



**POLITICAL DECLARATION OF THE COMMUNIST YOUTH UNION –  
BRAZIL TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF  
DEMOCRATIC YOUTH**

Cyprus, December 2019



Comrades,

Since the stock market crash in 2008, on an international scale, we have seen that the ruling classes, in order to keep their profit rates in the midst of the systemic crisis of capitalism, have put as their only alternative the expansion of the exploitation of workers.

Numerous proposals for reforms and cuts in rights are being made by the bourgeoisie around the world. Groups that in the last period were managers of capitalism, such as the “classical” neoliberal right and the social-democracy, proved themselves inefficient overseers of this order. Social-democrats particularly were also beginning to support austerity packages in order to provide short-term responses that meet the financial market's aspirations for the resumption of rates of profit. The inefficiency of these managers altered the correlation of intra-bourgeois forces, migrating much of the sectors to the base of support of far-right political groups around the world.

Our generation is currently experiencing a time when the inter-imperialist antagonisms in its saga for new markets and greater production are being deepened, the exploitation of workers is intensified, social rights diminished, environmental problems deepened, and there is a growth in immigration flows, refugee numbers and xenophobia. Also, as a way of containing the struggle against the current hegemony, the persecution of the Communist Parties and their youth organizations is strengthened.

In Latin America, if we had previously experienced a period of progressive administration of capitalism - governments that have a tactical polarization of neoliberalism, fostering national development and promoting national sovereignty, but not aiming at a rupture with the whole capitalist system - now an external interference under Washington is observed. This external interference acts to destabilize the institutional political direction given by these progressive parties, to end democratic freedoms and thus to form governments or to strengthen right-wing groups completely foreign to the demands of the working class, with the objective of forging relationships of dependence and subservience, returning to the past of colonialist dispossession, intervention and violence.

We recall our recent past, when similar mechanisms were used by US imperialism over South American countries during Operation Condor in the 1960s and 1970s. Back then, local and multinational oligarchies were united around a common tactic to articulate, under US command, the repressive apparatuses of Brazil, Paraguay, Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay, in order to exterminate the resistant forces of the working class in those countries. The result of this articulation was the military coups and the implementation of dictatorships, ensuring the realization of an economic agenda favorable to the interests of the bourgeoisie at the intercontinental level. Under the achievements of that period, the bourgeoisie improved its forms of articulation, just as imperialism sophisticated its form of intervention. After 2008, a new cycle of intervention was opened in Latin America: coups in Honduras, Paraguay, Brazil and Bolivia, as well as successive coup attempts in Venezuela, under blockade and criminal sanctions, show that our continent now occupies a more privileged place in the imperialist interests.

This new cycle, in turn, is marked by subtler mechanisms for breaking the forged social pact between progressive governments and sectors of the bourgeoisie: the fake news tactic, the so-called “anti-corruption war”, support for religious fundamentalism and the use of paramilitary forces, in addition to the alignment with media monopolies. Such methods constitute today the core of common characteristics that permeate the dispute over the power structures of Latin American countries.

What differentiates part of these governments, however, is their resilience to imperialist offensives, directly linked to how minimally these progressive governments were able or not to organize the segments of the working class. In the experiences that sought to organize the working class and smallholder sectors through instruments of struggle, together with state support, in embryos of Popular Power, the political ties between mass and government remained strong and prevented a decisive break in favor of imperialism. In parallel, experiments in which social achievements were made through the market, only by increasing consumption and small investments in the public sector, but without a popular organization for the struggle, the detachment between the masses and the government allowed the far-right to rise.

In Argentina, the imminent victory of Peronism represents the popular and middle-class rejection of Macri's ultraliberalism, which led the country into a serious economic and social crisis. In Ecuador, the adoption of whole packages of liberal measures by removing fuel subsidies, brutally increasing famine and attacks on workers' rights led to a strong popular mobilization against the Moreno government. The highly repressive actions generated huge revolt, forcing the government to back down, but the outcome of the final negotiation between government and indigenous leadership sectors did not counteract the IMF's measures in the country. The social explosions in

Haiti, Chile, and Colombia demonstrate the same picture of deep popular outrage against the accumulation of suffering imposed on the working class and the people as a result of policies to dismantle social legislation and privatize public services in favor of high profits for domestic and foreign companies. The example of the victorious popular struggle in Puerto Rico that succeeded in overthrowing a governor and reinforcing the clamor for independence with social justice follows the same course of mass struggle as the main axis to be strengthened in the perspective of the regaining of rights, democratic freedoms, democracy and best living conditions on the continent.

In Brazil, the Workers' Party government emerges as a coalition of various classes and political forces, proclaiming an anti-neoliberal program in the early 2000s. However, even before the election, presidential candidate Lula declares, in a document called "Letter to the Brazilian People", that his new political program would be based on agreements with capitalist sectors to ensure stability and growth with social policies. This opened a cycle of social-liberalism in the country, a continuation of the neoliberal policy of the 1990s in the economic question, contrasted by some reparatory social policies. The whole process was done through summit agreements, diminishing effective popular participation in the working-class struggle and organization processes.

In 2008, at the beginning of the systemic crisis of capitalism, Brazil enjoyed some market stability, guaranteed by a flow of exports of primary products to the central countries of the imperialist chain. However, as early as 2012/2013, the impacts of the capitalist crisis hit Brazil, striking the Brazilian economy with a period of slowing growth. Series of mass demonstrations, diffused in its political direction, exploded in June 2013, putting the stability of the government in check. Although the emergence of these demonstrations was linked to just economic struggles, the lack of popular and proletarian organization favored the right-wing sectors, largely supported by the media oligopolies, to direct the process towards a vague "anti-corruption struggle" - slogan of the coup sectors in general all over Latin America. The ruling Workers' Party has chosen to present a reform agenda in the political system and some economic measures to confront the financial sector of the bourgeoisie. The pact brought by the "Letter to the Brazilian People" was coming to an end.

However, the 2014 elections showed that there was still some popular trust in the governments: Dilma Rousseff, with PMDB's Michel Temer as vice-president, was reelected with a narrow margin. Sectors of the neoliberal right have threatened not to recognize this electoral victory and begin to organize a process that would culminate in the 2016 coup. Not even the austerity measures implemented by Dilma's second term, under the direction of Finance Minister Joaquim Levy (who later would be chief financial officer of the World Bank), were enough for the Brazilian bourgeoisie to keep accepting a Worker's Party government.

Thus, the bourgeoisie, eager to resume its profit rates, begins to organize the 2016 coup in order to impose an extended neoliberal austerity package faster. An administrative detail is used as a pretext to vote for Dilma Rousseff's impeachment and the entire right wing of the government coalition, represented by parties like PMDB, PP, PSC, breaks with PT and approves the coup, instituting Michel Temer as president. Temer begins to directly apply the authentic bourgeois political-economic program, like the Labor Reform, easing labor contracts and lowering labor rights, the High School Reform, which makes secondary education precarious, and the Constitutional Amendment 95, which freezes several sectors of the Federal Government's budget, including health and education, for 20 years.

By late 2018, presidential elections were held, in which Jair Bolsonaro was elected based on several fraudulent practices, mainly with the massive use of tools in social networks and instant communication, with a campaign strongly based on lies, taking advantage of the arrest of former President Lula, who was first in the polls of intention to vote. Bolsonaro delivers a reactionary speech in his campaign, in an "anti-establishment" style, and manages to overcome his main opponent, Fernando Haddad, who ran for PT instead of Lula.

With this electoral process, a period of further attacks on the working class and the people as a whole was opened in our country. The Bolsonaro government, from its inception, has a strong antipopular, undemocratic, and anti-national character, as a Latin American ally of the US government. Led by its Minister of Economy, Paulo Guedes, the government's neoliberal program has been attacking the working class and youth with Social Security Reform, education budget cuts, privatization of important state-owned enterprises, among other measures. Coupled with the neoliberal program, Bolsonaro takes an openly anti-communist stance and has supported imperialism's plans in the region, such as support for the Lima Group and Venezuelan and Bolivian coup movements.

In Brazil, the liberal offensive radicalizes itself. Following the Senate approval of the Social Security counter-reform, further attacks on workers' rights and privatization of public assets by the Bolsonaro government, which has a majority in Congress, take place. The moment demands the firm resumption of popular mobilizations, because without the masses in the streets it will not be possible to defeat the scorched earth policy conducted by the government. It is necessary to strengthen the trade-union and popular fronts, mainly for consolidating in the states of the Trade-Union, Popular and Youth Forum of Struggles for Democratic Rights and Freedoms, with a view to the better organization and awareness of the working class.

Bolsonaro is the current representative, both in the Brazilian government and internationally, of the national bourgeoisie, especially of its financial and agricultural sectors. The policy he applies in our country,

despite his and his party's idiosyncrasies, is the policy of capitalism-imperialism for our country, severely undermining the rights of workers, youth, the environment and national sovereignty. We denounce the entire Bolsonaro policy and understand that there are no dialogues nor commonalities of his government with no demand from the Brazilian or foreign working class. The release of former President Lula, unduly condemned, was a small victory against the ufar-right at such a difficult juncture. The Bolsonaro government continues to intensify and broaden attempts to criminalize popular movements and communism in Brazil.

Brazil is a country of advanced capitalism within the framework of dependent capitalism. It is not possible to make concessions to the national bourgeoisie without also supporting imperialism directly. Thus, all workers and young people who pursue Bolsonaro's defeat as a political objective must also understand that there is no alternative but to reorganize the working class and social movements in Brazil. Nonetheless, many sectors in our country hesitate over how to defeat Bolsonaro. Some bet on strategies fundamentally based on parliament institutions rather than reorganizing the working class into its own instruments of struggle, such as trade unions, student organizations and popular movements. Other sectors are simply confined to "await" the 2022 elections. This strategy has brought no victory for the working class; on the contrary, it has led the left exclusively to parliamentary action to accept agreements with the so-called "democratic center" in exchange for minimal changes to its projects - and, worse, to defend it with the workers, demobilizing popular movements, youth and working class' potential for struggle.

We could clearly see this with the support of the state government of Maranhão and a significant part of the opposition to the Government for the Technological "Safeguards" Agreement, which allows the United States' government and army access to the Alcantara Launch Center, a Brazilian space base, strategically built near the equator, located in the state of Maranhão. Thus, a policy of open privatization of a Brazilian public good, aimed at the research and development of satellites and rockets, helps to strengthen imperialist interests in our continent, directly undermining Brazilian national and technological sovereignty.

Analyzing, debating, and boosting the popular and anti-imperialist resistance of the working class, popular movements, and youth at the international level as a Federation must be our main task at this juncture. The advance of imperialism has resulted in its productive restructuring at the international level, undermining workers' rights in all countries of the world - except the socialist countries - by attacking sovereign countries with regular and mercenary armies, promoting occupations and genocide. This is not the imperialist policy of some countries which, if circumvented, will allow the full development of sovereign nations; it is the functioning of a totalizing system, the capitalist system in its higher phase.

Defeating imperialism is an important watchword of our Federation. But we must set ourselves the task of overthrowing capitalism, of building a new social, socialist order through revolutionary processes led by the proletariat in the various countries of the world. In Brazil and around the world, it is necessary, more than ever, to prepare the counter-hegemonic offensive in defense of socialist and communist ideals, for the Popular Power and Socialism.

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