

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**ALL INDIA PEACE AND SOLIDARITY ORGANISATION**  
**DOCUMENTS**  
**4-5 March, 2023**  
**Chandigarh, Punjab**

**National Conference**  
**All India Peace & Solidarity Organisation**  
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**Chandigarh Declaration**

1. AIPSO national conference being held at Chandigarh in its concluding session places before you the 'Chandigarh Declaration' which is for adoption after giving due consideration to the deliberations and discussions of the delegates on the political and organisational report and the distinguished guests. Thus the 'Chandigarh Declaration' is the summarized version of the accumulated thoughts embracing the perspective, perception and programme of our organization for the coming years. This document is an expression of the theme of this national conference, 'In defence of constitution, values, world peace and for anti-imperialism solidarity'.

2. This national conference is being held against the backdrop of some serious and ominous features witnessed both internationally and nationally.

**Internationally we witness:**

- An aggressive US imperialism which is launching a full spectrum dominance in every sphere;
- A policy of regime change in the name of 'US-mark democracy';
- Indulging terrorist outfits in different countries;
- Aggressive military exercises individually and along with various countries in different regions of the world;
- Stoking incessant hostility among neighbourly countries;
- Unleashing war either overtly or covertly through NATO;
- Trampling of human rights, violation of UN charter.

All these features are the a result of International Finance Capital's thirst for global dominance, endangering the values of non-interference, human rights, peaceful co-existence, and global harmony, etc.

**In our country, to our deep concern, we find:**

- Aggressive pursuance of neo-liberal policies, encouraging crony capitalism and the forces bent on imposing Hindutya ideology over-riding the syncretic characteristics of our society in respect of religion, caste, culture, language and ethnicity;
- Attack on our constitutional values;
- A shift in our foreign policy, away from the non-aligned, independent path;
- Attack on our federal structure, paving way for centralisation;
- Promotion of fissiparous and divisive tendencies and
- An unmitigated attack on the rights of our workers, farmers, women, youth, students, artists, intellectuals and various other progressive, patriotic, secular and democratic forces.

3. AIPSO is a pan-Indian organisation, as well as a contingent of the World Peace Council. It has a commitment towards ensuring peace among the people of our country and with the people of other countries. It has a commitment towards forging solidarity against the growing onslaught of imperialism. Fascist forces are once again rising their heads and are trying to penetrate deep into the very roots of our society. Global peace is in peril and solidarity is in jeopardy. Principles of social justice are at stake. While on the bleak side we see a rise in the rise of right-wing governments in most of the European Countries, on the brighter side we also find signs of optimism, particularly in Latin America, where Left and Centre-left governments are in power in at least ten countries.

To-day in nearly 50 conflict zones around the world, some one and half billion people live under the threat of violence. By 2030, 50-64 percent of the global poor will live in countries affected by fragility, conflicts and high levels of violence. This situation is caused mainly by US, the citadel of imperialism, which is deeply influenced by the military-industrial complex whose only greed is to amass profits and super profits by any means like armament sale. Unleashing wars, creating an atmosphere of socio-political and economic unrest, aiding and abetting violence, terrorism and war psychosis become the pervading features. War is disastrous to the entire people, but to US-imperialism, it is terribly profitable. So, the movement for peace and solidarity is a movement for pro-people policies, development, and planning in each country.

4. Israel had declared itself as a Jewish state. It has occupied and continues to occupy Palestinian land, curtails the democratic rights of Palestinians and kills them every day. Even their religious freedom is under attack. It is a shame that with such a country, India has entered into an alliance called I2U2 – India, Israel, UAE and US. On the other hand, our relations with our neighbours like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, China and now even Bhutan have got deteriorated.

5. This national conference expresses its concern at the inaction of imperialist powers to curtail climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Environmental issues like climate change are matters of concern for the existence of life – both of humankind and plants.

6. The ongoing Ukraine-Russian war is actually a war between Russia and NATO countries, since the latter are helping Ukraine to prolong and extend the war. This war has a devastating effect on people and a crippling effect on the economy of many countries, causing disturbances and even stoppages of the natural movement. AIPSO believes that war is no solution for any problem, rather it accentuates the problems.

7. We are deeply perturbed over the policy of our government for turning back the wheels of progress:

- Dismantling the State sector and disinvestment has now become the order of the day;
- Hindutva distortions are imposed upon our glorious freedom struggle;
- Mythology is replacing history and
- Superstition is replacing science.

Thus the country is taken backwards towards religious sectarianism, cultural nationalism, obscurantism, backwardness, superstition etc. This only means to drag people of the country away from scientific temper – to strengthen the base of fascistic forces. This helps the fascistic forces to create an environment where freedom of thought and expression are throttled, democratic set-up is shattered, division and dissension among different sections of people on the basis of caste, religious, food, dress are encouraged. Hatred and violence become pervasive decimating the federal structure of the country.

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In this present context, from the city of Chandigarh, we call upon the people of India to join and strengthen struggles:

- To defend Constitutional values;
- For a secular and democratic polity;
- For India's long standing non-aligned, independent foreign policy;
- For achieving peace, democracy, social justice,
- For strengthening solidarity with the people of Cuba, Palestine, Syria, Venezuela and other countries struggling for their just causes
- For an equitable global order.

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### **Developments since Raipur National Conference**

#### **A Report on What Was, What Is and What Should Be**

1. After three years of Raipur national conference we are meeting in Chandigarh for our national conference under theme “**In defence of Constitution values, World Peace and for Anti-imperialist Solidarity**”. This national conference assumes serious significance as it is taking place in a period of crucial importance in the world and our national history. We are grappled with an unprecedented urgency to address the most important issues that confront humanity today. International socio political and economic arena is intensely charged with the surging capitalist greed for profit and the imperialist lust for power and dominance. Fascistic forces, the tool of imperialism is surging again and trying to find its deep roots. Global peace is in peril. Principles of social justice are in jeopardy. National sovereignties are eroded and threatened in the process of the capitalist integration. Environmental degradation has assumed dangerously devastating dimension. The world is at the dangerous cross roads.

2. The Covid-19 pandemic threatened our health. War in Ukraine is threatening peace. Recession is threatening the economy. Climate change is threatening our very life. Hate, intolerance and sectarianism are threatening humanity. Turbulence is hence all around us.
3. Immediately after our National Conference in Raipur, the pandemic struck our shores. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), there have been 75,48,16,715 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 68,30,232 deaths globally, as of 7 February 2023. In our country, there have been 4,46,83,543 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 5,30,745 deaths, reported to WHO. The latest estimates suggest that 1,49,00,000 people died as a direct result of COVID-19 or from the pandemic's impact on health systems and society in 2020 and 2021. This estimate is nearly triple the officially reported COVID-19 deaths in the same period. About 84 per cent of these "excess deaths" are concentrated in South-East Asia, Europe and the Americas (as defined by WHO), and 68 per cent are in just 10 countries.
4. Instances of post-covid complications, deaths are being reported every other day. More than anything else, the pandemic shook us to the core.
5. The failure of the public health system was a worldwide feature. There were exceptions – oasis among the desert of desperation. Countries like Cuba, China, Vietnam and to an extent New Zealand were exceptions. Their robust public health system saved lives and people.
6. The pandemic also brought out nakedly the greed of corporates. Corporates that used public money for their research to develop vaccines, refused to share them with the most deserving, but poor and under-developed countries. Patents were invoked. Sanctions were imposed. Vaccine imperialism was practiced.
7. Countries with the highest incomes have been vaccinated 10 times faster than those with the lowest. As of 12 February 2023, only around 26.4 per cent of people in low-income countries had received at least one dose of a vaccine, compared with more than 80 per cent in high-income countries. In low-income countries, just 37 percent of healthcare workers had received a complete course of primary vaccination.
8. Engulfed by the pandemic, poor people were losing their lives and livelihoods. All the while, the pharma giants were reaping super-profits. The top 13 pharmaceutical companies reported huge revenue growth from 2020 to 2021, among them – BioNTech: 3,834.4 percent; Moderna: 2,199.1 percent and Pfizer 95.2 percent. Pfizer, BioNTech and Moderna made a combined profit of \$65,000 every minute! Indian pharmaceutical companies are not far behind – Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech made a profit of up to 2,000 percent and 4,000 percent, per every dose of vaccine they have sold.
9. It is not only the pharma companies that benefited from the pandemic. Technological giants like Amazon, Netflix, Facebook, Google, and Apple witnessed some of the biggest annual revenue increases during the pandemic. Amazon's profits increased by 220 percent, Google's by 162 percent, Netflix's by 88 percent and Apple more than double. All these companies that benefited from their workers labour are now in the forefront retrenching them in huge numbers. Amazon has retrenched more than 20,000 workers; Facebook and Uber 13 percent each; Zoom 15 percent; Twitter 50 percent and now Google is retrenching 6 percent of its workforce. All those losing jobs are joining lakhs of others who have lost their jobs during the pandemic and the economic turmoil. More than 200 million remain unemployed throughout the world and their numbers are ever increasing.
10. Poverty increased. Hunger increased, malnourishment increased, anemia increased. Children lost their education. Child labour increased. Overall, inequalities increased. The richest 1 per cent of the world have accumulated nearly twice as much wealth as the rest of the 99 per cent of world's population put together over the last 2 pandemic years. This richest 1 per cent cornered two-third of all new wealth worth \$42 trillion created since 2020. The fortunes of world billionaires are increasing by \$2.7 billion a day even as at least 1.7 billion workers live in countries where inflation is outpacing wages.
11. Let the statistics speak:

- In 2020, 100 million people were pushed into poverty by the COVID pandemic and 100 million more were affected by floods, storms and other climate-related disasters.
- Between 702 and 828 million people were affected by hunger in 2021. The number has grown by about 150 million since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic – 103 million more people between 2019 and 2020 and 46 million more in 2021.
- After remaining relatively unchanged since 2015, the prevalence of undernourishment jumped from 8.0 to 9.3 percent from 2019 to 2020 and rose in 2021 to 9.8 percent.
- Around 2.3 billion people in the world were moderately or severely food insecure in 2021, and 11.7 percent of the global population faced food insecurity at severe levels.
- In other words, an estimated 1 in 10 people worldwide are suffering from hunger. Nearly 1 in 3 (a staggering 2.3 billion people) were moderately or severely food insecure in 2021. This is an increase of almost 350 million people since the beginning of the pandemic.
- Globally in 2020, an estimated 22 percent of children under five years of age were stunted, 6.7 percent were wasted, and 5.7 percent were overweight.
- Almost 3.1 billion people could not afford a healthy diet in 2020. This is 112 million more than in 2019, reflecting the inflation in consumer food prices stemming from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures put in place to contain it.
- Worldwide, 160 million children (63 million girls and 97 million boys) were engaged in child labour at the beginning of 2020. This means, almost 1 out of 10 children engaged in child labour worldwide. Nearly half of them, involved in hazardous work. The latest evidence warns that, globally, 9 million additional children were pushed into child labour by the end of 2022. Many of these children who drop out of education are also pushed into child marriages.
- One thing should be clear here. Poverty, hunger, malnourishment, child labour, unemployment were there before the pandemic and are expected to continue even after the pandemic. Forecasts estimate that 75 million more people than expected prior to the pandemic will be living in extreme poverty. Pandemic had only added to the already existing turbulence in our lives. It is high time we demand the realisation of the right to health, right to food, which are integral to our right to life.
- Despite hopes that the world would emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 and food security would begin to improve, world hunger rose further in 2021. The increase in global hunger in 2021 reflects increased inequalities across and within countries.
- War in Ukraine is an addition to our already turbulent world. Rising food prices and the broader impacts of the war in Ukraine could push the number of people living in extreme poverty to 95 million. The outbreak of NATO-backed war in Ukraine poses an additional threat to food insecurity, with the potential to provoke a surge in levels of hunger and malnutrition, especially among the poorest and most vulnerable.
- Prior to the Ukraine crisis, international food prices were already high. In March 2022, global food prices were almost 30 per cent higher than in 2021. Soaring food prices threaten to increase global food insecurity.
- War forces people to flee from their beloved lands. By mid-2021, the number of people forced to flee their countries due to war, conflict, persecution, human rights violations, and events seriously disturbing public order had grown to 24.5 million, the highest absolute number on record. For every 100,000 people worldwide, 311 are refugees outside their country of origin. This is a 44 per cent rise from 2015.
- The ongoing war in Ukraine has created another refugee crisis in recent history. As of 23 May 2022, the movement of more than 6 million people from Ukraine to other countries has been registered, the majority of whom are women and children. In addition, at least 8 million people have been displaced inside the country to escape the conflict.

- Today, in nearly 50 conflict zones around the world, some one and a half billion people live under the threat of violence. By the end of 2020, more than 8.24 crore people fled war or persecution. By 2030, 50-64 per cent of the global poor will live in countries affected by fragility, conflicts, and high levels of violence.
- Neither the pandemic, nor the war benefit common people. It is the corporates once again that are reaping the benefits. There are a small number of companies in the highly consolidated armament industry that are reaping the rewards. Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Boeing and Northrop Grumman – all from the US – produce some of the most in-demand and expensive weapons being sent to Ukraine. The conflict has sent their stocks surging, with the share price of Northrop Grumman increasing 40 per cent by the end of 2022, while Lockheed Martin's was up by 37 per cent.
- Sales of arms and military services by the 100 largest companies in the armament industry reached \$592 billion in 2021, a 1.9 per cent increase compared with 2020 in real terms. Many of these corporates have larger sale value than every national defence budget, except the US and China.
- Total global military expenditure increased to reach \$2.1 trillion in 2021. The five largest spenders were the US, China, India, the UK and Russia, together accounting for 62 percent of expenditure. This was the seventh consecutive year that spending increased. Interestingly, even amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, world military spending hit record levels. This shows the inhuman character of the present system that puts corporates and their greed over people.
- The estimated economic cost of armed conflict, war and violence to the global economy in 2020 was \$14.96 trillion – in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms. This is equivalent to 11.6 per cent of the global GDP.
- The per-capita global military spending is approximately \$260 per person while, more than 800 million are living below the international poverty line with a per capita income less than \$1.9!
- These inequalities, deprivation of basic human rights is having a political cost. Right wing ecosystem is using the resultant discontent to divide people's unity in the name of religion, race, ethnicity, caste, etc. On the other hand, we are also witnessing increasing efforts to unite the people on their bread and butter issues and fight for justice, rights and life. The struggle of workers, farmers, women and youth in various countries point to this valuable lesson. Our country too is has seen such inspiring struggles – the year long farmers struggle and the various actions of the workers are some among them.
- Instead of spending on war and armaments, can this money be used to eradicate hunger, poverty and malnourishment? If done, the transformation would be tremendous. The money needed to ensure – no hunger: \$50 billion; good health: \$40 billion; quality education: \$40 billion and clean water and sanitation: \$30 billion – every year, till 2030. And \$100 billion to protect the earth from climate change.
- The world is on the brink of a climate catastrophe, and the window to avert it is closing rapidly. Increased heatwaves, droughts and floods caused by climate change are already affecting billions of people around the world and causing potentially irreversible changes in global ecosystems. Joshimath is a live instance of what would happen to Himalayas if environmental destruction is allowed to continue. With rising temperatures, the world is experiencing more and more extreme weather events with adverse social and economic consequences. Neither the rich countries nor the multinational corporations are willing to own up to their responsibility to protect planet Earth.
- If all the countries reduce their defence budget by just 2 percent for five years, \$1 trillion can be saved, which can be used to put an end to hunger, malnutrition, communicable diseases, ensure quality education and halt climate change. Will they? Questioning defence expenditure is not permitted. If one persists, they are branded 'anti-national'.

- The situation in our country is not much different. The propaganda all around us – 75 years after our independence – is we are in Amrit Kaal. But the reality is Andha Yug.
  - India is one of the most unequal countries in the world, according to the World Inequality Report 2022, which says that India stands out as a poor and very unequal with affluent elite.
  - More than 40 per cent of India's wealth is owned by mere 1 per cent. The total wealth of the 10 richest Indians was Rs. 27.52 lakh crores in 2022, a 32.8 per cent rise from 2021. The bottom 50 per cent of the population own a meagre 3 percent.
  - The total number of billionaires in India increased from 102 in 2020 to 166 in 2022. On the other hand, nearly 23 crore people – the highest in the world – live in poverty.
  - India's ranking in the Global Hunger Index has slipped from 101 out of 121 countries in 2021 to 107 in 2022.
  - India's rank in the United Nation's Human Development Index 2021-22 dropped to 132 out of 191 countries, from 131 last year. This is mainly because of the drop in life expectancy from 69.7 years last year to 67.2 in 2021-22.
  - The Global Gender Gap Report 2022 ranks India at 135 out of 146 countries.
  - In the economic participation and opportunity category, India is placed at 143 out of the 146 countries; only Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan are below India.
  - As for the health and survival sub index, India is at the very bottom, at the 146<sup>th</sup> position.
  - Based on data from 2020, India was classified as an 'electoral autocracy' from 2019. It has slipped from 90<sup>th</sup> position out of 180 countries in 2020 to 97<sup>th</sup> position, falling into the bottom 50 percent. Our country is now categorised as one of the top ten 'autocracies' in the world.
12. Satyameva Jayate! Truth has become scarce. Facts are no more sacred. The government is neither interested in speaking truth or allowing us to speak the truth. Those who dare to speak truth are arrested. Cases are filed. Prison awaits them.
  13. Those who believe in the Fundamental Rights guaranteed by our Constitution are targeted. Those who stand by the Preamble of our Constitution are under surveillance.
  14. The constitutional scheme of separation of powers is under attack. Judiciary is now being targeted. The government wants to influence the appointment of judges. This is an ominous signal, as it is on the judiciary that many people placed their trust and hope. They expect the judiciary to correct the government, when it acts in violation of the constitutional provisions.
  15. It is not only judiciary that is under attack. Federalism, another important facet of our constitution is also attacked. Governors are being used to impose central government views, often overriding the concerns of the states. Elected state governments, if they are not with the union government are particularly targeted. Various investigative agencies like the ED, CBI and others are unleashed to destabilise opposition parties and their governments. These moves are vitiating the entire political and democratic atmosphere in the country.
  16. Fiction is taking the place of fact. Mythology is replacing history. Superstitions are replacing science. The attack is not only on our past and present. It is on our future. The attack is on our common and shared traditions, common and shared values, common and shared heritage. Efforts are to divide us on the basis of our dress, customs, food, caste and religion. Hatred is spread. Intolerance is encouraged. Instead of patriotism, pseudo-nationalism is promoted.
  17. Dialogue is discouraged. Both within the country and outside. Our traditional friends like Palestine, no more remain so. Israel and the US are our best friends. New friendships are being forged with those who do not care for human rights, respect territorial integrity or sovereignty. They do not believe in the equality of all nations.
  18. Israel – that country which had declared itself as a Jewish State; that has occupied and continues to occupy Palestinian land; that kills Palestinian citizens everyday; that declared displaying Palestinian



flag as an act of terrorism. Israel, that country, where judicial independence is sought to be curtailed; religious freedom is under attack and no democratic rights exist for all those non-Jews residing in that country. It is with such a country we have entered into an alliance called I2U2 – India, Israel, UAE and US.

19. And US? A country, where black lives do not matter; a country that does not allow migrants; a country that is responsible for the birth of Al Qaeda, Taliban and all such terrorist, extremist outfits; a country that spent 93 percent of its time as a free country since 1776, waging war on other countries; a country that imposed sanctions on at least 32 countries because they are not ready to accept its dictates; a country that openly encourages coups and regime changes. US is a country that wants to strangulate Cuba; is responsible for the death of Che Guevara; tried to kill Fidel Castro more than 600 times; a country that is responsible for the death of more than 9,00,000 citizens in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and other such countries. US and Israel are friends and allies. Both of them share similar vision. But we don't. So we cannot align with these two countries.
20. AIPSO is not against the people of these countries. It is only against the policies of the governments and the system that guides these policies. For instance, the US wants to enforce its rules on the entire world. Depending on our government's compliance, the US has started building military alliances like the QUAD in Asia-Pacific region. Renaming this region as Indo-Pacific, the US wants to increase its military presence. AUKUS, is another example of its intent. Our government had entered into a deep embrace with the US. A string of defence agreements were signed which allow US, access to our defence, military and strategic assets. This seriously compromises our national security and sovereignty. It is ironical that a government that repeatedly talks about nationalism, is responsible for the weakening of our sovereignty!
21. Relations with our neighbours deteriorated – with Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, China and now even Bhutan. Along with truth, trust too has become scarce.
22. Things cannot be allowed to have a free fall. Turbulence has to end. The mighty British colonial power was brought to its knees by our united will and struggle. 75 years since, we need to once again rekindle that spirit.
23. We have fought for our country. We have freed our country. Now, we have to save our country. **For this peace is important. Solidarity is a priority. We have to strengthen our organization to meet the demands of the time.**

### **Our objectives and goals**

**AIPSO** is for solidarity with Palestine. Solidarity with Cuba. Solidarity with Venezuela....With all the fighting people of Latin America, Africa and the entire world.

**AIPSO** joins the fight for the protection of Mother Earth and against climate change.

**AIPSO** stands in solidarity with all those minorities who are facing persecution, threatened and are under attack in our country.

**AIPSO** stands in solidarity with all the women who are harassed, abused and treated as unequal.

**AIPSO** stands in solidarity with all the dalits and deprived sections of the society who are subjected to numerous atrocities and discrimination.

**AIPSO** stands in solidarity with the farmers and workers who are fighting for their rights and against corporate attacks.

**AIPSO** expresses its solidarity with the students and youth – our future – who are fighting against the NEP, for a better education and against unemployment demanding jobs for all.

**AIPSO** is for Equality of all – irrespective of their caste, religion, gender, nationality or region.

**AIPSO** is for Democracy – right to organise; right to express; right to dissent and the right to protest.

**AIPSO** is for Peace – a world where there no wars; a world where there are no reasons for a war; a world where there are no socio, economic, cultural and political inequalities that give rise to a war.

**AIPSO** promises to stand for the country, live for the people and fight for the future.

**AIPSO** believes that We Shall Overcome. And for this, we expend all our energies.

**24. The People United Shall Always Be Victorious**

## Our Organisation

1. Our last national conference was held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh on 3-5 January. After three years we are meeting in the National Conference of All India Peace & Solidarity Organisation at Chandigarh under the theme of **“In defence of Constitution values, World Peace and for Anti-imperialist Solidarity”** in a very disturbing background of international and national developments. The international developments are marked by imperialist aggressions, occupations, local wars, expansion of military bases, policy of regime change, right-wing and neo-liberal economic offensive world over and curtailment of democratic and human rights. In India too the developments are marked by ruthless attacks on all sections of the people mainly minorities, Dalits, Adivasis and ethnic minorities by the ruling BJP government as well as their policy of destroying the secular democratic polity of the country and unlimited concessions to the corporate houses, selling public sector units to them, destroying economic foundation of the country bringing different notorious legislations. Thus life of the Indian people became so miserable that can ultimately result in balkanization of our motherland.
2. The political report has explained all issues in details so the present report will deal with only organizational issues.
3. The last two years were marked with many upheavals. Covid-19 Pandemic has created havoc worldwide and people are still struggling to overcome its disastrous consequences on the economic, political and social life. Our organization also suffered a lot. We have lost many important leaders of our Organisation. Com. Lalit Surjan, Presidium member, Com. Fanish Singh and Com. Rajmohan Secretaries of AIPSO and along with them many activists left us during this period. Let us pay our tribute to all those who left us.
4. During this period, we had two executive meetings and three office bearers’ meeting through Zoom facilities, one physical meeting of the office bearers that was held in Puducherry and one General Council meeting was held in Jaipur, Rajasthan. That meeting finalized the membership target, division of responsibilities and decided to hold conferences in different states.
5. Many activities were held in Kerala, West Bengal, Telangana, Bihar, Puducherry, MP, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Manipur and other states. These activities show that organization is getting strengthened overcoming all odds of the covid period.
6. Till now many state conferences were held with broad participation. Manipur, MP, Bihar, Telangana, Tamilnadu, Rajasthan and Puducherry were already held with the basis of membership which is very positive sign for the organization. In some states like Delhi and Andhra Pradesh, conventions were held and convening committees were formed. An initiative was taken in Maharashtra to form a state unit there and a committee was elected in Mumbai. The conference of Punjab unit is taking place during this all India conference. Kerala and West Bengal have sought permission to defer their state conferences and the general council consented.
7. But what is common in majority of the states is that there is no district level organization excluding in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Kerala. West Bengal unit recently formed units in some districts. In future we have to overcome these weaknesses.
8. The positive development in the organization is the independent initiatives of our state level organizations. Bihar, Telengana, Kerala, West Bengal, Puducherry, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Manipur organized many activities apart from the call givens by the national centre.

### **Activities at the National Level**

9. Since the last national conference, AIPSO leadership could not organize many events and activities due to Covid Pandemic. The secretariat also extended its support and cooperation to other organisations particularly on the issue of solidarity with the people of Palestine, Cuba, Syria and Venezuela.
10. Few activities were organized on the issue of defending the secular democratic character of our country in many states on their own independent initiatives.
11. Using the presence of Che Guevara’s daughter Com. Aleida Guevara March and her daughter in India, from 17<sup>th</sup> January to 24<sup>th</sup> January, AIPSO and National Committee for Solidarity with Cuba organized many activities in solidarity with the people of Cuba. Huge mass meetings and other

activities were organized in Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Vijayawada and Delhi. This was a very successful programme. A big delegation from AIPSO and National Committee for Solidarity with Cuba also attended the Asia-Pacific Solidarity Meeting with Cuba held in Nepal.

### WPC Assembly in Vietnam

12. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Assembly of World Peace Council was successfully held in Vietnam from November 21 to 26, 2022 at Vietnam. It was attended by more than 150 delegates from 60 countries and different regional and international organisation.(Full report was distributed at Office bearers meeting at Chennai).
13. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Assembly of the WPC elected its new executive committee consisting of 40 organisations. At the first of the executive committee 13 member Secretariat got elected.
14. Pallab Sengupta, General Secretary of the AIPSO got elected as new President of World Peace Council, representing the organisation, while Thanassis Pafilis and Iraklis Tsavdaridis were re-elected unanimously to the post of General and Executive Secretary respectively, representing the Greece Peace Movement.

### Some important issues

#### Size of GC/Executive/ Office Bearers/ Secretariat

15. At our last General Council meeting held in Jaipur, we discussed and finalised our tasks to strengthen our organization by making some structural changes in decision making bodies, particularly its size at different levels, which did not yield any positive results. Rather they have created problems to run the organization.  
In this conference these issues have to be discussed and we have to follow the suggestions agreed in the office bearers meeting held in Chennai on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022. **That meeting agreed that the size of General Council will be 101, Executive 51 and Office bearers should not be more than 21.**

#### **Peace and solidarity**

16. This journal was playing a useful role in propagating our views on different issues and subjects. But unfortunately it is not coming out on regular basis. After the conference the secretariat should take appropriate decision so that journal comes out in a regular basis.

#### **Propaganda**

17. At present we do not have any propaganda mechanism. We should opt for better technologies available today for mass campaigning and projecting our views to grassroots level. We should use the digital platform for our propaganda. Though we already have started our own website, it is not regularly updated. Our journal also can be available in digital platform.

#### **Finance**

18. Finance is very important for an organisation like AIPSO to carry its day-to-day work as well as to organise its activities. The new committee has to discuss this issue seriously. Our experience shows that we can mobilise funds if we are active. The audited account will explain our income and expenditure in detail. Acute shortage of funds also limits our day to day activities and our mobility on national and international levels. AIPSO is now President of WPC and it means we have to take certain financial responsibilities. There is a big expectation from other member organisations about our leadership. But due to financial crisis we are not in a position to meet the expectations of our friends.
19. The positive development is that many of our state committees have started paying their membership fees. But it is not enough. We have to pay our membership fees to WPC and AIPSO on a regular basis. We have to have minimum **one crore rupees fixed deposit** for efficiently running the organization. Now we have fixed deposit of Rs.50 Lakh in the Bank. We have to take different measures to collect at least 50 lakh within this year (2023) through different activities.

#### **Central Office**

20. Moreover there is a new problem that has arisen with our central office at Asaf Ali Road, Delhi. It is a rented flat from the early sixties supposed to be used for residential purposes for AIPSO executives. After the death of Chitta Biswas, we are using this flat as our office. But on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2020 we received a letter from the Court that the owner has filed a case for vacating us on bona fide requirement. Though we have contested the case in the court, we are not sure about its outcome. Already a big amount of money has been paid for this purpose. If the case is lost, then we have to find an alternative office or to go for a permanent office of our own. That requires huge money. This issue has to be discussed seriously and thoroughly.

#### **Political Tasks**

1. To organise various forms of struggles against the communal, fascistic forces, in defence of the secular, democratic fabric of our society and Indian Constitution.
2. To redouble our solidarity activities with the people of Palestine, Cuba, Venezuela, Syria, Bolivia and other countries.
3. To take appropriate forms of activities in order to build friendly relations with neighbouring countries.
4. To organize annual cultural festival involving various cultural organisations devoted to the issue of peace, communal harmony and solidarity.
5. To have more joint activities with like-minded organisations on issues affecting common people.
6. To play a more active role in the activities of the WPC. To organise and co-organise more activities in India and the region.
7. To organize 11<sup>th</sup> India-Vietnam Friendship Festival in 2023.

#### **Organisational Tasks**

1. **To collect minimum Five Lakh membership of AIPSO in 2023. Membership campaign will start from 1<sup>st</sup> April and should be completed before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.**
2. To organise local conferences annually, district conferences once in every two years and state conference once in every four years on the basis of mass membership.
3. To have more frequent meetings of the Secretariat and other leading bodies of AIPSO at all levels.
4. To guarantee regular publication of "Peace and Solidarity" with useful content. To initiate a planned subscription campaign so that within six months we can have minimum five thousand subscribers.
5. For better coordination, the central office has to be upgraded with staff and modern office equipment. We have to update our own website ([www.aipso.org](http://www.aipso.org)) regularly and digital platforms for fast communications.
6. To select some comrades from now who will be ready to work full time for the organisation at all levels so that they can get some responsibility in the organisation after the next state and national level conference.
7. To take seriously the membership campaign not only in the cities, but also at the district level so that we can expand our organization.
8. **To have more diverse forms of activities involving all sections of the society in public places so that our message may reach wider masses.**
9. **To mobilize Rs.50 Lakh as the central fund before 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2023.**

## RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

### **Resolution on Palestine**

The National Conference of All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation (AIPSO) condemns the dastardly Israeli attacks on Palestinians. Israel is intent on the complete occupation of East Jerusalem, the entire Palestinian land and is encouraging Jewish settlements in areas inhabited by Palestinians. It had brutally attacked those who were protesting these attempts to forcefully expel residents and make way for Jewish settlements.

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The US' unilateral declaration of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, in contravention of various UN Resolutions has further emboldened the Israeli government. The Jewish State Law passed by the Israeli government further discriminates Palestinians in their own homeland. This Law complicates the process of finding a peaceful resolution of the Palestinian issue. In the past two months, Israeli forces have killed more than one Palestinian per day and injured many more who are peacefully demanding their right to reside in their homeland. These attacks are apart from the Israeli attacks on Gaza. Israel is refusing to give the Palestinian government their share of taxes, which is legitimately due to them and is collected from Palestinians in Israeli occupied areas. Israel is denying Palestinians access to water resources, farming lands, education, health care and even anti-covid vaccines.

The extreme-right wing led by Netanyahu, launched these attacks for furthering its Zionist agenda of expelling Palestinians from their homeland and converting Israel into a theocratic State. Peace cannot prevail in the region and the world unless Israel accepts and adheres to the two State solution with pre-1967 borders and East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine.

Israel is acting in gross violation of various resolutions passed by the UN and without any concern for the life and rights of Palestinians. The National Conference of AIPSO condemns these acts and calls upon the people to stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine. AIPSO demands the government of India to unequivocally express its support to the Palestinian cause and denounce Israeli acts of aggression.

In this background, it is imperative for us to stand in solidarity with Palestine. We should pressurise Indian government to break its military, defense and strategic ties with Israel and restate its commitment to the cause of Palestine.

The National Convention of the AIPSO, declares its unflinching solidarity with the cause of Palestine and will do all in its might to isolate Israel and ensure a just solution to Palestine is found – the establishment of a free and independent State of Palestine with pre-1967 borders and East Jerusalem as capital.

### **Resolution on Solidarity with Cuba**

The National Conference of All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation (AIPSO) expresses its unflinching solidarity with Cuba, a beacon of hope for humanity. In spite of its small size and geographical proximity to the US, Cuba is resisting imperialism and displaying a big heart with its internationalism.

Cuba has been subjected to an inhuman economic blockade for over sixty years, as well as covert and overt aggressions of all kinds by the US. The blockade has seriously impacted Cuban economic life, and the pandemic has aggravated the situation further. The US intensified the blockade on Cuba during the Covid pandemic in an effort to wreck the Cuban economy and destabilise the country. It had activated the Title III of the Helms-Burton Act and 243 additional measures were enacted to strangulate Cuba. The Cuban people are heroically confronting the blockade, which has been condemned almost unanimously by the international community. The US blockade is actually a crime against humanity. Despite these conditions, Cuba produced its own vaccines to combat Covid-19, and was at the forefront of international solidarity by sending its medical brigades to more than 50 countries in the world, including those in Europe. Instead of acknowledging these humanitarian actions of Cuba, it was unjustly declared as a State sponsoring terrorism, while the reality is that Cuba has suffered a lot from US sponsored terrorist activities.

AIPSO condemns the recent stepping up of the US aggression on Cuba which has lately been target of intensified hybrid attacks. Apart from the blockade and sanctions, the United States has stepped up its assault with a systematic, multimillion-dollar coordinated campaign on social networks, “fake news.” The corrupt paid news is trying to create the impression of a massive opposition to the revolutionary socialist government, and this despite the fact that the Cuban people have responded as they always do by taking to the streets in a massive defence of the Revolution.

AIPSO salutes the heroic people of Cuba and the Cuban Revolution that despite the genocidal blockade during all these decades is able to guarantee universal access to high standards of free medical care, education, social security, sports, music and culture.

The National Conference of AIPSO expresses its unflinching solidarity with the Cuban revolution, the Cuban socialist State and the people of Cuba.

### **Resolution Urging the Government of India to Have Better Ties with Neighboring Countries**

The All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation expresses its deep concern over the prevailing relations between India and its neighboring countries in the South Asian region. India traditionally enjoyed better relations with neighboring countries based on mutual respect and cooperation. The Gujaral Doctrine was the result of this mutual respect and a vision for a shared future which envisaged a closely connected South Asia upholding the values of peace, harmony and inclusive development of the South Asian region. However, relations between India and its neighbors have slipped and the region is missing the warmth of healthy relationship between countries which not only are connected through geography, but also through history, culture and languages.

Coming to the specific countries in the neighborhood, India is not in dialogue with Pakistan in the recent years and hostilities between the two countries have totally jeopardized the cooperative potential of organizations like SAARC. Our relations with Nepal have deteriorated to an extent that Nepal has raised issues of territory. With the rise of religious intolerance, Bangladesh is often demonized in public discourse. India's contribution in the Sri Lankan crisis were not meaningful and substantial. Our Afghanistan policy is inconsistent risking the age-old ties and investments India has made in the country. Our relations with Bhutan are not also up to potential. Peace and prosperity in South Asia is a must for environment needed to build solidarity in the Global South, especially since the region is home to two nuclear powers.

In recent years, aligning India's autonomous foreign policy choices with the US and its allies have contributed to India failing to take meaningful positions in the neighborhood. Another reason for not achieving the desired level of cooperation is looking at every issue with the China prism. India must regain its independent foreign policy and contribute to peace, stability, sustainable development and increased proximity in the South Asian region. The National Conference of the AIPSO urges upon the Government of India to immediately start meaningful dialogue with neighboring countries and resolve all impending issues through peaceful and diplomatic means. The National Conference of the AIPSO also urges upon the Government of India to intervene positively in the SAARC affairs, revive the crucial organization and lead the initiative to make South Asia a region of peace, prosperity and solidarity.

**Pallab Sengupta  
Vivek Sharma**

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**Office Bearers elected at AIPSO Chandigarh National Conference, 4-5 March, 2023**

**Advisory Council**

01. Yadav Reddy
02. Prof. Braj Kumar Pandey
03. Srikumar Mukherjee
04. G.Raghupal
05. Dr. Nara Singh
06. Binoy Viswam MP
07. C.P. Narayan Ex. MP
08. Rajib Banerjee
09. C. Sadasiv
10. Prof. Sonia Gupta
11. Jyotikrishna Chatterjee

**Office Bearers**

**Presidium**

- |                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| 01. Nilotpal Bose   | Centre    |
| 02. Pallab Sengupta | Centre    |
| 03. Rambabu Kumar   | Bihar     |
| 04. Didi Sudhakar   | Telangana |

**Vice Presidents**

- |                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| 05. R.L. Mudgil      | Punjab    |
| 06. Jaspal.S. Dapper | Punjab    |
| 07. Anil Kumar       | Kerala    |
| 08. Nageswar Rao     | Telangana |



09. Tipparthy Yadaiah   Telangana  
 10. Rabin Deb           West Bengal  
 11. Kunal Bagchi        West Bengal  
 12. Dr Ravindranath     Tamilnadu  
 13. Sarboday Sharma    Bihar  
 14. Prabir Banerjee     Centre
- General Secretaries**
15. Harchand Sinh Bhatt   Centre  
 16. R. Arun Kumar       Centre  
 17. Vacant               Centre
- Deputy General Secretary**
18. Sandosh Kumar MP    Centre  
 19. Saumendranath Bera (Anjan)Centre
- Secretaries:**
20. A. Arumuga NainarTamilnadu  
 21. Anish Ankur         Bihar  
 22. Adv. V.B. Binu       Kerala  
 23. Lovnit Thakur       Punjab  
 24. R. S. Zeevanandan Puducherry  
 25. KVL                 Telangana  
 26. P. khogendra        Manipur  
 27. Ms. Sunita Chaturvedi   Rajasthan  
 28. Arvind Porwal        MP  
 29. Binayak Bhattacharjee   West Bengal    New  
 30. Vineet Tewari        Centre  
 31. Biswarup Adhikary Centre/Office Secretary

- NB:1. Conference decided that 5 women comrades will be permanent invitee to the Executive Committee  
 2. After Delhi state conference three Comrades will be permanent invitee to the Executive Committee