

## **Contribution to the IMCWP 2022**

### **From the Communist Party of Canada**

We would like to thank the Communist Party of Cuba for hosting this meeting, despite the damage Cuba has suffered from Hurricane Ian, from the horrendous fire and loss of life in Matanzas, the on-going US blockade, and the sanctions which have caused such hardship on the government and people of Cuba.

We stand in solidarity with Cuba, the bright light of socialism in the Americas, an island of true liberty and real democracy, which we must collectively support and defend at this time of great danger from US imperialism. Cuba stands as the example to the peoples of the Americas – and the world -that it is possible to reject the capitalist road, and to build a new socialist society just 90 miles from the strongest imperialist power in the world. Last month, Cuba adopted a new Family Code, which is widely recognized as the most progressive in the world today. Congratulations Comrades – you continue to light the way forward for gender equality, for the well-being of children, and for recognition of the different types of families living and prospering under socialism today.

We hope this meeting will develop concrete plans for increased international solidarity with Cuba, and increased pressure to lift the illegal 60-year-old US blockade, and sanctions, and the despicable listing of Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism – by the biggest state sponsor of terrorism in the world – US imperialism.

Comrades,

In the three years since we last met, reaction and fascism have grown at a rapid rate, as the economic crisis and inflation surge globally, the pandemic continues its deadly course, the impacts of catastrophic global warming are felt around the world, and the acute danger of a nuclear war grows as a result of the on-going proxy war in Ukraine. A new Cold War has opened up in the imperialist centres, aimed at the socialist countries and all those unwilling to bow to imperialism's

diktat. The result is a sharply increased threat of war – including nuclear war, as evidenced in the rapid expansion of NATO, and the creation of the AUKUS and AUD agreements.

As we all know, there is no such thing as a tactical nuclear war, and that nuclear war – whether deliberate or by accident - means global annihilation.

We know that the Russian invasion of Ukraine last February was not unprovoked. The Maidan massacre and coup d'état in 2014 by Ukrainian fascists and reactionaries, the attacks on ethnic Russians in Ukraine, the months-long shelling of the Russian speaking majority in the Donbas, the refusal of the Ukrainian government to implement the Minsk I and II Accords in 2014-15 which would have granted autonomy to the Donbas republics within Ukraine, the intervention of Boris Johnson to prevent a peace agreement from being signed in April because “the West wasn't ready to end the war”, and the expanding encirclement of Russia by NATO despite the 1990 commitment not to expand east of Germany; all of this has contributed to the extraordinarily dangerous war that is blazing in Europe.

NATO – now in every respect US imperialism's global army – has effectively surrounded Russia by pressuring almost every one of the European states on Russia's borders to join NATO, or face the consequences in a “with us or against us” war on Russia that threatens Europe and the world.

Russia has responded with the call up 300,000 reserves and the annexation of the Donbas region and parts of Crimea, which will lead to a longer war, more deaths and destruction, and more opportunity for a nuclear war, by mistake or otherwise.

A political solution is urgent. A ceasefire, withdrawal of all foreign troops and weapons from the region, and negotiations leading to a political solution is the only way to avoid an expanding war which could become a nuclear war, and which has already killed tens of thousands of civilians and soldiers – including Russians, created a million refugees, and destroyed Ukraine's cities, economy, and countryside.

We must build up the voices and movements for peace, for a political solution, against military spending and against NATO and NORAD, and we must link up the peace and environmental movements in common struggle against destruction of the planet.

Climate change has accelerated, the result of hurricanes, floods, fires, droughts and heat waves in countries around the world, including floods covering a third of the land mass in Pakistan leaving 1300 dead; floods and droughts in India and China; floods and mudslides in South Africa; wildfires, heatwaves and droughts in Europe, the US and Canada; ice caps and glaciers that melted; hurricanes in the Caribbean including Fiona and then Ian that left massive damage in their wake. And each year, the damage increases.

Linking the fight for climate justice with the fight for peace and disarmament, and for good jobs, better wages, and higher living standards, can bring together the youth, the working class, and all those concerned about the future, and survival of the planet.

The Canadian government and Parliament are active supporters of war in Ukraine, shipping armaments, troops, and money to Ukraine and to NATO. Canada's Finance Minister, Chrystia Freeland, announced in her April war budget that Canada was supporting the war in Ukraine because it is a proxy war against Russia, and Russia is our enemy. Last month, Freeland announced austerity measures were on the way, while interest rates and prices on food, fuel, and rents sky-rocket. We are headed into another deep global recession, caused by neo-liberal governments and policies, which continue to guarantee corporations limitless profits, and workers – limitless exploitation and misery.

Canada's Liberal government is being challenged by the far-right Conservatives who are linked with white supremacists, social conservatives and the so-called "Freedom Convoy" which occupied Ottawa for 2 months last winter, calling for an end to vaccine mandates and overthrow of the Canadian government. This movement is well-funded, has ties to the Canadian military and police, and has ties to the far-right in the US.

Comrades,

The global recession that is driving down wages, living standards, and employment around the world, is also mobilizing workers to fightback and protect their families, their health, previous gains, and their class interests that are all threatened by the current capitalist crises and by imperialism's dangerous drive to war. Working people are afraid, but they're also angry. It's our job to ensure that this justified anger is harnessed by the Communists and the forces for peace and social progress, and not by the forces of war and reaction.

That's the challenge before us.