

Communiqué of the Secretariat Meeting of the WPC

Istanbul 20-21 June 2015

The Secretariat of the World Peace Council concluded successfully its meeting in Istanbul, hosted excellently by the Peace Association of Turkey on 20-21 June 2015. The meeting took place at the same venue after the two successive regional Meetings of the Middle East and Europe on 18-19 June respectively.

WPC's President, Socorro Gomes, and General Secretary, Thanasis Pafilis, presented their respective interventions and reports to the meeting. They are considered part of the documents of the meeting which have been published and divulged.

The WPC received as well regional reports on the situation in the different continents and expressed its serious concerns about the further growing aggressiveness of imperialism all over the world and in many spheres of life, as well as the need to enhance the struggle for Peace, by strengthening the intervention of each WPC member, aiming at broad, militant and convergent actions in the defense of Peace.

The crisis of the capitalist system is deepening, with its negative social consequences for workers and people, class contradictions, geopolitical conflicts, rivalry among the great powers and blocks that are largely characterizing the situation.

There is growing poverty and extreme poverty in previously high developed and industrialized capitalist countries, with the marginalization of new masses, huge rates of unemployment, phenomena of hunger, malnutrition and desperate suicide rates. At the same time the profits of the big capital, the enterprises and monopolies are growing. The austerity programs jointly approved and applied by the governments, the EU and IMF are deregulating and smashing all workers and social rights are creating new masses of impoverished people.

The ongoing and increasing wars and aggressions are resulting in huge waves of refugees, particularly from the Middle East (Syria, Iraq) and from Libya and other African countries. As consequences of the imperialist plans and policies in these regions violent regime changes took place, invasion and occupation of territories, while civil wars and clashes are daily phenomena. The hypocrisy of the imperialists of USA, EU and NATO is scandalous regarding the refugees.

The US and NATO militarist rhetoric and the strategy of surrounding Russia with the concentration of NATO troops and weapons from the Baltic Sea, Poland, Romania till Bulgaria in Europe, are among the main current threats to international peace and security.

With an arsenal permanently based on the territories of allied countries up North, Central and Southern Europe, NATO, under the US' leadership, prepares new military maneuvers to train forces for "high level response", escalating the conflict in Ukraine, where it gives support to extreme right wing forces and neo-nazi groups. The ground for all the above is the geostrategic importance of the Ukraine, in particular the energy resources in gas and its pipelines and the confrontation with the Russian Federation.

In this framework the WPC salutes the resistance of the peoples and their struggle against oppression and imperialist aggressions, for peace, freedom, sovereignty and democracy, social justice, emancipation, for the right to decide and construct their own future free from any interference.

The 70th anniversary of the anti-fascist victory of the peoples constitutes a special anniversary as the day when the red flag, the banner of the first socialist state, the Soviet Union, was triumphantly raised over the Reichstag by the Red Army. The peoples' Victory of over nazi-fascism will remain in history as one of the brightest pages in the struggle for national liberation and for peace.

This year the global Peace Movement and the WPC remembers and honors also another important anniversary. 70 years ago the US imperialists dropped nuclear bombs on the martyr cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9.

The WPC called 65 years ago with its "Stockholm Appeal" for the total abolition of Nuclear weapons. It constituted the most massive signature campaign with more than 400 million signatures worldwide. The Stockholm Appeal is valid till today.

On the occasion of the 70 years from the liberation of Korea on August 15, a glorious victory of the Korean people, which was later pulled into a war by the US led aggression against the Korean people in 1950, the WPC supports the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula, the replacement of the armistice agreement by a comprehensive peace accord and the end of all aggressions, sanctions and threats against the Korean people and the DPRKorea.

The militarization and the interferences are remarkable as imperialism pushes against Africa. We underline here the US African Command (Africom), one of the six spread over the planet by the military doctrine of full-spectrum dominance, with its Head Office in Germany.

The WPC stands firm and in solidarity with the Vietnamese people who liberated their country 40 years ago, but are suffering till today the consequences of the dirty war of the USA against their people, particularly with the old and new victims of the dioxin "Agent Orange". The WPC denounces and condemns the stand of the USA who is not acknowledging its historical responsibilities towards the compensation and relief of the victims.

The WPC salutes the return of the "Cuban Five" as a victory of Cuba and of the international solidarity movement with the socialist Cuba. The WPC reaffirms its principle positions for the end of the criminal US blockade, the lifting of the reactionary "Common Position" of the EU towards Cuba and demands the end of the interference of USA and other imperialists in the domestic affairs of Cuba. Likewise we demand the shutdown of the US military Base in Guantanamo the removal of the attached concentration camp of the USA and the return of this Cuban territory to Cuba.

The WPC expresses its solidarity with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, its people and elected leadership, acknowledging that Venezuela has never left the center of attention of imperialism, since 1998. The recent escalation of the US aggression with the "Executive Order" issued by the US president has been rejected massively all over the world and must be revoked.

The WPC firmly rejects the US "Pivot to Asia" where the USA is shifting 60% of its military power to the Asia&Pacific region and the bilateral and multilateral military agreements with many of the countries which are creating new threats to peace and stability in the area. We express our concern about the tensions in the Southeast Asia and reaffirm our position that whatever disputed should be resolved by peaceful talks amongst all involved parties based on the UN Convention of the Law of Seas (1982). At the same time we denounce the US presence in the region which is trying to use the existing contradictions for their own benefit.

The recent tragic earthquake in Nepal with the more than 10.000 loss of lives and the immense consequences of injured people, thousands of damaged and destroyed buildings as well as infrastructure, raised awareness and solidarity amongst the peace loving people all over the world, in particular by the WPC family.

We emphasize also on the necessity to keep on the efforts and the struggle in each country and globally against NATO, the armed wing and murderous tool of the imperialists. We recall the murderous bombing of Yugoslavia by NATO which led to the creation of the NATO/EU protectorate in the Serbian province of Kosovo. The imperialist aggression of NATO in 1999 became the precedent case for all later aggressions of NATO in Central Asia, Middle East and Eastern Europe today. The recent announcement of EU officials for a permanent EU army shows the growing militarization of the EU, the cooperation with NATO but also the ambitions of the European imperialists to play a greater role in the framework of their coordination/rivalry relationship with the USA. We denounce in particular the planned common military exercise of NATO Response Force in autumn between Portugal, Spain and Italy- under the name "Trident Juncture".

We reaffirm our solidarity with the people of Cyprus which is for more than 40 years under partial occupation of 37% by Turkey and express our concern about

the government's moves towards US, NATO and Israel along with reactionary monarchies in the Middle East. We reject a "solution" of the Cyprus issue converting Cyprus into a protectorate in order to serve the geostrategic and energy interests of imperialists in the region having the people of Cyprus, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots as victims. The WPC reaffirms its position for a viable and just solution based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation, with one sovereignty, one citizenship and one international representation, with political equality as applied in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Cyprus.

The WPC Secretariat reaffirms its strong positions in regards to the imperialist plan for a 'Great Middle East', which has been endorsed by the USA, NATO and the EU, along with their allies in the region by various means. The Islamic fundamentalist forces, for so many years tolerated and supported by the imperialists themselves, assumed new role with armed terrorists groups in various countries, particularly in Iraq and Syria.

The project of "ISIS" is the other side of the same coin of the imperialist agenda in the region. It is aiming in the control of spheres of influence and energy resources; it requires willing regimes and ignores any consequences for the peoples of the region. The hypocrisy and double moral is paramount. The crisis and instability created by the imperialists directly and indirectly through armed "dijhadist" groups, is being used now for new military operations and invasions in Iraq and Syria, having as "model" the case of Libya which was bombed and cut in pieces. The WPC paid special attention to the negative role of the government of Turkey which is supporting and harbouring the armed Islamist groups all this period.

For the WPC a core issue remains in the Middle East the struggle of the Palestinian people for the end of the Israeli occupation and the establishment of an independent State of Palestine in the borders before 4th June 1967 and with East Jerusalem as its capital. The WPC supports the efforts at the UN for the recognition of a full member status for Palestine. The Israeli government, fully backed by the USA and EU, is increasing its aggressions, harassments and apartheid policies in Palestine but also inside Israel against its own citizens, particularly Palestinians of 1948.

The WPC calls upon the peoples of the world to the peace loving forces and to all which identify world imperialism as the root cause for wars, occupation, injustice, misery and hunger, to join the common front of peoples and their movements to struggle for Peace, for freedom and social progress, for a new world order of friendship and cooperation amongst the peoples and to face, and confront and defeat this system in each country, region and globally, in multifaceted struggles and by diverse initiatives and actions.

At the same time we shall work hard to strengthen further our WPC, which has not only a glorious history of 66 years, but a lot to contribute in today's

conditions on the side of the poor and oppressed, for a world of peace and social justice, free from imperialist domination and all forms of oppression, where the peoples will become the real masters of their fortunes.

The WPC will observe the coming period amongst others the following important activities:

- 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima & Nagasaki(6&9 August)
- The 10th August, international Day of the victims of "Agent Orange" in cooperation with the Vietnam Association of Victims of Agent Orange (VAVA)
- The 70th anniversary of the liberation of Korea in 1945
- The VI.Trilateral Meeting of Peace Movements of Cyprus, Turkey and Greece from September 18-20 in Larnaka
- To dedicate the 21st September this year to the affirmation of the WPC to the struggle for Peace and against NATO, its further expansion and aggressive plans
- Strengthen the international campaign against the NATO and undertake actions to protest the military exercise "Trident Juncture" in Portugal, Spain and Italy (from end September till beginning November);
- To support the campaign for the boycott of products from the Israeli settlements in Palestine, as an act of solidarity with the just cause of the Palestinian people
- Continue to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Victory over Nazi-Fascism;
- Commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the WPC, value it's role and intervention and the urgency and timeliness of the struggle for Peace;
- Commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the Stockholm Appeal and the timeliness of the struggle for the abolition of nuclear weapons;
- Commemorate 65 years from the beginning of USA's aggression against Korea (25 June 1950 – 27 July 1953).
- Commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the UN Charter;
- Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Helsinki's Final Act;
- To hold our next Executive Committee Meeting in Guantanamo/Cuba on 20-21 November, to be followed by the IV.International Seminar for the abolition of all Foreign Military Bases on 23-25 November