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இலங்கை கம்யூனிஸ்ட் கட்சி
COMMUNIST PARTY OF SRI LANKA

The Struggle for Economic Sovereignty Against Imperialism

*Contribution of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka to the 24th International Meeting of
Communist and Workers' Parties, Havana, 7–9 August 2026*

Dear comrades,

The Communist Party of Sri Lanka conveys its warmest fraternal greetings to the Communist Party of Cuba and to all parties assembled in Havana. Unable to be present on this occasion, we submit this analysis of the international situation to the proceedings of the Meeting, declaring at the outset our unconditional solidarity with socialist Cuba and with the Cuban people, who for more than six decades have withstood a criminal blockade and who today face an unprecedented escalation of aggression by United States imperialism.

1. The Crisis of Neoliberalism

Five decades of neoliberal globalisation have brought the world to a profound crisis. In 2025, some 808 million people — 9.9 per cent of humanity — lived below the World Bank's extreme poverty line of three dollars a day. The eight wealthiest individuals on earth own as much as the poorest half of the world's population. The richest one per cent, which appropriated 2.8 per cent of global income in 1980, appropriated 21 per cent by 2023; its share of world wealth rose from 43 to 45 per cent between 2023 and 2024, and grew by 33.9 trillion dollars over the decade to 2025.

This polarisation is not accidental but structural. The global North holds 69.3 per cent of world wealth against the 30.7 per cent held by the South. The reason is drain: in the twenty years from 1995 to 2015 alone, 242 trillion dollars were extracted from the South by the North. Such is the balance sheet of fifty years of imperialism's neoliberal economic strategy — deepening poverty, widening inequality, social instability and hunger.

Our own region has felt this directly. Sri Lanka has taken assistance from the International Monetary Fund seventeen times since 1977, and on each occasion political and economic conditions drawn from the Washington Consensus were attached. The resulting crisis, in Sri Lanka as across South Asia, was then blamed on corruption alone — a slogan raised precisely to conceal that the cause is neoliberalism itself. In Pakistan the Imran Khan government was removed and its

leader imprisoned; in Bangladesh the Sheikh Hasina government was brought down by agitation and revolt; in Nepal the communist-led government of comrade Oli was overthrown in September 2025; the Maldives too faced such campaigns. The common feature of the countries targeted was that their governments were acting with a measure of independence and maintaining close relations with the states of the Global South.

2. The Changing Balance of Forces

The challenge to neoliberal globalisation begins with the global financial crisis of 2008 — a structural crisis of capitalism, in which trillions of dollars of public money rescued private corporations while working people were made to tighten their belts. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the system again, placing capital above human life.

Meanwhile the centre of world economic development has shifted to Asia. Measured by purchasing power parity, China's gross domestic product stood at 37.07 trillion dollars in 2024 against 29.17 trillion for the United States, and in 2025 at 40.72 trillion against 30.51 trillion. In its survey of critical technologies, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute found China leading in 57 of 64 technologies across eight fields, with the United States leading in only seven. China leads in robotics, battery production, biotechnology, quantum computing and artificial intelligence. Socialist China has surpassed capitalist America in productive capacity, and applies these gains to industry, agriculture, services and the improvement of the people's lives.

Alongside this stand the China–Russia strategic partnership, extending across economic, political, military, scientific and people-to-people spheres; the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, grown from the founding five into a powerful formation including India, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Iran and Belarus; and BRICS+, whose ten members commanded 76.1 trillion dollars of output by purchasing power parity in 2024 against 56.7 trillion for the G7. The Belt and Road Initiative, launched in 2013, now links some 150 countries and has carried more than a trillion dollars in investment, free of political conditions. Regional economic blocs have emerged on every continent, and de-dollarisation advances — a direct response to the weaponisation of the dollar against countries that refuse to submit.

In the Sahel, Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso have broken with French imperialism and built a confederation with a common central bank and a development bank. In Latin America, particularly Mexico and Brazil, progressive and left governments have pursued social reform and economic sovereignty. The socialist states advance: China and Vietnam record high growth and all-round development, while Cuba and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea hold firm on the socialist road under sustained economic blockade.

3. Contradictions Within the Imperialist Camp

The imperialist centre is weakening. The United States economy is marked by long-term trade and budget deficits, deindustrialisation and militarisation; by August 2025 its total debt stood at 37.3 trillion dollars. Europe, bound to it historically, has been further weakened by the Ukraine conflict: having rejected cheap Russian energy, its industrial base has fractured, while it continues to supply the war amid inflation, recession and social breakdown. Britain and Japan, tightly integrated with both, cannot escape the same crisis.

Significantly, the imperialist centres have themselves begun to abandon neoliberal orthodoxy. The Biden administration declared that neoliberalism was no longer valid; Donald Trump demonstrated the same practically, through a trade war. Tariffs have been raised not only against Russia, Iran and China but against the European Union, Canada, Britain, Japan and South Korea. Free trade is abandoned for protectionism, and the contradictions between the imperialist centres are sharpening. NATO reveals its fractures, in the rout from Afghanistan in 2021 and in the divergences over Ukraine.

Imperialism is weakened — but it has neither collapsed nor accepted defeat. Instead, there is a clear and dangerous push towards militarisation and rearmament in Europe and Japan, combined with a growing network of military agreements in east and southeast Asia that are designed to encircle China. The US government's brazen violations of international law – by abducting Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and First lady Cilia Flores and bombing Iran without provocation – are clear examples of the dangerous and desperate nature of imperialism and the potential for catastrophic military escalation.

5. The End of Unipolarity

The unipolar world born of the dissolution of the Soviet Union on 26 December 1991 has ended. A multipolar order is taking shape, though its final form is not yet settled. Its outlines became visible in 2025. On 15 August, President Putin was received by President Trump in Alaska on the red carpet — an encounter which declared that Russia stands as an equal power. From 31 August to 1 September, the twenty-fifth summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation met at Tianjin, where the China–Russia–India troika signalled that they act independently in international affairs and act together in defence of that independence. On 3 September, at the eightieth anniversary of victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance and the Second World War, the presence in Beijing of the Russian, Korean and Iranian leaders showed that powerful new centres have been created.

The unilateral economic, political and military decisions of the United States are no longer accepted — not only by the countries of the global South, but by states within the imperialist camp itself. At Tianjin, President Xi Jinping set out the principles that a multipolar order requires: sovereign equality, an international order grounded in the Charter of the United Nations, multilateralism, and common development.

6. Wars, Palestine and the Defence of Cuba

NATO's expansion — from sixteen members in 1991 to more than thirty, in flat breach of the assurance given to the Soviet leadership that it would not move an inch eastward — brought the alliance to Russia's borders and produced the conflict in Ukraine, now a confrontation between Russia and the collective West. More than 26,000 sanctions have been imposed, yet Russia has emerged as the largest economy in Europe. Some forces seek to transform this conflict into a direct war between Russia and NATO; that danger must be resisted.

In the Middle East, the Palestinian question remains central. Israel, with the direct participation of the United States and the support of the Western states, continues the destruction of the Palestinian people and the levelling of their towns and villages, while attacking Iran, Lebanon, Iraq and Qatar. We uphold the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council: an independent and sovereign Palestinian state, uniting the West Bank and the Gaza Strip within the borders of 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital and the right of return for refugees.

In our own region, the Quad and AUKUS maintain military cooperation in the Indo-Pacific which, whatever is claimed about freedom of navigation, is directed against China's development. The Indian Ocean must not be made a theatre of great-power confrontation.

Latin America and the Caribbean face the same aggression. The imperialist power on their doorstep does not tolerate sovereignty, and its escalation against Cuba is of a piece with its hostility to Venezuela, Nicaragua, Bolivia and every government that asserts independence. The defence of Cuba is therefore not a regional question but a front line of the world anti-imperialist struggle. Our Party calls for the widest coordinated campaign for the unconditional lifting of the blockade, for Cuba's removal from the arbitrary list of state sponsors of terrorism, and for concrete material solidarity with the Cuban people.

Climate change advances, meanwhile, while the United States obstructs the measures required. The carbon space of countries such as ours was consumed by the industrialisation of Europe and North America; financial and technological support for the South is therefore an obligation of those who created the crisis, not charity.

7. The Tasks Before Us

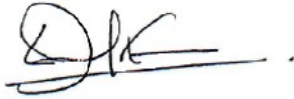
Thirty-five years have passed since the reverse of 1991. In that time the international communist movement has begun to advance again. The victories of the socialist states, and above all the economic, scientific and technological achievements of People's China, are the principal cause of this new awakening. Just as the Soviet victory of 1945 broke the colonial system and made socialism a world system, so the advances of today are creating a comparable moment.

However, our movement remains weak and fragmented. More effort must be placed to improve organisational structures and international coordination and solidarity. Such coordination and solidarity must necessarily start at the regional level, mirroring the trend towards regional in global economics affairs. The principal contradiction of our epoch is that between the peoples and imperialism, and that the struggle for economic sovereignty is the principal struggle of this era — nationally and internationally alike. It is this movement that underpins the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, BRICS+, the Belt and Road Initiative, the regional economic blocs and de-dollarisation. Our task is to organise the workers and peasants to direct the flow of history towards a socialist horizon.

These victories will not fall to us of their own accord. They require communist and workers' parties armed with theory, the mobilisation of patriotic forces, and mass struggle. Our Party will carry the campaign in defence of socialist Cuba to the working people of Sri Lanka, and will associate itself with the joint actions adopted by this Meeting.

We wish the 24th International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties every success in its deliberations, and we honour, with you, the centenary of the birth of Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro Ruz.

Long live the international communist movement!
Long live socialist Cuba!



Dr. G. Weerasinghe
General Secretary
3 August 2026