

Dear Friends of the French Peace Movement

Not being able to attend your national congress, taking into account the holding of the World Peace Assembly of the World Peace Council, in Ha Noi, Vietnam, the Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation greats the French Peace Movement and wishes the best success to your national congress in strengthening the cause of peace.

Thus, taking into account the convergent work that we have carried out, we would like to share with you some of our concerns with the complex international moment we are living.

The situation in Europe and in the World seriously worsened as a result of the increase to a more serious level of the policy of interference and aggression, used by USA, with their allies, to prevent the sovereign development of the peoples, including on what relates to their right to decide on their own path of development, to the sovereign use of their national resources and to an independent external policy.

A reality to which the economic and social impacts of the pandemic are added, namely in Europe, as a result of the implementation of policies and measures at the EU and national level that continued to heighten exploitation, social inequalities and promoted concentration of wealth.

The Biden Administration, despite tactical and circumstantial differences in its foreign policy, essentially maintained the strategy of imposing US global hegemony, exemplified in its efforts to expand military alliances and partnerships beyond of NATO, such as AUKUS or QUAD, to continue military aggressions and the imposition of economic blockades, to intensify the policy of confrontation against China and Russia – identified by the USA as its main targets –, with the danger of a confrontation of great proportions.

The NATO Summit in Madrid reaffirmed the bellicose and offensive nature of this military political bloc, with the increase in military expenditure, with its continuous expansion, with the prolongation of the war in Ukraine and the rejection of the necessary path of dialogue towards a negotiated solution to the conflict.

The militarization of the EU, whether or not complementary to NATO, represents more militarism, greater military expenditure, increasing interventionism and the threat of war, constituting an increased threat to peace.

It is worth noting the clear alignment of the European Union with the escalation of warmongering promoted by the USA and NATO, placing itself in a situation of subordination and dependence visà-vis the USA.

The instigation of war and the spiral of sanctions carried out by the USA, the EU and NATO are dragging the world into an even more serious economic and social situation.



Conselho Português para a Paz e Cooperação

Rua Rodrigo da Fonseca, $56-2^{\circ}$ 1250 -193 Lisboa, Portugal Tel. 21 386 33 75 / Fax 21 386 32 21 facebook.com/conselhopaz instagram.com/cppc_conselhopaz cppc.pt



It is urgent to reverse the course of militarism and confrontation, there is a necessity to develop initiatives that lead to a process of dialogue aiming to a negotiated solution of the Ukraine conflict, the answer to the problems of collective security and disarmament in Europe, the respect of the principles of the Charter of the UN and the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference.

The seriousness of the international situation and the dangers it entails highlights the importance and necessity of strengthening the struggle for peace.

We consider it is fundamental to defend the principles such as the peoples' right to self-determination, national sovereignty and independence, non-interference in the States' internal affairs. the peaceful solution of international conflicts, universal, simultaneous and controlled disarmament, the dissolution of political-military blocs, the cooperation among the peoples and countries for a new world order of peace and Humanity's emancipation and progress.

We consider it is fundamental to promote the convergence and unity of all consequent and broad forces for peace and social progress in a strong mobilization, whose strength and conviction is needed to continue to resist and to prevent new warmongering tragedies from occurring.

We consider that is also fundamental to continue and strengthen the solidarity, cooperation and the collective work between the different member organizations of the World Peace Council, to promote our common struggle for peace, sovereignty, social justice and progress, for a world free of oppression and war.

Once again we greet the French Peace Movement and wish the best success to your national congress in strengthening the cause of peace.

