



**WORLD PEACE COUNCIL
CONSEJO MUNDIAL DE LA PAZ
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**76 YEARS OF STRUGGLE FOR A WORLD OF PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE,
ON THE SIDE OF THE POOR AND THE OPPRESSED**

Opening Remarks by the President of WPC, Pallab Sengupta at

WPC Secretariat Meeting in Prague 10th May, 2026

Dear Comrades and Friends,

We warmly salute all participants of this important meeting of the Secretariat of the World Peace Council here in Prague. We express our sincere gratitude to the Czech Peace Movement for hosting us under challenging conditions, and we commend their steadfast commitment to the anti-imperialist peace movement at a time when reactionary forces are intensifying their attacks.

We meet on the eve of 9th May, the Day of the Anti-Fascist Victory of the Peoples. This historic anniversary marks the decisive defeat of fascism and the liberation of Europe, including Czechoslovakia, through the heroic sacrifices of the Soviet Union and the Red Army. We pay tribute to the 25 million Soviet citizens and all those who gave their lives in the struggle against fascism. Their sacrifice remains a beacon for our struggles today.

At the same time, we must firmly denounce the ongoing attempts by the European Union to falsify history—rebranding this day as “Europe Day” and equating fascism with communism. This distortion is not accidental; it aims to erase the revolutionary content of anti-fascist struggle and criminalize those forces that led the fight against fascism. The growing anti-communist campaigns across Europe, including threats against the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia, are part of this dangerous trend. We express our full solidarity with our Czech comrades.

Dear Comrades,

We are meeting in a period marked by profound instability and grave dangers for global peace. The sharpening contradictions of imperialism are intensifying conflicts across the world. The struggle for control over resources, markets, and spheres of influence is driving aggressive policies, wars, and interventions. The risk of a wider, even global, confrontation is real.

Military expenditure has reached unprecedented levels, approaching 2.9 trillion US dollars globally. The United States and its NATO allies account for the overwhelming share of this spending, while

millions of people across continents face poverty, rising prices, and deteriorating living conditions. This stark contrast reveals the true priorities of imperialism: war profits over human needs.

The war in Ukraine, now in its fifth year, continues to claim countless lives. The WPC's consistent position—that this is an imperialist conflict rooted in NATO expansion and geopolitical competition—has been vindicated. We oppose any violation of sovereignty, but we also clearly identify the broader imperialist framework that fuels this war. The refusal of the United States, NATO, and the European Union to pursue genuine negotiations, combined with sanctions and military escalation, prolongs the suffering of the peoples involved.

The consequences are deeply felt across Europe, where economic hardships are increasing. Sanctions policies serve corporate and strategic interests rather than the well-being of the people. The militarization of Europe, including massive financial allocations for war industries, is pushing the continent further away from peace.

Dear Comrades,

The Middle East remains a central theatre of imperialist aggression. At its heart lies the unresolved question of Palestine. For decades, the Palestinian people have endured occupation, displacement, and violence. The recent devastating attacks on Gaza and ongoing repression in the West Bank highlight the brutality of Israeli policies, carried out with the full backing of the United States and the complicity of the European Union.

The WPC reiterates its unwavering support for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state within the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Without justice for Palestine, there can be no lasting peace in the region.

The broader Middle East is engulfed in instability—from Syria's fragmentation to ongoing interventions targeting Iran and Lebanon. These conflicts are driven by imperialist ambitions to control energy resources, strategic routes, and geopolitical dominance. The danger of escalation into a wider war is acute, especially with increasing military deployments and aggressive actions by major powers.

Dear Comrades,

In Africa, the unresolved issue of Western Sahara continues to expose the hypocrisy of international institutions. The Sahrawi people are denied their legitimate right to self-determination, while powerful states ignore their own commitments.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, imperialist interference remains persistent. Cuba, a symbol of resistance and sovereignty, faces intensified aggression, economic blockade, and threats. The recent developments affecting Venezuela and the broader region further demonstrate the aggressive posture of US imperialism.

The WPC stands firmly in solidarity with the Cuban people and their revolution. We must strengthen international campaigns against the blockade and explore concrete initiatives, including exchange of delegations and coordinated actions, to express our support.

Dear Comrades and Friends,

In this complex and dangerous international context, the role of the World Peace Council becomes even more crucial. Our tasks are clear and urgent.

First, we must strengthen our ideological clarity and political unity. The anti-imperialist character of our struggle must remain at the center of all our activities. We must expose the real causes of wars and counter the propaganda that seeks to justify imperialist aggression.

Second, we must expand and deepen our organizational presence. This includes strengthening existing member organisations, building new partnerships, and extending our reach, particularly among youth, workers, and progressive movements. Europe, in particular, requires renewed efforts to counter militarization and anti-communist narratives.

Third, we must intensify our mass actions. Mobilizations, demonstrations, and solidarity campaigns must be coordinated at regional and international levels. Our voice must be heard clearly in the streets, in workplaces, and in public discourse.

Fourth, we must enhance our solidarity mechanisms. Whether it is Palestine, Cuba, Western Sahara, or other struggles, the WPC must act as a unifying force for international solidarity.

Finally, we must prepare for upcoming milestones, including the meetings in Montreal and the future World Assembly. These gatherings must serve not only as forums for discussion but as catalysts for action and organizational growth.

Dear Comrades,

The challenges before us are immense, but so is our collective strength. The history of our movement teaches us that the peoples, when united and organized, can defeat even the most powerful forces of oppression.

Let us use this meeting to deepen our analysis, strengthen our unity, and plan decisive actions. Let us honor the legacy of those who fought before us by advancing the struggle for peace, justice, and social progress.

The World Peace Council must rise to the demands of the time.