



**Letter of the Communist Party of Greece
on the draft Final Statement**

Athens 26/10/2013

- **To the members of the Working Group**
- **CC: Parties of SOLIDNET list**

Dear comrades,

Our party in its letter to the Portuguese Communist Party on 15/10/2013, which was communicated to the other members of the Working Group, noted amongst other that "As regards the **1st draft Final Statement**, we want to note that the text includes positions diametrically opposed to basic positions of the KKE and we estimate of other CPs as well. The content in several places causes problems for our party and we assess that if it does not change it can not constitute the basis for the joint statement. In the days to follow we will send observations related to this".

Unfortunately, and while the correspondence was in progress the comrades of the PCP sent a 2nd draft which is hardly different from the 1st draft with the intention of sending it to all the communist parties of the SOLIDNET list.

This is a problem that arises from the serious disagreements which exist in the framework of the international communist movement on a series of issues of strategic importance. We are referring to different assessments and positions that exist in programmes and congress resolutions that bind the communist and workers' parties.

For this reason, before the 13th IMCWP of Athens our party had proposed to the Working Group that it could examine the possibility of not issuing a Final Statement, which leads to long-term consultations in order to weld together serious different views and disagreements through formulations which are on many occasions at the expense of the essential discussion. Then, as an alternative we had proposed the issuing of a simple press release with information about the meeting and joint actions as well as a text of conclusions that would include both the subjects on which there is a common position as well as the different approaches on other points. Unfortunately, our proposal was not accepted.

In the final analysis, the problem is that in the final statements of the IMCWP we try to weld together positions which contradict or even negate each other

Comrades,

The KKE considers that the draft Joint Statement cannot include issues that do not correspond to fundamental principles and even more so cause confusion in the ranks of the international communist movement and have been answered by the history of the international labour movement itself. Our objections focus on the following fundamental issues:

1) Understanding the concept of imperialism: the KKE treats this concept as it has been established by V.I. Lenin, as the final and highest stage of capitalism. Unfortunately in the draft Joint Statement this crucial issue is not expressed correctly and in certain sections there is room for the misinterpretation of this concept, which is limited in the text and treated merely as an aggressive foreign policy.

2) Cause and nature of the capitalist crisis: the KKE considers that what we are facing today is a deep capitalist economic crisis of overproduction and capital over-accumulation, the cause of which lies in the basic contradiction between capital and labour, rejecting characterizations such as "financial", "structural" crisis that muddy the character of the capitalist crisis and its causes, which are unfortunately brought back in the draft Joint Statement.

The characterization of the crisis is directly linked to the direction of the struggle and the definition of the alternative way out.

3) The issue of social alliances: the KKE supports a political line for the alliance of the working class with the other poor popular strata, such as the poor farmers, the poor urban and rural petty bourgeois strata. In no instance can it agree to alliances with sections of the bourgeois class which are labeled "antimonopoly strata".

4) The stance towards the so-called "emerging" countries: the problems that these countries are facing today, where capitalist relations of production are predominant in their economic basis, are not "imported" from abroad, as the draft Joint Statement seems to present them, but are the result of the capitalist mode of production itself in these countries.

The same holds true regarding the developments in Latin America. We follow the developments and processes with interest, we express our solidarity with the struggle of the communist parties and the peoples, but we can not praise capitalist countries with a strong monopoly basis that play a particular role in the inter-imperialist competition and implement a strategy that serves the interests and the profitability of capital at the expense of the working class and popular strata which live in conditions of exploitation.

5) Reforms in the framework of capitalism: the KKE struggles in our country for the workers to have gains, like e.g. on the issue of fighting for an exclusively free public education system, healthcare, welfare, increases in salaries and pensions etc. However, we link this struggle of ours with the radical change of society, working class power and the socialization of the monopolies. We do not consider it correct to sow illusions, as in the case of the draft Joint Statement, that in the framework of capitalism this exploitative system can be "corrected" with reforms.

6) Reactionary movements: the KKE considers it necessary to show the essence of the emergence and reinforcement of reactionary movements, phenomena which were supported by bourgeois forces, by social-democracy and opportunism, and to expose the role of movements like the so-called "movement of the indignant citizens".

7) The issue of inter-state capitalist unions: the KKE considers that the EU is an inter-state capitalist union, reactionary due to its nature as a representative of the European monopolies and regarding its aggressiveness against the peoples and that the deepening of capitalist unification(integration) is not the only thing responsible for this. The same is also occurring in relation to other inter-state unions, which emerge on the terrain of capitalism in Asia, Eurasia, Latin America etc and are in the service of the large business groups and the workers must not choose imperialist and imperialist "centre".

The working class, the people's movements and the communist movement have paid a high price for the illusion which was consciously fostered by opportunism a few years ago, namely that the EU could constitute a counterweight to the USA in favour of the peoples, or even worse that it could be transformed into a capitalist "Europe of the peoples".

8) The issue of peace: The issue of peace and war can not be detached from the social system that gives rise to them or from the current phase of realignments in the imperialist system and the sharpening of the contradictions. As long as the capitalist system exists there will be uneven relations of interdependence amongst the capitalist states as well as inter-imperialist competition, which lead to wars. The imperialist peace, i.e. the "peace with a gun to the head", is not a prospect for the peoples because it is in these conditions that the preconditions for a war are created. The KKE considers that the prerequisite for peace, the equal cooperation between countries, is the change of the class which is in power in each country.

9) Contradictions between capitalist countries: The KKE considers that the contradictions between "old" and new emerging capitalist powers are taking place over market shares, the control of natural resources, the transport routes, the pipelines etc. Each bourgeois class, based on its strength (economic, political, military) is a "predator", larger or smaller, that exploits labour power, and in addition seeks to increase its role in international affairs.

So, we consider that the working class can not take the side of any bourgeois class, in contrast with various formulations which exist in the text of the Joint Statement.

Especially on the issue of Latin America, the draft Joint Statement reaches the point of considering that the bourgeois governments of strong capitalist powers, imperialist countries that appear amongst the G20, lend impetus ... to the anti-imperialist struggle. It easily overlooks the fact that these governments manage the bourgeois state power in order to strengthen the monopolies which are dominant in their economies.

10) On the issue of revolution or reform? The KKE considers that on this issue the communist and workers' parties can give only one answer: revolution! Unfortunately, in the draft Joint Statement there is talk in several places of "developments in processes that build sovereignty and social progress-based alternatives" or about the "achievement of positions within the institutions" through which there will be a "change in the class content of power".

The experience of the communist parties regarding the choices of managing capitalism is painful and the example of "Euro-communism" is well-known to all. Such positions foster confusion and illusions, beautify bourgeois power, disarm the labour and people's movement. The experience from the coup in Chile, this year marks the 40 years since it occurred, is characteristic and it is not permissible to support these positions.

11) The front against opportunism: The KKE considers it necessary that the responsibilities of the opportunist forces must be stressed, which have inflicted a lot of damage on the communist movement and the struggle of the working class. For example, the illusions sown by opportunism regarding the election both of Obama in the USA and Hollande in France are extremely obvious.

12) International Law: The KKE considers that international law, as it had been formed when the USSR and the other socialist countries existed, as a result of the confrontation between capitalism and socialism, no longer exists. The imperialist international courts, the UN-NATO agreements, the treaties concerning "terrorism" are already a part of "International law". The decisions that legalized the interventions in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya etc constitute this new situation. We can only now talk about the remnants of this International Law, which the peoples knew in the past.

13) Political alliances with other forces: The KKE considers that the issue of promoting the alliance of the working class with the other popular strata is crucial. The policy of alliances, the concentration and preparation of forces are determined by the strategic goal of overthrowing capitalist barbarity and can not be integrated into various management games at the top with social-democracy and opportunism.

The KKE does not exclude in the course of the political struggle the possibility of political forces emerging that express positions of the petty bourgeois strata, which agree in one or the other way with the anti-capitalist anti-monopoly character of the socio-political struggle, with the necessity for this to be directed towards the working class-people's power and economy. However it does not consider this to be a prerequisite. In the instance that such a possibility exists, the KKE, maintaining its independence, will seek the joint activity with these forces in the support for the People's Alliance. The cooperation will be expressed through the joint work of their members and supporters in the ranks of the mass organizations which form the Alliance. Based on the above, we do not agree with certain formulations which exist in the text of draft Joint Statement.

14) On sovereignty: The KKE considers that in the conditions of the global capitalist system there can be talk of sovereignty in a general and vague way, bypassing the class character of the bourgeois state, the uneven relations of interdependence, which are formed inside this system. There can be talk about sovereign rights of countries, which the bourgeois classes may also be handing over in order to win positions inside the predatory alliances, which construct and reinforce their positions, both inside their countries, and at a regional, international level.

Even more so, we can not accept views about colonial relations today (recolonisation). The concept of the colony was related to a specific historic phase, which belongs to the past.

15) On the "models" of socialism: The KKE considers that behind the discussion about "rejecting models" there is the problem manifests itself of rejecting the scientific laws of the revolution and socialist construction, such as the necessity of working class power, the dictatorship of the proletariat, the socialization of the means of production, central planning. Historically in the international communist movement, the revision of our theory and the justification for the distancing from communist principles were hidden behind "national models" and the "variety of paths to socialism". From this standpoint, our party can not agree with formulations that cause confusion and add grist to the mill of opportunist, social-democratic theories like the so-called "21st Century Socialism."

Dear comrades,

We made an attempt above to review basic different approaches which the KKE has in relation to the text of the draft Joint Statement prepared and sent to you by the PCP. The KKE has made a serious effort to remove sections that create confusion, while it has added sections that clarify, in our assessment, basic positions of the labour movement, which have been confirmed over the course of history. We want you to be aware of these positions of ours, especially in the instance your party will take part in the 15th International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties, for this reason we are sending you the text (which is only in English), where with a clear strikethrough you will see the sections that we consider must be removed and you will see underlined the sections we believe should be incorporated in the text of the Joint Statement.

With comradely greetings,

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SECTION OF THE CC OF THE KKE

26/10/2013

2nd Draft final statement, 15th IMCWP-[With the observations of the KKE]

The 15th International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties was held in Lisbon on 8-10 November 2013, on the topic "The deepening crisis of capitalism, the working class's role and the communists' tasks in the struggle for workers' and peoples' rights. Imperialism's offensive, the international realignment of forces, the national issue, class emancipation and the struggle for socialism".

The Meeting had the participation of ____ parties from _____ countries, and received messages of greetings from ____ other parties that for one reason or another were unable to attend. It analysed key aspects of international developments in light of the deepening capitalist crisis. It alerted to the great dangers emanating from ~~imperialism's~~ capital's multifaceted aggressive and capitalism's exploitative offensive, in particular those resulting out of ~~imperialism's warmongering and interference policies~~ the sharpening of inter-imperialist contradictions, the imperialist wars and interventions. It saluted and highlighted the struggle of workers and peoples, and reasserted that the current situation bears within it great potential for revolutionary struggle, for the promotion of the alliance of the working class with the popular strata against monopolies and capitalism, ~~for far-reaching anti-monopoly and anti-imperialist change~~, Socialism.

Stressing that the situation confirms the necessity of the Communist Parties and of its internationalist cooperation, the 15th Meeting also went over issues involving the International Meetings of Communist and Workers' Parties process, with a view to strengthening and improving cooperation, and common or convergent action, among communists the world over.

1 – The participants highlighted the fact that the international situation continues to be characterized by a deepening ~~structural~~ crisis of capitalism. This is a fundamental tendency that is determining the developments on the international arena. It confirms what communists have been saying in their analyses – and specifically in the conclusions of previous international meetings – concerning the current ~~economic and financial~~ capitalist crisis's nature and evolution. Among other things, those conclusions confirm that what is in progress is an over-production crisis with over-accumulation of capital. As events have shown, the crisis is an expression of an intensification in capitalism's contradictions – particularly its fundamental contradiction between the social character of production and its private appropriation – thus highlighting capitalism's historical bounds.

~~Capitalism's~~ As we predicted in previous meetings, the management of this crisis by the capitalists, regardless of its form, has engendered horrible social consequences. The talk and the controversies about "recovery" that has been emanating from the ruling classes in the two major imperialist centers (USA and EU) ~~has no backing in~~ does not concern the real economic or social condition of the working class and of the popular masses. Huge masses of working people and of other ~~anti-monopoly~~ popular strata are suffering the brutal consequences of deteriorating living conditions and of being denied their most basic needs – such as a job, a dignified wage, food and health care. At the same time, big capital, especially finance capital, which is a characteristic feature of the imperialist stage of capitalism, is intensifying the rate of workers' exploitation ~~and its practices related to financialisation of the economy, and thus in order to~~ increase its rate of profit. This is the real meaning of the much-touted "recovery".

As our previous meetings have stated, the development of capitalism with the fierce intensification of the ~~imperialist~~ capital's offensive is itself sowing the seeds of a new and deeper crisis and raising the factors that contribute to sharpen capitalism's contradictions in its imperialist stage and to spread the crisis to the whole globe. The world economic situation confirms a tendency toward stagnation following a long period of fierce recession and destruction of productive forces.

The "emerging" countries in which the capitalist relations of production prevail are now being more affected by capitalism's crisis ~~and are having to confront complex new problems~~. In the same way, in the less economically developed capitalist countries as well, peoples' rights to economic and social development are being curtailed even further. ~~This is especially so on~~ The African continent, ~~already massacred in the past by decades of colonial oppression and by imperialism's recolonisation policy~~, is witnessing in the present the consequences of the capitalist mode of production and the interimperialist competition over its new division with interference, wars and plunder of natural resources. Especially prominent are the effects of capitalism's crisis on agriculture and food supplies, with the domination of the monopoly groups and the speedy and very dangerous destruction of several developing countries' agricultural production capability, that is jeopardising even further the food sufficiency sovereignty of many countries and binding huge masses of the world's population into hunger or malnutrition, ~~as has been pointed by several international organizations, amongst others FAO.~~

All these events are converging into an international situation fraught with ~~instability and sources of danger~~ which in the framework of the world capitalist economy can generate new and unforeseen developments, war flashpoints, interventions, intensification of repression in the world economy and in at the expense of the people's and their struggle. This reality highlights the need to reinforce the communist and workers' parties as well as its constant and systematic monitoring of the situation, to strengthen their intervention and their struggle in confrontation with capital and its power.

2 – The system is reacting to its crisis with a fierce and multifaceted imperialist offensive, seeking to roll back the social, labour, democratic and ~~sovereignty~~ rights that in many countries the peoples, with their struggles, have achieved in the course of the 20th century and the contribution of the USSR and the other socialist countries. Side by side with their fierce destruction of productive forces, the great capital has undertaken a violent "adjustment" that is translating into a retrogression of historic and social civilisational proportion. ~~In most countries~~ The gaps of social inequality between classes are rapidly growing, as are the economic and social development imbalances between countries themselves. This situation demonstrates a further deepening of the uneven development of capitalism, even inside imperialist blocks as is the case of the European Union.

Especially serious is the onslaught against public services, seeking to privatise them ~~and use them according to~~ in favour of big capital, and the of monopolies' interests. For the working class and the other popular strata ~~In the struggle for social justice and to build a classless society, socialism, it is especially important to defend~~ to struggle for exclusively free-of-charge public education systems for all, based on equal opportunities the universal right to education without class barriers. ~~and to ensure that those sections of society that have historically been kept on the margins of education systems by the capitalist system, are actively supported.~~

The onslaught against labour and social rights seeks to achieve a very significant rise in the rates of exploitation, and to establish an even more unfair and unfavourable untenable balance of forces between capital and labour. This process is accompanied by stronger measures to limit, and even eliminate, any democratic rights and sovereignty rights – thus highlighting the dialectical relationship between the class issue and the national issue, an important element in the people's emancipation process and when approaching the issues of dependence and inter-dependence between States.

The stronger repressive, authoritarian, control and espionage measures being taken are part and parcel of ~~imperialism's~~ capital's forceful response. One of its key goals is to rein in and crush inevitable social and revolutionary explosions. ~~These anti-social, anti-democratic, repressive and of national oppression measures have been leading to a speedy deterioration of the masses' living conditions.~~ The aggressiveness of capital and the reinforcement of the reactionary character of the bourgeois political systems, the blurred and reactionary orientation of movements like the movement of the "squares" and the "indignants" which

were supported by the bourgeois media, social democracy, opportunist forces and the compromised leaderships of the labour and trade union movement. They are also opening the road to a resurgence of fascism as well as to an intensification of anti-communism and of persecution and repressive measures against all those who rise up against the imperialist order, communists in particular.

At the same time, these developments in the system and the stepped-up multifaceted imperialist aggressiveness offensive, are opening up the road for obscurantism, fanaticisms and religious fundamentalism that, ~~taking advantage of peoples' justified yearnings~~, serve big capital and imperialism's ~~domination-seeking~~ interests.

Capitalist integration processes, the various interstate capitalist unions and the so called "free trade agreements" are being intensified, seeking to impose a "new order" that tightens capital's ~~domination~~ profitability, forming the new interstate capitalist alliances, concentrates and centralizes its power. Nevertheless this fact does not negate the factors that sharpen the inter-imperialist competition and contradictions in the framework of these alliances. This is characteristic in the European Union's development, but also in new corresponding unions in Eurasia and Latin America confirming ~~it them as an~~ that the imperialist power centres that is are quickly reinforcing as their ~~federalist, neo-liberal and militaristic pillars, and being strengthened as a European Unions~~ of big capital, and of the monopolies. There is therefore an even more pressing need to develop along a different path, one that favours the interests and aspirations of Europe's peoples, one of peace and cooperation among sovereign states with equal rights, something that requires the change of the class in power in each country. This path necessarily implies that a break must be made with the capitalist European integration process and every process of capitalist interstate integration – something that is in the interests not only of Europe's peoples, but also of all peoples of the world.

3 – At the world level there is a complex process of realignment of forces on a world scale, whose outcome is hard to predict. Together with the existing class concentration between the ~~major~~ capitalist states in their actions to suffocate workers' and peoples' struggles and emancipation, there is also a speedy sharpening of inter-imperialist rivalries and contradictions.

~~At the same time, there are growing contradictions between imperialism's major centres and several states that – for various different reasons and with diverse social-economic systems (emerging capitalist countries, countries that are following sovereign and progressive paths of development, and countries that are engaged in implementing the goal of building socialist societies) –, in upholding their own interests and right to develop, confront imperialism's hegemonic domination strategy and world recolonisation policy.~~

The outcome of ~~this process~~ these developments will be mainly determined by the struggle of workers and peoples and by the balance of forces between capital and labour that it creates, by the strengthening of the Communist and Workers' parties and by the preparation of the working class, in order to respond decisively to its historical mission as a vanguard class and become the basic driving force of the revolutionary process for the overthrow of capitalism and the socialist construction. ~~as well as by the deepening of the revolutionary processes that envisage overcoming capitalism and build socialist societies, by developments in processes that build sovereignty and social progress-based alternatives, and by the development of mutually beneficial international relations among the world's peoples that seek peace, cooperation and progress.~~

4 – Imperialism's aggressive and militaristic offensive is being stepped up in several regions of the World. Confronted with its own relative economic decline, the USA is using its military might and its dominant position in NATO to try to maintain its domination. Imperialism's violent actions are confirming that the ideological campaigns waged around the elections of Barack Obama and Francois Hollande, which were supported by the so called "new-left", were a fraud, and are also putting in evidence that social-democracy is one of the

imperialist offensive's pillars. In addition, it arises that the struggle against imperialism is an "empty phrase" without the struggle against opportunism.

NATO is ~~being confirmed~~ confirming its role and being strengthened as Euroatlantic imperialism's armed wing, a key tool in its strategy of hegemonic domination in constant competition with other imperialist interstate unions and persecution striking against all the people's that rise up against all forces that oppose it. NATO is the a primary driving force behind the conflicts and tension that characterise the contemporary world. NATO has played a core role in the militarisation of international relations and in the arms race. NATO ~~tries to turn~~ is utilizing the UN into its own tool, thus attacking and attempting to destroy what has remained from International Law and the UN Charter which were formed in the post-war period under the influence of the USSR and socialism.

Intensified imperialist aggressiveness, together with deeper inter-imperialist contradictions, have substantially heightened the risk of generalised international conflict. The participants alert in particular to the danger of wars in the Eastern Mediterranean, Persian Gulf, Caspian Sea and South Pacific regions. The participants denounce the strategy of extending the already gigantic network of US ~~and~~ NATO and all the foreign military bases and troops to the whole world. Likewise, ~~as well as~~ the so-called "partnerships" that – specifically in the Pacific (Trans-Pacific Partnership) and Atlantic (Trans-Atlantic Market) regions, in the EU ("Eastern Dimension"), in the region of Eurasia, ("Customs union" and the "Eurasian Economic Community"), in Latin America (Mercosur, Unasur) – seek to associate the enlargement of so-called "free trade" areas with the interests of the major imperialist powers' industrial-military complex (particularly of the USA, the EU, Russia, Brazil etc).

The participants condemn the spiral of provocation and interference unleashed by imperialism in several regions, in particular the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. We condemn – and call upon people to struggle against – wars, threats and military interventions, as in Syria. We extend our solidarity to all the peoples ~~and forces~~ that are resisting this offensive. We highlight the fact that militarism and war are inherent to capitalism and its nature, and we assert our determination, in mobilising peoples in the struggle for the overthrow of capitalism, which constitutes the only guarantee for peace and security of the people. ~~disarmament and for peace.~~

5 – The imperialist offensive is facing a strong and growing resistance by workers and peoples. All over the world, diverse struggles, with specific traits arising from the level of organisation among the working class and the masses, from the existence of Communist and Workers' parties ~~political forces~~ able to connect with the masses of workers and the people and to lead their struggle, as well as from the masses' level and development of political and class awareness. Together, the struggles, the social outbursts, popular uprisings, processes where alternatives are asserted, are all collectively and objectively expressions of a reality that communists must follow closely: capitalism's narrowing support base and the possibilities which are objectively opened for the revolutionary movement ~~and a growing awareness about capitalism's nature and about the need for far-reaching democratic and progressive changes in the perspective of the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism.~~

The social outbursts that have occurred in various parts of the world – that in many cases have been promptly exploited by big capital, by reactionary movements and by imperialist powers – show that on the one hand there is potential to develop struggles, and on the other, that ~~imperialism~~ capitalism has not exhausted its ability to crush or contain these social outbursts within the bounds of the system, namely by fomenting sectarian and religious splits and by creating scenarios either regarding the reformation of the bourgeois political system and the unhindered alternation of bourgeois powers in government or regarding the destabilization and internal conflict in any case perpetuating the power of capital. These scenarios open the road to direct imperialist interference ~~or domination~~ and to the imperialist strategy of weakening or fragmentation of States as well as of re-division of spheres of influence. This action of imperialism is at the root of the emergence or

strengthening of religious fundamentalist forces and movements associated with terrorist networks.

The participants stressed that the struggles will be all the more consistent and come in conflict with the monopolies and the power of capital and less subject to assimilation or exploitation by capital, the more communist and workers' parties and other revolutionary forces are capable of – through their deep-rooted links to the masses and to reality – assuming initiatives for the reconstruction and the strengthening of together with the workers' movement, for the formation of the social alliance of the working class with the other popular strata, playing a central and vanguard role in leading those struggles.

6 – The current situation is increasingly bearing out the need for communist parties – deeply rooted in the working class, with class independence, with close ties to the reality of each country where they work – as well as the importance of stronger cooperation and solidarity among communist parties and between communist parties and other forces within the anti-imperialist front. Another special duty of the communists is the decisive strengthening of the influence of communist and workers' parties among the youth and women especially those that come from the working class and the other popular strata.

Communists the world over – operating under ~~very~~ diverse situations and differentiated immediate tasks, but with the common goal of overcoming capitalism and building socialist societies – have before them very complex and demanding responsibilities and tasks.

Within the context of imperialism's capital's fierce offensive, ~~these~~ the class struggles – to defend rights and to resist attempts to destroy social gains achieved through the struggle – are of key strategic importance.

These struggles are an essential foundation to enhance the masses' political awareness and to build the broadest unity – of the working class people around their class interests, and between ~~working people~~ the working class and other ~~non-monopoly classes and~~ popular strata.

Also of strategic importance in the struggle for socialism are the struggles to defend peoples' democratic and sovereign rights ~~and sovereignty~~, the struggles of resistance against the imperialism's aggressions and interferences, and the struggles ~~for far-reaching anti-imperialist and anti-monopoly changes in antimonopoly and anti-capitalist direction.~~

7 - The participants expressed their solidarity with the ongoing people's struggles on all continents – against imperialism's offensive, for workers' and people's rights, for the right of all the people to choose their own path of development, without imperialist interventions and against progress, independence and sovereignty, for peace, for the right to economic and social development, for the construction of alternatives to imperialism's hegemonic domination, for the true fundamental alternative to exit capitalist barbarity, for socialism.

In particular, participants expressed their solidarity with the struggle of the working class, the popular forces in Latin America against the forces of capital and imperialist aggressiveness. ~~ongoing processes in Latin America, where anti-imperialist forces, trade unions and other social movements continue to wage important struggles for peoples' rights and against imperialism. These struggles – that are being targeted by an imperialist counter-offensive – have in some cases led to the emergence of governments whose programmes stand for upholding national sovereignty and social rights, for developing and protecting their natural resources and biodiversity. We consider that they give new impetus to the anti-imperialist struggle.~~

Experience has confirmed that organised mobilisation of the masses, with fighting spirit, is one determining factor toward the achievement ~~of democratic and progressive gains, for the challenging of the power of big capital until its overthrow and its passing into the hands of the working class, a precondition for the construction of the new society, with the socialization of the basic and concentrated means of production, the formation of central~~

~~planning and the workers' and people's control, and even toward the achievement of positions within the institutions. But experience has confirmed also that these gains are only sustainable in the medium and long term if they are backed by the people's involvement and participation, in confrontation with the power of big capital, with change in the class content of power (a central issue in building a new society), advancing with anti-monopolist and anti-imperialist transformations, geared toward building socialism. The participants reaffirm the commitment of the communist and workers' parties to strengthen the subjective factor in their respective individual countries.~~

8 – ~~The world stands in a situation of great instability and insecurity.~~ Communists' many tasks are mutually inseparable. The participants define as priorities for their work and struggle:

a) Day-to-day struggle against capitalist exploitation and to defend workers' and people's rights and living conditions, from the smallest resistance struggles to the broad-based workers' and people's movements to gain rights, for ~~and achieve revolutionary changes-~~ defending workers' and people's basic rights, particularly the right to jobs, to dignified wages, to food, to social justice, to public social security, health care and education.

b) ~~Struggle against imperialism's offensive on its various fronts, especially in~~ for the defence of democratic and sovereign rights, against curbs on freedoms and safeguards, against imperialism's interferences and aggressions, ~~and in defence of sovereignty.~~

c) Forceful participation in the battle of ideas. Countering fear and tendencies as defeatism or adaptation. Fighting social-democracy and opportunism exposing ~~its~~ their ideology as ~~one of the~~ ideological trends responsible for the advances of imperialism's offensive. Exposing the ideological manipulation around concepts such as "terrorism" or "human rights" to justify imperialist aggression. Decisively combating – and strengthening a broad ideological front of struggle – against fascism, anticommunism, racism, xenophobia and religious fundamentalisms. Countering and exposing the ideological manipulation being perpetrated through the growing concentration and centralisation of mass media by big transnational corporations. Making use of the capabilities made available by new information technologies to work for the workers and people and warn them for the dangers that arise from them as long as monopolies have their control and ownership.

d) Asserting socialism as the true fundamental alternative to capitalism and its crisis. Drawing lessons from the errors, deviations and deformations that have run counter to basic principles of building socialism, but also highlighting the many positive experiences and the immense achievements in socialism-building and their past and present significance for humankind. Highlighting the new social system's achievements, and the fact that revolutionary processes and changes are governed by objective laws ~~recognising that there are no ready-made models for revolution.~~ The participants stress that the working class masses have a vanguard and decisive role to play in building and managing socialist societies.

e) Strengthening communist and workers' Parties, with their irreplaceable role in the struggle for workers' and peoples' rights and aspirations for socialism. Defending the communist movement's history, fighting against historical revisionism and the attempts to equate communism and fascism, against any anticommunist distortions that target the youth in particular.

e) Building broad-based alliances that will struggle in anticapitalist direction, ~~anti-monopoly and anti-capitalist social and political alliances;~~ strengthening the workers' movement, the class-based trade union movement and the international anti-imperialist organizations. ~~Strengthening cooperation between all progressive and revolutionary forces, working to strengthen the anti-imperialist front in all its instances and realities.~~

f) Strengthening communists' international cooperation in the struggle against imperialism, for social progress, peace, a struggle which is inextricably linked to the struggle for and socialism. ~~Highlighting the many things that unite them to in order to~~ promote common ~~or convergent~~ action within the International Communist and Workers' Movement.

SOCIALISM IS THE FUTURE