



## **WORLD PEACE COUNCIL (WPC)**

### **“Peace is Everybody’s Business” - Frederic Joliot-Curie, Founder President, WPC**

The WORLD PEACE COUNCIL (WPC) is an anti-imperialist, democratic, independent and non-aligned international movement of mass action. It is an integral part of the world peace movement and acts in cooperation with other international and national movements. The WPC is the largest International Peace structure, based in more than 100 countries.

Since its creation in 1949-50, the WPC stood for peace, disarmament and global security; for national independence, economic and social justice and development, for protection of the environment, human rights and cultural heritage; solidarity with and support of those peoples and liberation movements fighting for the independence, sovereignty and integrity of their countries, and against imperialism.

The WPC has consistently adhered to the main principles and objectives laid down by its founders and is inspired by the UN charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

As an NGO member of the United Nations, the WPC cooperates with UNESCO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, ILO and other UN specialized agencies, special committees and departments; with the Non-Aligned Movement, the African Union, the League of Arab States and other inter-governmental bodies.

The WPC initiates and cooperates in actions to eliminate nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and to reduce conventional arms. It also acts in particular for the dissolution of military blocks and pacts; the dismantling of all military bases and the withdrawal of foreign troops; for social and economic development, the establishment of a new international economic order, a just solution of the problem of foreign debt; for the recognition of every nation’s freedom of choice; for the establishment of a new international information and communication order; in support of the liberation movements; for the settlement of regional conflicts on the basis of respect for the rights of the peoples to self-determination.

In its activities and structures, the WPC pursues the goal of equal participation of men and women. The WPC believes that the solution of global security problems is possible by enlarging the popular movement and raising the level of public awareness.

## **PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES**

The guiding principles of and objectives of the Peace Council are:

Against Imperialist wars and occupation of sovereign countries and nations

Prohibition of all weapons of mass destruction and ending of the arms drive; abolition of foreign military bases; total and universal disarmament under effective international control;

Elimination of all forms of colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination;

Respect for the right of the peoples to sovereignty and independence, essential for the establishment of peace;  
Respect of the territorial integrity of states;  
Non-interference in the internal affairs of nations;  
Establishment of mutually beneficial trade and cultural relations based on friendship and mutual respect;  
Peaceful co-existence between states with different political systems;  
Negotiations instead of use of force in the settlement of differences between nations.  
Struggles for National Sovereignty

## **OVERCOMING THE ODDS**

The debacle of socialism in former Soviet Union and in East Europe and subsequent strengthening of imperialist hegemony made the situation difficult also for the peace movement around the globe. The World Peace Council suffered a lot. However, after the initial set back, attempts were made by the mid-1990s to rejuvenate the council.

### **Mexico Conference**

In 1994, a conference took place in Mexico, which was a landmark event, really, because the forces regrouped again, and a secretariat – which had disappeared – was approved, made up of the national committees from Japan, France, Portugal, Palestine and Cuba. In 2000, the headquarters of the WPC was shifted to the Capital of Greece, Athens.

### **WPC Assembly in Athens, Greece 2004**

In 2004, a significant development was the Assembly of WPC held in Athens on 6-9 May. More than 200 peace delegates from 80 countries participated in it.

The Athens Assembly elected a new Secretariat of the WPC with Orlando Fundora Lopez of Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples as President, Thanasis Pafilis, of Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace as General Secretary and with representatives from Japan, USA, Vietnam, Mexico, Portugal, France, Congo, Senegal, Egypt. AIPSO was elected Vice President of the WPC. It may be noted that between 1996 and 2004 no President was elected. Albertina Sisulu from South Africa was WPC President from 1993 to 1996.

### **WPC Executive Committee Meeting / Vietnam, Hanoi, November 19-20, 2007**

The World Peace Council (WPC) held successfully its Executive Committee meeting on November 19-20, 2007 in the capital of Vietnam, Hanoi.

Major item of its agenda, amongst other topics, was the holding of the next Assembly of the WPC, as the highest decision making body of the Organisation.

The Executive Committee decided unanimously to accept the readiness of Committee for International Solidarity (COSI) from Venezuela to host the WPC Assembly and World Peace Conference to be held on 8-13 April, 2008, in Caracas, Venezuela.

Following organizations participated in the Executive Committee Meeting in Hanoi: Vietnam Peace Committee, Cuban Movement for Peace and the sovereignty of the Peoples, Greek Committee for international Détente and Peace, Committee for International Solidarity (Venezuela), Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation, Mexican movement for Peace and Development, Movement for Peace and Solidarity (Argentina), Japan Peace Committee, Bangladesh Peace Council, Brazilian Center for the struggle for Peace and Solidarity of the Peoples, US Peace Council, Congo Peace Committee, OSPAAAL Spain, All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation, Syrian Peace Committee, Korean National Peace Committee, German Peace Council, Spanish Committee for the defense of Solidarity and Peace, Sri

Lanka Peace Council, Lao Peace and Solidarity Committee, Mongolian Union for Friendship and Peace and AAPSO as guest.

### **Asia Pacific Regional Conference of the WPC /New Delhi, India, February15-16, 2008**

The Asian Regional Consultative Meeting of the World Peace Council hosted by AIPSO was held in New Delhi on 15-16 February 2008. Delegations from Bangladesh, DPR of Korea, Laos, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and India. Thanassis Pafilis, General Secretary of WPC attended this meeting.

### **WPC Assembly in Caracas, Venezuela 2008**

After Athens, the next WPC Assembly and World Peace Conference was held in Caracas, Venezuela (8-13 April 2008). The Venezuelan 'Committee for International Solidarity' (COSI) hosted the Assembly and Conference, where more than 280 peace delegates from 123 organizations from 83 countries participated in it. We organized attached to the Assembly a broad World Peace Conference, in which many hundreds of participants from Venezuela and the whole world participated. Dozens of personalities and intellectuals, representatives from peace movements, youth and students' organizations, trade unions, women organizations, etc. attended the World Peace Conference.

The Caracas Assembly elected Mrs. Socorro Gomes of Brazil (Brazilian Center for the Solidarity with the Peoples and the Struggle for Peace CEBRAPAZ) the new President of the WPC. Orlando Fundora Lopez was elected President of Honour.

Mr. Athanasios Pafilis of Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace EEDYE and Member of the Greek Parliament was elected General Secretary. Mr. Iraklis Tsavdaridis of Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace EEDYE was elected Executive Secretary.

Following organizations were elected to the WPC Executive Committee: MOVPAZ Cuba, CPPC Portugal, Peace Council Germany, Committee for Peace and Solidarity Palestine, AIPSO, National Peace Council of Syria, Peace Council USA, Congo Peace Committee, South African Peace Initiative, Vietnam Peace Committee and Japan Peace Committee.

### **WPC Assembly in Kathmandu, Nepal, 2012**

The last WPC Assembly and World Peace Conference was held from 20 to 23 July 2012 at Kathmandu, Nepal with the theme "Let's Strengthen Peoples' Struggle for Peace against Imperialists' War and Exploitation". Hosted by the Nepal Peace & Solidarity Council (NPSC), the Assembly was attended by nearly 150 delegates from 52 countries. The Assembly was inaugurated by Mr. Madhab Nepal, former Prime Minister of Nepal.

The Assembly on 22 July re-elected Mrs. Socorro Gomes, Mr. Athanasios Pafilis and Mr. Iraklis Tsavdaridis respectively as President, General Secretary and Executive Secretary of the WPC.

### **PRESIDENTS OF THE WPC**

Frédéric Joliot-Curie from France (1950–1958)

John Desmond Bernal from U.K. (1959–1965)

Isabelle Blume from Belgium (1965–1969)

Romesh Chandra from India (General Secretary in 1966-1977; President in 1977-1990)

Evangelos Maheras from Greece (1990–1993)  
Albertina Sisulu from South Africa (1993–1996)  
Between 1996 and 2004 no President was elected  
Orlando Fundora López from Cuba (2004–2008)  
Socorro Gomes from Brazil (elected April 2008, reelected July 2012)

## **PUBLICATION**

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