



I am honored to speak at the 18th congress of the WFTU, hosted by USB. the historical phase we are going through is really hard for workers, peoples and for us, the class unions, who fight every day to defend workers' rights and create a society without the exploitation of man on man and on the environment.

The economic crisis and inter-imperialist competition are opening up more and more dramatic scenarios. An economic crisis that is the crisis of the capitalist model, which no longer finds margins for valorisation. It is the MPC (capitalist mode of production) that has reached its limit: the conditions for a growth adequate to the size of world capital and its need for valorisation are no more existent, unless we go towards a generalised war, with the threat of a nuclear breakout.

The only margins for growth come from an increasingly intensive exploitation of the workforce and the planet's shrinking natural resources, but also from the clash and competition between the great historical financial-economic-state blocs (the Western imperialist countries) and the Euro-Asian powers that are objectively antagonistic to the old Western bloc.

In this case, the aim is to take market shares, territories and labour by military force. The value chains, which have lengthened in recent years on an international level, are being redefined, redrawing the forms and perimeters of exploitation. A new scenario is emerging, which requires us to make an analytical effort to adapt our trade union organisations to the challenges imposed by the new era of competition between economic blocs that are being profoundly recomposed. This is the area in which the Unione Sindacale di Base is committed with its own research centre and a field investigation that accompanies our class work on a daily basis.

The ongoing war in Ukraine could escalate into a nuclear conflict at any time, as the capitalist mode of production does not provide for any alternative to competition, to its ultimate consequences, as the President of the European Commission Von Der Leyen reminded us when she said that the EU must stand up to a hyper-competitive world.

The pandemic is still claiming millions of victims worldwide, showing once again the brutality of capitalism. The health crisis was not caused by the virus, but by health systems dismantled in the name of profit and the criminal choice to keep all production facilities open in the name of profit.

Only those who chose to defend the health and lives of their citizens were able to contain the pandemic disaster. Cuba's socialism was the clearest example of a country that chose to protect the health of its citizens and the internationalist solidarity,

demonstrated by sending doctors to rich countries such as Italy. Along with these policies of humanity, Cuba has equipped itself with a public research and pharmaceutical system, capable of producing free vaccines for all its people.

In the new scenario of war, which is changing the features of international relations and the characteristics of production systems, the role of the WFTU and its affiliated unions is strategic.

In our country we have organised very tangible actions. The workers at the airport of Pisa, members of USB, refused to load weapons that should have been 'humanitarian' aid. So did the workers at the port of Genoa. An example immediately followed by the Greek port workers.

USB took to the streets all over Italy against the war, against sending weapons, against NATO.

The international class movement has historically been against war and today we clearly represent that position and that predisposition to conflict, which interprets the feelings of billions of people around the world.

In order to sustain the war effort, mature capitalist countries are forced to attack workers' rights even further, through additional wage reductions, by applying forms of work that are more and more akin to slavery, and in order to ensure this we are witnessing an increase in repression against those who struggle.

We class unions, united, fight in every country against war and the exploitation it engenders.

We must continue to connect our struggles, from the agricultural sectors to the industrial sectors, to the public sector, to the dockers. We must extend our struggles with ever greater strength, showing workers that capitalism, governments, and complicit unions are the enemies to fight against.

LOWER THE WEAPONS RAISE THE WAGES was the slogan of our strike and rally on April 22, an important day which saw workers and students united in the streets.

We need to strengthen the WFTU, working more and more in local and sector offices and carrying the flags of the international trade union organisation in all our struggles.

We have to strengthen and coordinate our trade union organisation, building common paths on general times and connecting the struggles in different countries because Indian farmers and Italian labourers live the same exploitation.

Viva internazionalismo

Viva 18 congresso

Viva FSM

USB / Cinzia Della Porta