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## COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MARXIST) Central Committee

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Dear Comrades,

On behalf of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) we extend our revolutionary greetings to all the participants in this extraordinary teleconference of the International Meeting of the Communist and Workers Parties. We thank the Communist Party of Greece and Communist Party of Turkey for taking this initiative to explore the possibilities for our interaction in this pandemic stricken world and enable our interaction through the use of digital technology.

For the first time in the history of modern capitalism, the world faced the combined fury of global economic crisis and health crisis through the Covid-19 pandemic. The limitations of the exploitative capitalist system were glaringly visible during the Covid pandemic. They had once again exposed the inherent crisis ridden character of capitalism and the bankruptcy of neoliberal philosophy.

The ruling classes around the world are trying to use the pandemic as an opportunity to come out of the economic crisis. The pandemic induced lockdowns led to an increase in job-losses and unemployment. Hundreds of thousands of people have joined the already bulging ranks of the unemployed. Inequalities have grown between the countries and also within the countries. Poverty, hunger and destitution increased.

Even during these times, working class led protests took place in various countries. They raised the demands of better working conditions, social protection, health care and also against austerity measures, wage and employment freeze and attacks on democratic

rights. We stand in solidarity with all the working class struggles, particularly in countries like Greece, Portugal, Brazil, etc.

In our country, we had witnessed the historic year-long protest of farmers against the farm laws that intended to corporatise agriculture. For one year, thousands of farmers braved extreme weather and sat at the borders of Delhi, Indian capital. They withstood police repression and attacks. Ruling party and its cohorts in pro-corporate media spread slanders against them, calling them terrorists, separatists and anti-nationals. In spite of all these attacks, they were able to succeed in forcing the government to withdraw these laws. This struggle was whole-heartedly supported by the working class and the farmers too reciprocated by supporting and including the demands of the working class. We witnessed the coming together of two revolutionary classes, taking upon the might of the State. This is an extremely important and positive development.

In order to suppress the brewing discontent among the exploited classes, whatever democratic rights and freedoms that exist in our societies are being curtailed. Right to organise, dissent and protest are under severe attack. Many countries are openly resorting to authoritarian measures. Ruling classes are using State power to promote divisive and sectarian forces. Neo-fascist groups, extreme right-wing forces, religious fundamentalists and sectarianism is being promoted to divide popular unity. The growth of right-wing parties and ideology is a challenge before all of us. We have to rise up to this challenge and work towards preserving and building unity of the exploited classes.

In our country, the CPI(M) is working hard to resist the consolidation of divisive forces. Experience taught us that it is only through taking up class issues that we can confront, resist and defeat divisive ideology.

Another challenge that we are facing is increasing, new military alliances. In our region – Asia-Pacific, we have a new imperialist military alliance between the US, UK and Australia – the AUKUS. Similarly, the Quad, consisting of the US, Japan, Australia and India is another such grouping, which is sought to be formalised. In Central Asia, there is another Quad consisting of US, Uzbekistan, Pakistan and Afghanistan. All these

military alliances are formed with the intention of maintaining imperialist hegemony over natural resources and markets. They are also aimed at containing and isolating an assertive China and Russia.

The expansion of NATO, attempts to form an EU defence force, increasing defence budgets, do not augur well for world peace. Though the US had withdrawn from Afghanistan, it claims its right to carry out aerial attacks in the name of carrying out counter-terrorism operations. The US still retains its military presence in Iraq and continues to interfere in Syria and Libya.

Israel, with US support, is against the State of Palestine. Unless Israeli occupation is forthrightly stopped and the Palestinians are guaranteed their homeland and right to return, there cannot be peace. We reiterate our demand for the establishment of Palestine State with 1967 borders and East Jerusalem as its capital. We extend our solidarity with the fighting Palestinians.

Using the pandemic, the US intended to destabilise socialist Cuba. US imperialists have tightened the economic blockade and once again categorised Cuba as a country sponsoring terrorism. They used all the social media platforms and internet to instigate the people of Cuba to rise against socialist Cuban State and Communist Party. Their efforts failed because of popular support to the socialist system and the Communist Party of Cuba. As communists, it is our duty to stand in solidarity with Cuba and oppose imperialist machinations against Cuba. We oppose US sanctions on DPRK, Iran, Venezuela and all other such countries.

Comrades,

Together with standing in solidarity, we feel that each of us have to carry on the fight against imperialism within our own countries. It is right time for us to expose the bankruptcy of capitalist system and project a socialist alternative. The way socialist countries coped with the pandemic enhanced their prestige. Cuba, which faced a tough situation, stood out through its internationalism by sending its medical brigades. China

contributed by sending one billion doses of its vaccines to Africa very recently, apart from the huge quantities of medical equipment it had supplied.

In Kerala, a province in our country, the CPI(M) led Left Democratic Front government stood apart from the rest of the country in tackling the pandemic. In spite of all the existing limitations of working within the capitalist system, our activities won the support of people and hence we were re-elected for a second consecutive time, a historic first in that province. It proves once again that the ruling classes can never succeed in defeating communism as long the Party is committed to Marxism-Leninism, both in theory and practice.

The CPI(M) feels that the present times might be some of the most difficult times, but they are also the most opportune. As communist and workers' parties, we have to raise to the challenge, unite people against the present exploitative world order and fight for a socialist alternative. We are confident that it is only through unflinching class struggles led by a communist party that we can end this crisis-ridden capitalist system and usher in socialism. In this endeavour, all of us should stand together and march ahead.

Thank you