

Aware of our responsibility in a scenario of such magnitude, we decided to join our efforts to reflect and share, with colleagues and sister organizations, our concerns, our proposals and our suggestions for action.

For a new global governance based on universal rights and social justice

WORKERS facing the situation and the post-pandemic

We are experiencing a profound health crisis that is already bringing tragic economic and social consequences for humanity, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable parts of the world. The disconcerting dynamics inherent in the pandemic are added to situations that preceded the crisis in the multilateral sphere. The sum of these facts brings even more clarity about the vulnerability of neoliberal globalization and the lack of global governance.

This entire scenario exposed the social reality of our people, exposing vast invisible sectors, the most vulnerable, those who are not being covered by social protection mechanisms, become more visible and demand the attention they deserve. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), the total working hours will be 10.5% lower than before the crisis caused by COVID-19, which equates to the loss of more than 305 million full-time formal jobs.

As is characteristic of the current stage of capitalism, this crisis also affects women more dramatically, as well as minorities and vulnerable groups: blacks, young people, indigenous people, migrants, LGBTIQ + population and the elderly. The hegemonic economic sectors are already imposing more precarious work and the withdrawal of social rights. In fact, many have already used the pandemic as a pretext for lowering social protections and rights, and hunger and poverty are on the rise in many countries.

The conditions of production today take place in global supply chains already with millions of workers and subcontracted workers in precarious conditions or excluded from the labor markets. In this scenario where capital advances capturing democracies in favor of its interests, the automation that has already been taking place in several workplaces is challenging the working class.

The impacts of these technological advances will also be uneven depending on the position that countries occupy in the global supply chains, affecting more severely those countries where the level of development and access to new technologies is lower and where there is greater exploitation of workers, therefore generating more poverty in peripheral countries.

We come from decades of global hegemony of economic ultraliberalism, which preaches an individualist, anti-public, anti-state, anti-union and anti-social narrative. Neoliberal, far-right policies and coups d'état have led to numerous ruptures that attack and undermine democracy. The pandemic has also shown the rise of a growing nationalism that opposes the action of global cooperation needed to collectively confront this virus and its consequences.

The era inaugurated by the governments of Thatcher, Reagan and different dictatorships in Latin America, and later reinforced by the Washington consensus, kept many of its premises to the present day and underwent a mutation from a neoconservative "revolution" to a "pseudo progressive" liberalism generating thus, acceleration, never seen in history, of the enormous concentration of wealth and inequalities.

The expansion of financial speculation to the detriment of the real economy generated a global crisis in the economic system, which resulted in the loss of millions of jobs. The crisis generated by COVID-19 represents a new opportunity to change the course of these economic policies that proved to be failed.

The international financial system is preparing its strategies for the post-pandemic and we know that these strategies will come to concentrate even more wealth and income. It is important to remember that during the 2008 crisis, the states rescued the banks and after that, the banks again smothered the states.

Our first task remains to save lives and protect jobs and incomes. But at the same time, we have an urgent need to point out and build alternatives that are different from the proposals of those who command the system. Alternatives that pave paths that effectively leads to the promotion of greater social justice and the fight against inequalities and injustices.

We will achieve a fair reset only if everyone has a voice in defining the choices we will make to build another world that is still possible. Today, more than ever, this collective construction is necessary, since even commitments such as the 2030 Agenda are at risk and humanity is in danger of not being able to reverse the countless economic, environmental and social setbacks aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic .

There is a consensus that the world will not be the same after the pandemic, but this world could be better or much worse than the current one, depending on the correlation of forces that comes to be established. In this regard, we present proposals that must be implemented immediately to ensure that we can overcome the pandemic globally and promote social justice to people:

1. For the right to health as a human right and for the breaking of patents

- For the right to health as a human right and for the suspension of patents on vaccines and medicines against COVID-19. For the effective transfer of technology and supplies that allow the countries to produce much-needed vaccines and medicines. This should be done through the mechanisms provided for in national laws or within the World Trade Organization (WTO) with the guarantee of universal and immediate access to vaccines and other elements.

2. For another development model

- Sustainable development with effective democracy, fair transition and emergency measures to save lives, protect jobs and incomes. Industrial reconversion proposals that take into account sustainability and a production system that guarantees confrontation of the climate

and environmental crises that are caused precisely by the current production, consumption and distribution patterns;

- Necessary adjustments to the regulatory, fiscal and labor and social protection systems to include the excluded;

- End of privatizations and guarantee of quality and universal public services such as health and education; a State model with public investments that protect people and the cancellation and renegotiation of State debts so that payment crises do not limit the essential response to health and that does not undermine economic growth in a perspective of shared gains and not greater concentration of wealth or income.

- Fairer tax systems and creation of taxes on digital services for technology giants, big fortunes, financial transactions and big profits. No bailout financing should be provided to companies that continue to operate through tax havens.

3. For decent jobs and full rights

- Access to decent jobs, rights, social protection and income. For universal social safety nets and guaranteed minimum incomes. Immediately implement investment plans to recover millions of lost or at-risk jobs;

- Recognition of essential jobs, often unpaid or underpaid, such as those in the care economy and the guarantee of workers' rights in new forms of employment related to digitization and also teleworking.

- That technological advances result in a reduction in working hours with equal pay, maintaining employment and not in reducing jobs, precariousness and exclusion.

4. For a new global governance agreement

- Fulfillment of the commitments assumed by the States that allow for sustainable development. Change in the international order and a redefinition of multiculturalism along with a New Global Governance Agreement;

- Binding and efficient global agreements and instruments based on ILO standards and rights, such as freedom and union organization, in addition to collective bargaining to end human rights violations in global supply chains and the transnational agenda that only serve the interests of capital;

- End of embargoes and for the integration of peoples. The guarantee of human rights and peace scenarios is essential for a fair reset free from violence and wars.

- New rules of global trade framed in sustainable development, in the promotion of universal human rights and establishment of structures, policies, procedures and resources in all the agreements and treaties that are negotiated, that guarantee the concrete and effective participation of social partners and organized civil society.