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Nicosia Cyprus**



Political Declaration Of the 20th Assembly of WFDY

We, the representatives of the youth organizations that gathered from 3 – 6 December 2019 in Nicosia, Cyprus, on the occasion of the 20th Assembly of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) declare the following:

Preamble

- The World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY), as an anti-imperialist, progressive, democratic and massive international youth organization, continues to be active in the struggle of the youth and the peoples against imperialism which is the highest monopoly stage of capitalism. WFDY confirms its position to promote the unity, cooperation, organized action, solidarity and exchange of information and experiences of work and struggle among the progressive, anti-imperialist youth forces in different countries which, on the basis of equality and mutual respect for their autonomy, wish to coordinate their efforts to the satisfaction of the interests of youth and to make their contribution to the international solidarity and peace struggle. WFDY shall play an indispensable role on the struggle against imperialism, as the world system in which monopolies rule, and against all of its expressions that exploit and oppress the world youth: foreign interventions and occupations, fascism, nationalism, racism, xenophobia, exploitation and war, for the society of peace, international solidarity, social justice, democracy, independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and youth rights. WFDY plays a fundamental role in the reinforcement of the youth movement, for the dynamic of the organized and massive struggle, and for the political and social consciousness of young people, in which the collective construction of opinion, action and involvement of the Federation and its member organizations play a decisive role. Due to the ideals and values it embodies, WFDY forms a pattern for the anti-imperialist youth movement at world level, as the result of its entire historical struggle and convictions.
- Since the 19th Assembly of WFDY, which took place in November 2015 in Havana, Cuba, the reality has validated the accuracy of our then evaluations and decisions, despite the intensity and high velocity of developments on many occasions. WFDY reaches its 20th Assembly stronger and richer in experiences in the contemporary struggle for the rights and needs of the youth. Facing the old and new challenges in various countries and regions, confronting imperialism and its policies, rallying broader youth forces along with its organizations in the respective countries in order to fulfill the aspirations of the youth.



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The world in which we live

1. Over the last four years, the situation of the youth of the world has continued to develop negatively, confirming our analysis that the wellbeing of the peoples and youth is incompatible with imperialism, as it results from the decay and the absolute contradictions of the unfair and exploitative capitalist system, that ceaselessly magnifies poverty, exploitation of the workers, unemployment, wars, interventions, oppression, occupation and fascism.
2. The most characteristic example is that of the global capitalist economic crisis of the previous decade, which is visible on the intensification of the exploitation, a large increase of unemployment (particularly among the younger generations) and a substantial decrease of workers' purchasing power. The crisis is a result of the nature of capitalism; while tremendous wealth is produced by the more and more socialized production of the working class and the peoples, instead of being in their hands, it rests in the hands of the big capitalist monopolies. Following the beginning of the crisis, the forces of capital in every country and the and their political representatives around the world rushed to place the burden of the crisis on the shoulders of the workers by intensifying their attacks on the workers' rights and on the Public Sector and services. The capitalist crisis led to the intensification of the imperialistic aggression during the last years. The recovery of the economy that followed was built upon the ashes of the peoples' rights, while the inter-imperialist antagonisms are still sharpening to ensure a sustainable economic growth leaving the possibility of a new economic crisis open.
3. Nowadays poverty affects over one billion human beings, many of whom live in conditions of extreme impoverishment, while others live in conditions of hidden poverty, due, to a large extent, to the increase of the exploitation of workers, to the partial or total elimination of social mechanisms of integration and to the privatization of public services. Alongside poverty, hunger, malnutrition, the lack of access to potable water and electricity also continue to affect millions of human beings in several parts of the world.
4. The access to education continues to be, for an increasing number of young people, just an uncatchable dream. The absence of consistent public infrastructure, in many countries, and the partial or total privatization of schools and universities, the destructive consequences that the imperialistic wars have inflicted on the infrastructure related to education in many countries in the world, leads to a situation in which only a small percentage of the young people all over the world can actually have full access to all levels of education without any sort of social economic barrier. Furthermore, education or the absence of it continues to be a tool of reproducing the dominant system and its ideology, creating armies of "obedient workers". At the same time, education fields are connected and oriented to the market needs, the quality and overall education is sacrificed in favor of the capital.
5. The general worsening of the living conditions has found no exception in the access to health. Health, as education, is targeted by the private capital in order to extract profit mainly through privatization of the public system and monopolizing of local private hospitals and health centers., a process which leaves Millions of young people around the world continue to live without the right to access to proper disease prevention or healing facilities. This denial of the right to health is not only done through policies that worsen infrastructures or the lack of social coverage, but also through the complicity of governments with the monopoly group of pharmaceutical companies that speculate and profit by attacking the public interest.



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6. Imperialism hits the whole planet as a global system, but the last few years have shown us once again that inequality between men and women increases as a consequence of it. Regarding the war conflicts, women and children compose 80% of the refugees and sexual violence is used in a systematic way as a weapon of war in the whole world. In addition to murder and sexual violence, inequality also has its expression in the form of economic violence, as women around the world have great difficulty accessing the labor market and, when they do, receive much lower incomes for doing the same work.

7. As a result of all the above and the facts of war, interventions, and occupations over the last four years, migration and the number of refugees has increased. It is important to underline that the ruling classes use the labor force of immigrants to intensify the exploitation of the workers. It is also important to point out that the controllers of the system who launch the most xenophobic policies and messages against immigrants, are actually those who are in control of the violence and the aggressiveness that are responsible for making thousands of people (mostly youngsters) refugees. This is another expression of the cruelty of imperialism which, along with the repressive policies of the European Union kill (sometimes actually murdering), every year, thousands of people whose only "crime" was to search for better living conditions.

8. The sharpening of the inter-imperialist antagonisms led to further militarization. Vast amounts of money are being invested in the renewal of armies, weaponry, research for new and more advanced weapons, nuclear weapons and arsenals, promotion of conflicts, occupations and the conducting of imperialist wars investing in military weaponry is a historical and well-established way of the capital to overcome the capitalist crisis.

9. The support of extreme right-wing forces, fascism and fascist groups and its criminal action along with the promotion of anti-communism by imperialism is more and more visible, trying to create pressure in one hand and to insure a tool of chaos in another. That is destabilizing the countries where fascist forces have reached, threatening its integrity, sovereignty, and unity. Social discrimination and discrimination policies are used against those parts of the society who suffer the most pressure.



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Imperialism: number one enemy of the youth and peoples

10. The anti-imperialist struggle and solidarity, remains our number one priority. We struggle for the *“further development of youth generation in the spirit of peace and international friendship and to support the noble principles of the Charter of the United Nations”* Our struggle is based on our understanding of the way that the international imperialist system works. Since the last General Assembly of WFDY, we still witness the aggression of the imperialist system, as they manifest internally and externally: the sharpening of the conflicts between imperialist powers; mainly between EU and US the increased internationalization of capital; the spreading of monopolies and big corporations, in line with the shifting of control of the markets, wealth resources, transportation roads of Energy and commodities; the imperialist interventions against the peoples and the sovereignty of their countries; and the more frequent implementation of reactionary policies against the rights of the peoples and the youth.

11. The attacks against the rights of the peoples and especially the youth, such as the attack against the right to work and work with rights, to life with dignity, to health care, to education, are directly related to the attacks against the sovereignty of independent states, by military threats, occupations, by the oppression of any democratic forces and fundamental human rights. These attacks are interrelated in the fact that they all serve the same interests and ultimate goal, which is the expansion of the global and domestic dominations of the ruling economic monopolies.

12. Imperialism is a global system where imperialist forces take part, and hold their respective position according to their economic, political and military force. This position is given in the imperialist pyramid and through this they demand for their monopolies the best share, participating in a process of balancing and antagonizing, moving up and down the pyramid with the changes of the correlation of forces

13. The capitalist classes of all countries and the political forces serving their interests are all organic parts of the international imperialist system, caring relations of exploitation. Their alliances, temporary or long-term, their participation and dependence in imperialist organisms, such as NATO, EU, IMF the World Bank and/or other regional alliances, aim at serving more successfully the interests of the ruling classes. That is why they must be targeted by anti-imperialist struggle.

14. WFDY and its members reaffirm their support to all the peoples and youth of the world who have suffered and are still suffering from imperialist intervention, with catastrophic consequences: the sovereignty of countries undermined and threatened; people shedding their blood for the interests of the imperialists; millions driven away from their homelands in search of refuge, facing the world one of the biggest refugee crisis of modern history; development, self-determination and the right of the people to manage their countries wealth and resources prevented; fundamental human rights being suppressed.

15. WFDY has been supporting the right of people to choose on their own the path of development in their countries and a loyal supporter of the people who demand democracy, peace, freedom and the respect of their sovereignty, independence and integrity and opposes all the attempts of imperialism, direct or indirect, to intervene.

16. The youth of the world must deepen the fight against the development of the current arm race. The expansion and reinforcement of NATO forces and its new strategic concept that allows for interventions, under any pretext, in the internal developments of other countries, as a police patrol of the imperialist interests, reaffirms NATO as the deadliest killing machine of our world, not only because of its seven decades of death



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and destruction, but also because of its intentions of future interventions. Additionally, NATO is aiming at expanding its influence through "Partnership for Peace" using countries such as strategic shield zones or spearheads for attacks against peoples. EU cooperation with NATO reveals its character as an imperialist union for the establishment and training of armed forces, which act against "extremism" on the inside and outside of the borders (Euro force, FRONTEX), aiming first and foremost against all those fighting to defend the rights of the peoples, against imperialism. Today the demand of the youth for dissolution of NATO is more needed than ever. We support the right of the peoples to fight for the disengagement of their country from any imperialistic alliance.

17. The EU, USA and NATO are key players in the rapid escalation of the militarization of the world, which can rapidly develop into a large-scale conflict, with nuclear or other highly sophisticated weapons, of unpredictable consequences for the future of mankind. History has revealed that the ruling classes will not hesitate to commit any crime against the peoples, using interventions and even nuclear arms to promote their economic and political interests, when the competition is sharpened.

18. Fascism is a tool in the hands of the capitalist class and of imperialism, to ensure its domination, even by tearing apart the most fundamental democratic rights of the people and of the youth. Despite the different faces and forms of fascist or fundamentalist movements around the world, all their actions are against the peoples. Additionally, the powerful centers internationally and in the EU are systematically trying to falsify the historical truth, by equating communism with fascism, using an anti-communism propaganda. Today, we fight against fascist ideology and against its supporters, alongside all forces, who place themselves with the people in defense of freedom, democracy and peace. At the same time, many states are carrying out a repressive and racist escalation which, although we cannot classify as fascism, they do not hesitate to take elements from the extreme right to defend the interests of the ruling class.

19. The dominant mass media continue to play an important role as a means to impose the principles and values of the dominant ideology and to manipulate the peoples and youth of the world. The systemic media (television, cinema, radio, internet and social media) are a huge investment of the major economic groups to keep passing the messages that defend the system and tries to suppress any action: that there is no alternative to the policies imposed, that there is no point struggling against these policies; and that the system does whatever is necessary, even by justifying wars.

20. It is a necessity to reinforce our anti-imperialist struggle in national, regional and international level, which is, today more than ever, linked with our struggle for the world without wars, occupation, exploitation, oppression, crisis, unemployment, poverty.



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Let's defeat imperialism for a world of peace, solidarity and social transformation

21. Despite the worsening of the conditions created by imperialism and its contradictions, its defeat is inevitable due to its own nature. The dead ends of the system create some of the most reactionary forces, but also, they give space for the resistance struggle and advance of the revolutionary, progressive antiimperialist and peace forces. It is in this respect that WFDY and its allies celebrated the 19th World Festival of Youth and Students, held in Sochi, Russia, in November of 2017. One hundred years after the Great October Socialist Revolution, which proved that the people can create a new society based on their own interests and aspirations, 25000 delegates, participants and volunteers from Russia and all around the world gathered to share their goals and struggles. Under the slogan "For Peace, Solidarity and Social Justice, We struggle against imperialism - Honouring our past we build the future", we opened a discussion on the needs for change and presented our perspective on the anti-imperialist struggle. The Festival process, taking place for more than a year, gave us the chance to promote our message, despite from the difficulties. It is vital for WFDY to push forward the continuations of WFYS in order to promote our revolutionary agenda by securing its anti-imperialist character but also to interact with broader youth movements which identify themselves with the principles that have always guided WFDY.

22. The Federation continued its international activity with massive events and important meetings such as the solidarity mission in Syria and the 2nd solidarity mission in Venezuela. Through the Festival and other activities we reinforced our cooperation with the other important anti-imperialist movements as the Women's International Democratic Federation, the World Peace Council and the World Federation of Trade Unions. We must commit to the strengthening of our ties and that, together with us, our allies are growing stronger and more fit in our common battle for peace, for rights, for social and national emancipation, against imperialist exploitation and oppression.

23. It is true that the more organized decisive protest movements of the past have lost their previous dynamic. One of the reasons is the ideological warfare of the capitalists against popular organizational structures like trade unions for example. Another reason among others is the globalisation of the market that strengthens the capitalist's negotiation position. Despite all this, we can still see the rise of various monothematic and other movements. Sometimes these movements are so important, despite their lack of organization (sometimes they develop even a so called "apolitical" approach), that they are claimed from various fractions of the bourgeoisie or foreign interests to promote their own agenda. Our role as the progressive forces to guide the popular frustration and demands is becoming more and more obvious. The importance to establish structures of organized and consistent struggle that will creatively interact with the mobilised masses cannot be stressed enough.

24. The ongoing struggles of the youth, of the workers and the popular strata provide us the hope and the courage to continue. We support the important manifestations of the youth, popular and anti-imperialist struggle that continue to take place all over the world. The road for real freedom is directly connected with the strengthening of organized class struggle that will aim to establish a real power of the people.

25. In many countries we have seen that the popular struggle has created the conditions to achieve some important improvements of their living conditions. This effort shows the possibilities that could arise in the occasion that the power passed in the hands of the peoples and the means of production became their own property, creating the field for international relations based on justice, mutual cooperation and solidarity. At the same time, we have to take into consideration the attacks that these efforts faced and not have dilussions



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for their limits. The resistance to these attacks is of great importance, as it is vital to strengthen the popular initiative, to deepen the processes of popular power and to use the struggle for these achievements as a mean to a higher end and not to consider the achievements an end in itself.

26. The continuation of the struggle of the peoples and youth in the countries under military intervention and occupation, under blockade and threats of aggression by imperialism represents a strong inspiration for everyday battles in all countries. We rally alongside those peoples and their youth and firmly stand in solidarity with them.

27. At the same time, we recognize the important struggles of the youth in specific demands. The incorporation of more and more young workers in the workers' movement has been an essential part for its struggles for workers' rights. The students' movement has been a birthplace of struggles and political development for the youth, when standing by the side of the interests of the popular strata. The powerful and massive struggles of students for access education has an important impact in many countries, even some with the most reactionary governments. Furthermore, the engagement of the youth in other expressions of struggle, as the issues of housing that affects especially young people, and the right to health, among others, represent a positive development.

28. At the same time, there are movements that some try to present them as less close to the political issue of power. Most important of these movements is the environmental movement which includes many young people. We need to put effort to push them towards the understanding and questioning of the real causes and roots of catastrophe which is the capitalist way of production and react accordingly. The defense of an ecologically balanced environment and of own conditions of life is incompatible with the monopolies for profits. To struggle and negotiate about dying later rather than sooner, just in order to maintain a catastrophic system, cannot be an option.

29. The struggle to overcome the exploitation and oppression by revolutionary means keeps being one of the main objectives of the anti-imperialist youth of the world. Through the organization, awareness and mobilization of the youth, in the heat of the struggle of the working people remains the only guarantee of the advancement in the transformation of our concrete realities. The anti-imperialist struggle of the youth, of WFDY and its members is our own only-way. The replacement of war with lasting peace and the peaceful co-existence of the peoples; of poverty and misery with wellbeing; of unemployment with the right of work and education for all; all these demand the replacement of imperialism, with another social-economic system more progressed where the fundamental means of production will be in the hands of the people and where economy is developed in the scope of the popular needs. This is the ground on which the peoples utilize for their own interest the produced wealth for the sake of the people. Under different conditions, the interests of the monopolies, will inevitably trap Humanity inside the endless cycle of capitalist crises and wars.



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Fortify WFDY, strengthen the anti-imperialist struggle, for a world of peace, solidarity and revolutionary social transformation!

30. The struggle against imperialism requires better and more capable organization at all levels, with international solidarity and coordination being no exception. In this sense, the reinforcement of WFDY is vital in our common struggle against imperialism: only a stronger WFDY will be capable of supporting the struggles given around the world by the youth in order to resist the imperialist offensive and to defeat all forms of oppression.

31. The reinforcement of WFDY requires the strengthening of the intervention of each of its member organizations and of their connection with the youth in their respective countries and also their deepen commitment to the work and needs of the Federation. All organizations should respond to the calls for action of WFDY for both external aspects (implementation of campaigns, mobilization for activities, etc.) and internal matters (mobilization for meetings, payment of membership fees, etc.).

32. In line with that, we must continue having regular meetings of the leadership bodies of WFDY (CC and GC), as well as to make these bodies more collectively responsible for the decision making, implementing and evaluating process. Moreover, each member organization's individual responsibility is underlined, and each organization will be called -wherever possible- to assume specific tasks to the CC/HQ as part of their condition of member of the leadership (CC or GC) of the Federation. This process demands that the CC/HQ pays special attention to the balanced division of tasks, but also that the remaining members of WFDY leadership continuously enquire the CC/HQ how they can be useful, so that coordinated action is taken. Similarly, other member-organisations, which are not part of CC or GC, can also be asked to assume specific tasks at the request of the leadership.

33. During the last few years we have made a great effort to update the status and activity of the organizations that are part of the WFDY. This is an essential pillar for organizational strengthening, which must be followed by a process of contacts with anti-imperialist organizations that are working in places where we are not present. If imperialism strikes hard all over the world, the WFDY must be present to organize the anti-imperialist response of the peoples.

34. To continue strengthening WFDY, it is necessary to keep paying special attention to the work of the regional commissions of WFDY. Regular meetings in all regions must be prioritized for the coming years, while trying to be more closely related with developing stronger capability of initiative of each regional commission. The realization of activities such as conferences, camps, seminars and campaigns at regional level, articulated with the initiative of each organization is encouraged as a way to take advantage of the potential of WFDY's structure combined with the geographical proximity of the members of each given region. The consolidation of these guidelines requires the need for better and more efficient coordination between the central work of WFDY (CC/HQ) and each one of the five regional commissions.

35. The reinforcement of WFDY needs the continuation of measures to ensure financial health, through the reducing of unnecessary expenses, but mainly through the increase of its income. The regular payment of the membership fees by all members, together with the imperative increase in the contribution of the organizations that enjoy better financial health based on the principle "from each one, according to its possibilities", are key aspects for WFDY to be able to keep pushing forward its anti-imperialist action free of any pressure or dependence upon outside bodies. WFDY's prestige and worldwide action can be used for potential sources of income and contributions for the International Fund of the Democratic youth and other



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forms of cooperation that are in line and within the principles and priorities of WFDY. These complementary guidelines for action should be taken in mind and are further developed in the Financial Report.

36. Building on the positive aspects of the 19thWFYS and on the conclusions reached as well, all WFDY members, in coordination with the CC/HQ, should do their very best to ensure the continuation of the Festival's Movement, paying a huge deal of attention to finding the proper host for the 20thWFYS. As the recent past has shown, WFDY should not be obsessed with time frames or artificial criteria, instead the most important is that, whenever and wherever the 20thWFYS takes place, represents a step forward in the rich and glorious tradition of anti-imperialist, broad-based, self-financed and massive Festivals that WFDY has in the past organized. It is important that the youth should be the pioneers for the movement of the WFYS and that activities, procedures and decisions about the WFYS shall remain in the bodies of the movement. Cooperation, and bilateral respect between the bodies must remain secured within the movement of the festival, based on the political position, principles and history of WFDY.

37. As part of the work of international solidarity, WFDY will continue to develop solid actions to spread that solidarity among all peoples of the world, particularly close to those that are more violently suffering the imperialist and oppression. WFDY solidarity and volunteer missions with the struggle of peoples against occupation, war, invasion, with self-determination, and the struggle of peoples to choose their own social way of development is a way of expressing WFDY role, duty, and presence among the youth of the world.

38. In addition to the WFYSs, the WFDY has historically organized thematic international forums and conferences on current issues for youth. These spaces are complementary to other seminars or activities of the Federation, as they aim to deepen specific topics with broad sectors of youth to reach the world our analysis. As we analyzed, in recent years, youth is taking a step forward in new challenges of struggle and that places us under the responsibility of making visible the analysis of anti-imperialist youth. We must assume the challenge of advancing in the reorganization of activities of this type.

39. The WFDY, with solidarity by flag, is always present in those countries that face the attacks of imperialism in a sharp way. This is part of our deeply internationalist character and we must continue to be prepared to mobilise where necessary. To this historic effort of ours we must add the will to advance in extending the International Brigades to the youth of the world, whom we must involve in preparation and participation. The beautiful task of bringing us closer to the peoples in struggle needs to reach out to all anti-imperialist youth.

40. In the coming years, having in mind the positive experiences of the recent past, WFDY will develop once again thematic campaigns. Depending on global developments in time, WFDY should be in the position to organize campaigns accordingly. Given the present international situation, the right of self-determination, the right of freedom, the rights of young workers, the migrants issue, women's rights, the right to public and quality education against the destruction of environment and for the right to public water and the struggle against militarization and imperialist interventions could be the themes developed in these campaigns, which target is to reach as many young people as possible, mobilizing them for their rights, and deepening the debate among WFDY member organizations and, therefore, WFDY itself.

41. To give expression to the intense activity of WFDY, we will continue publishing regularly bulletins and magazines. The member organizations of WFDY will be requested to contribute more to the contents and the publication of these materials. WFDY will continue publishing statements on outstanding issues of the international situation, focusing on the youth related matters. WFDY shall study ways to take even better



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advantage of the potentialities of the new technologies, thus improving even further the quality and dynamics of its website and social media. WFDY will make a digital space in its social media permanently available for text contributions of all its members on the matters we struggle for, helping to exchange and spread political analysis and campaigns that are happening all over the world, thus strengthening international solidarity. Furthermore, WFDY will continue to publish posters and other means of propaganda to promote its main activities and mobilize the youth for the struggle against imperialism.

42. WFDY will always use all means to be present among the anti-imperialist youth of the world, as the frontier of the struggle against imperialism and all its tools. Together with the anti-imperialist youth, WFDY will boost the challenge of being the alternative of the imperialist system that is leading the destruction of the world, struggling for a new international order of peace, social progress and cooperation.

43. WFDY will develop efforts to enhance the communication and coordination of work with its international partners, aiming at taking the cooperation to a higher level, where joint statements, actions and activities can be developed thus adding more value to an already rich and intense activity, continuing the path of increasing its international prestige.

44. Since its foundation, the WFDY has been at the forefront of the struggle for equality and has used the tools to do so. One of these tools is the Women's Commission, which makes more sense than ever with the enormous rise of women's struggles across the globe. We must make efforts to regain a dynamic space that serves to raise the voice of anti-imperialist young women to promote equality both within the WFDY and in our daily struggles.

45. Throughout the coming years, WFDY will continue to develop its relations with the UN and the UNESCO to take to the international platforms the voice of the youth and denouncing the hideous crimes of imperialism. We commit to work for the restoration of the consultative status of WFDY in ECOSOC and for the further involvement in UNESCO. In the framework of the Participation Program of the UNESCO, WFDY will continue to preserve its historical archive and patrimony, taking steps to make its contents a tool for the youth of the world in the development of the struggles ahead, on the same time that WFDY will have a clear position against the usage of the UN by USA and other states that they are aiming through the UN to impose their constitutional map.

46. Honoring the rich tradition left by the previous generations since 1945, as well as the struggle and position of WFDY through all these years, WFDY member organizations will never quit struggling against all forms of oppression, domination or discrimination, occupation, war, intervention, exploitation, racism, fascism, and destruction of life, against imperialism all its forms and tools. WFDY will forever stand by the youth in all its demands and struggles. Our banners and slogans are more than just flags in the wind, they represent the aspiration of millions of young people of all countries, cultural backgrounds and religious opinions of a world where peace, sovereignty, democracy, social progress and youth rights are reality at all levels. Despite the powerful enemy we have ahead of us, the imperialist world order, every day we receive signs that make us more and more optimistic, that the victory will be ours one day: all throughout the world the people, workers and youth are rising and leaving behind the feeling nothing can be done to change the world. When the peoples struggle united and organized, they are invincible, may we then fortify WFDY and strengthen the anti-imperialist struggle, for a world of peace, solidarity, cooperation, progress and revolutionary social transformation!