

Adilson speech at the symposium

Thanks and customary greetings

Fellow colleagues,

It is a source of great pride and satisfaction for the CTB to be conducting this symposium in celebration of the 70th foundation anniversary of The World Federation of Trade Unions in São Paulo.

The FSM was born on October 3rd, 1945, after the Nazi fascism defeat, with the firm commitment, that stands till this day, to practice a classist unionism, true to the immediate and future interests of the working class against the capitalist system, against imperialist world order, against war, for the right of nations to self-determination, for peace, for the development of the poorest countries with sovereign and valorization of work and for socialism.

It Counters in this way (yesterday, today and forever), reformist oriented trade unionism, which focus on conciliation with imperialism, class collaboration, in capital-labor partnership and whose horizon does not cross the narrow boundaries of capitalism. This is the case of the International Trade Union Confederation (CSI).

For these and other reasons, sharing the same revolutionary and classista goals, the CTB decided to join the FSM early in its founding congress, held in December 2007.

In these decades of existence and struggle, the FSM has always maintained its coherence and advocated the broadest unity of workers, practicing proletarian internationalism and participating in wins and also the setbacks collected by our class in the course of countless battles.

FSM faced the neoliberal whirlwind that accompanied the historic defeat of socialism, symbolized by the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the dissolution of the USSR in 1991. Despite the blows suffered, remained standing, proud, anchored in the bases, the conceptions and class values, uncompromising opposing to capitalist exploitation and imperialist oppression, in the unwavering defense of socialism. It is a trajectory that can be considered, under different aspects, victorious.

However, many are the challenges facing our cause. Today, probably more than any other time in history, the active and strong presence of classist unionism and of our beloved FSM on the front lines of the class struggle is made necessary. We are living a unique, challenging moment, marked by the sharpening of the world capitalism crisis and the offensive of neoliberal and imperialism forces on the four corners of the planet.

The answer of the capitalists and capitalism to the crisis is the brutal rise in unemployment worldwide, the crunch of wages, cutting on labor rights and social security benefits conquered with much struggle, the dismantling of the so-called State of Social Welfare in Europe, wars fomented by the capitalist powers, the prospect of barbarism and neo-fascism.

It is this historical setting, clearly hostile to the working class and social movements, that now expects a clear and forceful response from classist unionism, an answer that can not be a capitulation to the hegemonic thinking or an illusory and harmful pursuit of reconciliation with capital.

I believe that our response can only aim in one direction, the uncompromising and relentless struggle in defense of social welfare, labor rights, employment, wages, health, education and quality public services, and more (not less) state investment.

In battles that concrete and immediate interests of the working class are at stake, is our duty to ensure unhesitatingly the strategic goal that guides us in this long war of classes. This goal, which the FSM never and will ever renege, is the final collapse of capitalism and imperialism. The rising of a new world order effectively democratic, solidary and peaceful. It is the achievement of socialism. From this we can not and will not give up. Ever!

No achievement of the proletariat will be preserved and no moves toward deeper social changes will come peacefully without reactions and ruptures, without defeating the bourgeoisie and destroying the ruling system. The socialist revolution is a historical necessity that, paradoxically, springs and germinates in the very crisis of capitalism as its opposite, its counterpart, its necessary negation.

But history also teaches us that the revolution is an art, it requires a theory (for without revolutionary theory there is no revolutionary movement, as Lenin demonstrated), as appropriate subjective conditions, for as great as it is the crisis of capitalism it does not automatically lead to its collapse and socialism.

On the contrary, experience suggests that the crisis can also lead to nazi fascist barbarism, as this was, after all, the outcome of the Great Depression triggered by the crash of the New York Stock Exchange in 1929. The rejuvenation of the extreme right in Europe and Latin America should be interpreted as a serious warning that historical possibility of barbarism gains strength and can not be underestimated.

The objective conditions, however given or under development, are not enough. It is necessary to work intensely in the creation of subjective conditions to enable a revolutionary, anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist output for the current crisis.

We know that these conditions are achieved by raising the consciousness of the working class, politically enlightening the people, for the effective and intelligent combination of class consciousness with the spontaneous movement of the masses, and the merger of the social movement with socialist consciousness.

We must recognize that we are still far from it and we face enormous obstacles in this direction, including the stubborn specter of socialism defeat and the everyday deconstruction and manipulation of consciences by the powerful bourgeois media. Nevertheless, we will continue on our path, intensifying the work of enlightenment, awareness and mobilization of our bases and accumulating forces in the struggle aimed at the final battle against the system.

We have the truth for companion and the unshakable conviction that capitalism in crisis has no future. The hegemony of the US imperialist order has worn out and is dying before our eyes. Let us strive, even more faithfully and harder, for a new democratic and peaceful world order, and for socialism. And as doing so, we will honor the 70th anniversary of FSM struggle.

Thank you!