupment for a New National Initiative (RASIN Party –
People's Camp) – Haiti
Communist Party of Mexico (Marxist-Leninist)
Women's Movement for Social Liberation – MMLS of Peru
Union of Student Youth of Peru – UJE PERU
George Gruenthal, Toward Marxist-Leninist Unity – USA
Communist Reconstruction of Uruguay
Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Venezuela

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