

'THE COMMUNITY OF COMMON DESTINY' AS A WAY OUT OF THE GLOBAL EMERGENCY CAUSED BY THE CORONAVIRUS-COVID19

by Jose Luis Centella, President of the Communist Party of Spain. March 19th 2020

Rarely in the history of humanity has the rightness of a political proposal been so clearly demonstrated as it is at the moment, when the world is suffering one of the most serious health, economic, and social emergencies since the end of the last World War.

I am referring to the proposal that the President of the People's Republic of China has been putting forward so that all States can contribute to the creation of a 'Community of Common Destiny' that joins forces and wills to achieve cooperation. A cooperation intended to achieve common goals that would allow all inhabitants of the planet to have the right to a dignified life.

The crisis caused by the spread of the Coronavirus-COVID19 throughout the Planet has revealed the weaknesses of a society built from economic interest, through a Neoliberal Globalization, in which all the resources of the economy were put at the service of maintaining high rates of profit for a minority that controls the economic power. In this situation is when the value of Xi Jinping's proposal to advance all the peoples of the planet together to join efforts to combat emergency situations, like the one humanity is experiencing at the moment, appears very clearly.

Building a 'Community of Common Destiny' is what can make it possible to facilitate a faster way out from the current emergency situation through mutual cooperation and the possibility of sharing resources by developing instruments of global governance. These would be based on mutual benefit and the defence of a concept of integral and sustainable shared security.

It is a question first of all of putting an end to the Cold War policies, of burying the Commercial Wars definitively, of ending a model of Globalisation of imperialist nature to give way to an economic, social, and institutional internationalism based on solidarity.

Nobody can deny that in today's world there is a total interdependence between all countries and territories. The point is to be able to face this interdependence from the reciprocal cooperation that manages to share resources and technical advances to multiply the profit in a shared way, elaborating clear rules that help and protect the weakest and most vulnerable States from the aggressions of the most powerful and developed States.

Therefore, Xi Jinping proposes as a basis for developing the 'Community of the Common Destiny' the promotion of partnerships with institutions as well as practices in which countries are treated as equals, based on respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, cultures and peculiarities of each State.

An emergency crisis such as the one caused by the expansion of the coronavirus-COVID 19, which does not respect borders or continents, makes it necessary to strengthen international cooperation by promoting the role of the UN so that it recovers the application of the values and principles contained in its Founding Charter, acting as a Platform for mutual cooperation.

At the same time, the consequences that the crisis of the Pandemic caused by the COVID19, make it necessary to change the basis of the current international economic institutions to make them more useful to the countries that are going to suffer the most from the emergency situation. In this sense, international economic cooperation must undergo great changes to establish rules that allow a better use of the economy to improve the quality of life of those who are affected by the consequences of the crisis.

The development of the productive forces, the technological advances, the medical discoveries... enable us to face emergency situations like the present one. It is now only necessary to break with the neoliberal market, that has neither control nor morals, and start the work to create a 'Community of Common Destiny'. This Community would develop rules and controls to foment the relation between, on the one hand, the economic policies that are put in place to leave the crisis and, on the other, the general interest, staying always under the direction of the State as reference of the defense of the Common Good.

China suffered in its own skin the consequences of the greatest crisis that humanity has suffered since the end of the last world war. It fought against the coronavirus, it use all the potential of its economy, it placed all the dedication of its Government at the service of the People, with discipline, dedication, and strength of mind. Those are the reasons China has been able to overcome the crisis and become an important example of help and solidarity with the rest of the world.

In particular, it should be stressed that it is not only the Government of the People's Republic of China that is providing resources and material to many countries to make up for the lack of means that exist in our countries, but that it is the entire Chinese community resident in Europe that is showing solidarity and providing us with masks and other elements necessary to confront the Pandemic. Thus demonstrating that the proposal to build a 'Community of Common Destiny' is not a proclamation devoid of content, nor a propaganda operation, but responds to the will to build a new model of society that places the human being at the center of the general interest.

At the same time, right now, greater attention must be paid to the *Initiative of the Strip and the Route*, because it can be of great help in helping to overcome the economic crisis that will affect the entire world and which will affect the weakest and most unprotected countries the most. What is already the greatest project of international cooperation in history now also becomes an opportunity to contribute resources to the reconstruction that will reactivate the world's economy, affected by the stop in production that is occurring throughout the world.

Considering all of these arguments, we must say that at this time it is appropriate for the international community, and especially Europe, to pay more attention to the initiative that President Xi Jinping has been advocating and to support the construction of a great 'Community of Common Destiny'. However, not only the governments must take an interest in this initiative, but also civil society, citizens' associations and economic bodies must become aware of the need to learn from the experience we are living in and understand that only by establishing relations, cooperation and common work among all the peoples of the Earth, can we get out of this emergency situation which we are suffering. In this manner we will get out of this situation more united, more in solidarity, more convinced that beyond borders, beyond races, all together we will be able to successfully face the challenges that the future may bring, shaping a great community with a common destiny for humanity.

