

Dear friends, participants in the Assembly of the Peoples of the World

I thank the Civil Chamber of the Russian Federation for the invitation.

Greetings to the trade union organizations of Russia.

We live in a time of great challenges, risks, and opportunities for the working class and the peoples of the entire world.

A process of geopolitical crisis and transition is unfolding, marked by the breakdown of the imperialist international order dominated by the United States and the sharpening of the contradictions inherent in contemporary capitalism.

The crisis reflects the decline in the relative economic power of the United States and the aging Group of Seven, as a result of the uneven development of nations and deindustrialization in the so-called West. In contrast, we observe the rise of China and the BRICS, strengthened and expanded at their last two summits.

This movement of nations outside the imperialist centers, led by China, is shaping a new world order and offering promising prospects for the poorest countries, oppressed by the neocolonialist heel of imperialism. This is the case of Brazil and Russia, two founding countries of the BRICS in June 2009. The geopolitical bloc has already surpassed the once all-powerful G7, now in sharp decline. In 2024, the BRICS' share of the global economy in terms of Purchasing Power Parity was approximately 35%, while that of the G7 was 30%.

Analyzing the performance of the industrial sector, a pillar of wealth production and asymmetric GDP growth, one observes that China's share, in terms of gross production, is no less than three times that of the United States, six times that of Japan, and nine times that of Germany. These are the clearest and most eloquent indicators of what some analysts characterize as a shift in economic and geopolitical power from East to West.

The dizzying economic rise of China, along with the BRICS, is transforming the world's economic and political geography, naturally and inevitably creating a new reality that clashes with the capitalist world order established at Bretton Woods and paves the way for a new geopolitical order. The New Silk Road and the BRICS Development Bank are the embryos of this new world.

Unlike this movement, the United States does not want to relinquish its global hegemony and promises to do everything possible to preserve it. Containing the rise of China and the BRICS remains the primary objective of the empire's foreign policy, which is being particularly aggressive in the Americas, which Washington's imperialists consider an extension of their own territory (much of which they stole from Mexico) or even a simple backyard. Donald Trump threatened to impose 100% tariffs on products from the BRICS countries that dare to challenge the dollar's hegemony. He spoke of retaking the Panama Canal by force because it had been ceded to Beijing's control. He imposed 50% tariffs on Brazilian exports and sanctioned Supreme Court judges under the pretext of defending coup leader Jair Bolsonaro, a neo-fascist politician who has just been sentenced to 27 years and three months in prison for crimes against the democratic rule of law. He sent warships to the coast of Venezuela to blackmail and intimidate the Maduro government and all Latin American leaders who do not follow the same imperialist strategy.

The leader of the White House imagines that, with threats, using their forces, and protectionism, he will reverse the historic decline of American capitalism. The truth is that this will not make the United States "great again," as Trump claims, but it will undoubtedly exacerbate the current geopolitical crisis, which is evolving intertwined with the cyclical depressions of the global economy and still seems far from resolved. For these reasons, the transition to a new geopolitical order is anything but smooth and peaceful. We are witnessing the radicalization of class struggles and international tensions and conflicts; the exacerbation of the concentration and centralization of capital and income; growing social and political polarization; the failure of neoliberalism; the collapse of the institutions that shape bourgeois democracy, hijacked and corrupted by economic power; and the emergence of a new and dangerous arms race that fuels international tensions and revives the specter of nuclear war.

In this critical context, we are also witnessing the resurgence and rise of neo-Nazism in much of the world, fueled by xenophobia, misogyny, and the exacerbation of the exploitation of the working class and the oppression of peoples and nations, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. The last resort of a capitalism in crisis, neo-Nazism invites barbarism and the denial of civilization, and is especially cruel today toward immigrant workers in the United States and Europe.

Confronting and defeating the extreme right is today, and will likely continue to be in the coming years, the main challenge facing democratic and progressive forces, including working-class unions, in Latin America and other regions of the world.

In Brazil, the neo-Nazi mob led by coup leader Jair Bolsonaro plays the ignoble role of imperialism's fifth column, shamelessly encouraging and supporting Donald Trump's neo-colonialist offensive against Brazil. It defends a subservient, anti-worker, and anti-patriotic neoliberal agenda, as demonstrated by the Bolsonaro family's behavior in response to the imposition of 50% tariffs on Brazilian exports.

These reactionary and neo-Nazi forces represent the interests and ideology of big capitalists. They constitute the contemporary financial oligarchy, whose main and most profitable business is Big Tech.

This historical scenario, already dramatic, is aggravated by the climate crisis, which is advancing amid global chaos with little hope of a solution within the framework of the capitalist system.

The genocide in the Gaza Strip continues, with the complicity and support of the Trump administration. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a neo-Nazi, continues to blackmail the city's inhabitants and use famine as a weapon of war with impunity, blocking the entry of humanitarian aid and murdering innocent people. Herzl Halevi, former head of the Israeli army, estimated that the death toll from the genocide in Gaza exceeds 200,000.

The US and NATO proxy war against Russia has also found no solution. The conflict has its roots in NATO's ambitious and threatening expansion into Eastern Europe following the destruction of the Soviet Union in 1991, as Trump himself acknowledged.

Intertwined with the geopolitical crisis, the social and economic contradictions of the capitalist system are worsening, driven by the growth of productive forces. The capitalist appropriation of profits generated by increased labor productivity deepens the devaluation of the working class when, under other social relations, it could facilitate a reduction in working hours without reducing wages.

Under these circumstances, unemployment and precarious employment are on the rise, particularly the so-called "uberization," which entails the loss of rights, increased working hours, and reduced incomes for workers.

This has not been the exception, but the rule in capitalist countries, where the centralization of capital and the concentration of income have reached alarming proportions. UN statistics indicate that approximately 673 million people worldwide suffered from hunger in 2024, representing 8.2% of the world's population.

Taken together, these facts demonstrate the exhaustion of the international imperialist order led by the United States, with the support of the decrepit Group of 7.

History has placed on the agenda the struggle for the defense of national sovereignty, against imperialism, and for a new world order based on multilateralism and oriented toward the peaceful resolution of international disputes, nuclear disarmament, and the sovereign and shared development of peoples.

The transition to a new geopolitical order is no longer a mere wish, but an objective movement already underway, despite the disastrous reaction of imperialism in the so-called West.

The labor movement must acquire a clear awareness of this in order to prepare and train itself to intervene in this process, preventing the interests of the working class from being ignored and trampled on, and preventing the new emerging order from reproducing the social and international relations characteristic of capitalism and imperialism.

It is also important to remind and clarify to the working class that barbarism is the destiny to which capitalism leads humanity and that socialism is the only civilizing alternative.

I would like to conclude my intervention by reiterating the solidarity of class-based trade unionism with the people and the revolutionary government of Cuba against the criminal imperialist blockade imposed by the United States; our solidarity with Venezuela; our full support for the heroic resistance of the Palestinian people against the terrorist state of Israel; our repudiation of genocide and the defense of the State of Palestine; and our support for a just solution to the conflict in Eastern Europe; and the just struggle of the Sahrawi people and the Polisario Front for national independence.

Thank you very much!