Resolution on Proletarian Internationalism

Resolution of the 2nd plenum of the Communist Organization (KO)
Necessity of the international organization of the working class

Though the class struggle must first be settled within national borders – though the working classes of every land must first settle the score with their own respective bourgeoisie – the communist movement has always remained an international movement. This is due to imperialism's development as a global system, one that enforces the ever-increasing inclusion of the entire world into capitalist relations. The class enemy, the imperialist bourgeoisie, accordingly remains internationally organized – in spite of their inner contradictions and enduring national ties. Ultimately, the class struggle takes place on an international scale. It is for this reason that the necessity of the international organization of the working class remains.

Every nation finds itself with different circumstances and particularities that must always be taken into account in the practice of the communist parties. This however does not confirm the existence of differing “national paths” to socialism. The transition to socialism and the construction of a new mode of production are bound to historical principals – principals that can be scientifically identified and which must be respected regardless of national differentiation.

On the history of the international communist movement

With the founding of the Communist International (Comintern) in 1920, communists concurred that the development of the communist world-organization of the proletariat must be based on the struggle against opportunism. This means that the communist party must vigilantly fight for ideological clarity, and must have the ability to criticize, self-criticize, and correct mistakes that could otherwise develop into erroneous orientations in the class struggle. The communist parties worked together in the Comintern towards developing a collective strategic orientation. The Comintern was much more than simply the coordination between communist parties: it was a global proletarian party with binding resolutions that the national parties were to be unwavering in accomplishing. Such unity can only be achieved through the constant dialogue, exchange of experiences, and mutual criticism and self-criticism of the national parties. The open criticism between communist parties should not be seen as a weakness in the face of the enemy, but rather as a means for attaining a higher degree of political-ideological unity. The international discussion between communists regarding the direction and methods
of the proletarian revolution and of the construction of socialism is not relevant only to the communists themselves, but the working class as a whole. As communists ultimately need to hold themselves accountable for their decisions and actions to the working class, they cannot fear transparency in their positions and analyses, nor can they shy from opening these positions and analyses to discussion, or from criticizing other communist parties in the name of revolutionary international solidarity.

With the dissolution of the Comintern in 1943, the communist parties lost their most important tool for the curation of revolutionary unity on the world scale. The dissolution of the Communist Information Bureau (Cominform) in 1956 only further worsened the situation. Ideological divergences amongst the communist parties, as well as various forms of opportunism and revisionism, were able to take root and fester. In several of the largest and most important communist parties, this plague of opportunism was able to completely destroy adherence to Marxism-Leninism in favor of so-called “Eurocommunism.”

Current initiatives within the international communist movement

Since the 90s, there have been initiatives towards the exchange of communist and workers’ parties both regionally and internationally, for example the International Meeting of Communist and Workers Parties (IMCWP). In Europe, a similar forum for exchange can be found in the Meeting of European Communist Youth Organizations (MECYO). In 2009, the International Communist Review was founded, and has since been published annually in several languages, working as a collective means of discussion for a number of communist parties, providing a platform for the clarification of the important questions of the communist world movement. In 2013, the Initiative of Communist and Workers’ Parties began to provide a framework within which several European communist parties have been able to work together to answer questions concerning Europe and coordinate political direction. Today, even non-European parties take part in this exchange.

We of the Communist Organization have tasked ourselves with the construction of the communist party in Germany. In pursuit of this goal, we are organizing a scientific clarification process – one in which the history of the communist movement must be self-critically examined. Through the framework of the Initiative of Communist and Workers’ Parties and the International Communism
Review, we have observed initiatives in discussing the errors of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and those of other communist parties – especially after the second World War – and in what fashion these errors are related to the dissolution of the Comintern. We believe that these discussions are of immense importance and should be continued. We have also tasked ourselves with the organization of the German working class such that it is able to fight in the class struggle in a comprehensive sense. With the resolution of our General Assembly, we have set the stage for the organization of revolutionary praxis. Although the revolutionary struggle for the power of the working class is foremost fought on a national scale, history shows that this struggle can only be successful when internationally rooted and able to call upon analyses provided by the international communist movement. The Comintern, for example, developed in the 1930s a valuable criticism of the Communist Party of Germany, wherein incomplete bolschevization and the persistent effects of social-democratic traditions were identified. The findings of these analyses supply us with important knowledge to this day.

It is for these reasons that we assert that these forms of exchange between communist parties contribute greatly to the identification and abatement of the causes of crisis in the international communist movement. Discussions in these meetings aid in the determination of contradictions in such a way that they can be clarified and overcome. As clarity is the prerequisite for real unity, these exchanges are essential for the unification and reconstruction of the international communist movement on a revolutionary basis. We too seek to systematically study the analyses and positions of other communist parties, and to provide and develop our own perspectives and experiences in dialogue with the international communist movement. For this reason, the International Meeting of Communist and Workers Parties, the Meeting of European Communist Youth Organizations, the International Communist Review, and the Initiative of Communist and Workers’ Parties have our full support.