

INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION DOCUMENT



Theme: In Praise of Communism

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to locate our struggle for socialism in the broader international arena. The paper will therefore reflect on the international balance of forces, how these have drastically changed in the last decade destabilizing the unipolar world and creating a multi-polar world.

To build socialism and attain the National Democratic Revolution as our vision as Communists cannot only be a national struggle, but should be seen as a struggle to defeat capitalism and create a global socialist system. Building socialism should not only be confined to the borders of South Africa, however should be organically built within the African continent, the South and globally through a strong left force internationally that we as Communists in South Africa need to contribute in building. Our struggles are not divorced to international struggles and international solidarity. As we wage international struggles, it is crucial though to link it with our historical struggle against apartheid and colonialism whose context was based on the struggle against class, national and gender oppression.

This section of the report will analyse the *global balance of forces* as they relate to the different continents, with specific attention given to China as an emerging superpower. This will also cover Africa extensively as we are part of this strategic continent which is engaged in the struggle against neo-colonialism and the dominance of neo-liberal ideology that has consistently reduced the role of the continent as barren land waiting to be raped of its mineral resources by Western super-powers.. Lastly the paper will cover climate change and the global economic crisis and how these reflect a quest for alternatives to the neo-liberal ideology.

2. International Balance of Forces

2.1 Overview

Francis Fukuyama declared the 'end of history' after the collapse of the Soviet Bloc in the late 1980s. The apparent victory of global capitalism has spawned other triumphalist rhetoric extolling the virtues of capitalism. Thomas Friedman's *The world is Flat* belongs to this genre that do not conceive of a world beyond capitalism. According to the salesmen of global capitalism the end of the Soviet Union heralded a new era of unending prosperity for global capitalism. This was a world in which US dominance will go unchallenged and capitalism would penetrate many countries across the globe.

Twenty years later the triumphalism has given way to a pessimistic view as capitalism is in the midst of a serious global crisis. Unlike previous crises since the 1980s the epicenter of the global economic crisis is located in the developed North. While the US remains one of the remaining 'superpowers' at least in military terms, its power does not go unchallenged. Global balance of forces is much more fluid and highly contested in the current era. The ideology of neo-liberalism lies in tatters and only a stubborn free market ideologue believes in the virtues of

unfettered free market capitalism. We will highlight the following factors that constitute elements of a changed global situation:

- The growth of China as a counter-weight to US hegemony;
- New groups and alliances;
- The situation in Latin America; and
- The position of Africa; and
- The emergence of social movements and Left Forces

There are certain trends that can be observed that illustrate this and here we would mention four observations that we can make about these developments. These would not be put in any order of importance. We will start with the formation of new Groups: G20 of developing nations, G77, IBSA, and BRICS

2.2 The Growth of China as a counter-weight to US Hegemony

In the recent decades global politics has been characterized by a unipolar world with the US dominance in global politics and the economy being unchallenged. Post the fall of the Soviet Union and the fall of the Berlin Wall, the US has emerged as a global hegemony. This shift not only affected global governance but also had an onslaught on the ideology that had been purported by the Soviet Union and her allies which was communism. Countries in the periphery and the developing world who subscribed to this ideology got a serious blow in this regard as they now had to systematically and structurally demonise communism like it was being demonized in the metropole, where the centre of power was now held.

The remnants of this can be easily observed in some African countries in particular such as Tanzania, Ghana and Mozambique whom in the early post-colonial period attempted to construct a socialist state. This shift has also seen many Communist Parties of the world changing their names to reflect the moderate stance to fit these developments. The hegemony of the US is however currently being challenged as we are witnessing the reconfiguration of global power.

Also in the past decade we have seen the emergence of China economically. China is now the second largest economy in the world. The US and China are becoming mutually dependent. China has helped curb inflation in the US. China's US dollar reserves is 10% of the US GDP, it has loaned the US trillions of dollars as America is highly indebted. This is also done through China buying America's Treasury bonds. China is the top holder of US Treasury bills, with \$692.2bn worth of the securities recently followed by Japan with \$578.3bn, according to the latest official data from Washington by the end of 2009. China is the fastest growing major economy.

It is the largest exporter (especially of finished goods) and the second largest importer (especially of raw materials). In nominal terms it has the largest GDP, and like the US it has a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council. This has caused America not to be the only dominant player as China has now begun to occupy a key positioning in the global

economy alongside the US. Although the US still remains a superpower and continue to do so for some time, especially its dependence of military power and investment, China is beginning to gain much political and economical leverage in comparison.

We are also witnessing more global players from the East-Asia. In other words Asia as a region is now playing a key role in the global economy and global politics, bringing about challenges to the dominance of the West. This we have observed with the growing economies of China, India and other Asian countries like South Korea and Singapore. Japan which is part of the G8 still remains strong economically as well notwithstanding the challenges brought about by the global economic crisis. Although Asia is showing immense progress in economic power it is showing little progress in soft power as reflected by other human endeavors like culture, science and technology.

The other challenges that face Asia are the challenges of corruption, inequality and environmental degradation and mismanagement. China and India as key growing economic powers in Asia given their large consumer markets, needs to acquire geopolitical power which is commensurate with their growing economic clout. The challenge to these would be the domestic related political issues that also include the neighboring countries. These have to do with issues of governance and issues of instability in the region. In this era therefore the East is bringing a counterbalance to the geopolitics and geo- economics that had seen the dominance of the West.

2.3 Emergence of new Groups and alliance

This phenomenon of new groupings is challenging the hegemony and the power that the G8 had enjoyed for years, which saw the supremacy of the West in global policy formulation, in crafting global programs and in defining the paradigm for development. Although the class character and power relations of the new groupings remain questionable, the fact though is that these groupings represent contestation of power relations to the hegemony of the G8. The G20 consist of developing world countries and it was born out of dissatisfaction with the trade regime that benefited the developed world. BRIC consists of Brazil, Russia, India and China. The four countries combined occupy more than 25% of the world's land and has more than 40% of the world's population.

The forecast made about BRIC is that its economic power will surpass that of the G7 in the decades to come. The predictions are that this would take place in 2027 and some predictions are that this would take place in 2050. In its first summit held in 2009, BRIC made a declaration that called for the establishment of an equitable, democratic and multi-polar global world-order. This pronouncement challenges the hegemony of the West to the core. IBSA is one of the trilaterals that are constituted by two members of BRIC, consisting of India, Brazil and South Africa. This trilateral has also served as a catalyst for South-South cooperation.

This cooperation has taken the form of political coordination, sectoral cooperation, IBSA Fund for the alleviation of poverty and hunger, and involvement of others actors of society who are not government. These groups are constituted in non-conventional ways and some countries's participation overlaps in several groupings, which then make the formulae of how these groups are constituted to be somewhat fluid. However what is key is the strategic nature of these groupings. BRIC for instance represents countries that have the endowment of natural resources and the manufacturing sector. In short, these groups also represent a new balance of

power as they are creating several centers of power. South Africa has expressed interest and made formal presentations to be part of the club of BRIC.

As Communists what is key for us is to analyse these alliances and ensure that their form and content is driven by the agenda of the working class and the poor and not maintain the status quo of the world order replacing them with different players. This route would definitely compete with the commercial interest held by some. The new alliance should reflect a change of values compared to the values that underpinned the former Groupings like the G8, which reflected exclusion of the developing countries, domination of the neo-liberal ideology and the political and economical hegemony of the West globally. Although it is clear that there is no common ideology shared amongst the new groupings, South Africa's position and practice should be to promote the African agenda, the interests of the developing countries with bias on the working class and the poor.

2.4 Latin America

We then have Latin American countries, whose governments are currently dominated by the Left, which has witnessed more left-leaning leaders elected into power. Since 2000 most countries in Latin America have been voting left. These have been observed in Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Ecuador and Venezuela. Latin America had had a history of military and dictatorship rule which was anti left and funded by the US in the past. The US had built a military base in Paraguay, 200km from Bolivia and also had military presence in Colombia. However the resurgence of the left in Latin America has made the Latin America to have autonomous geopolitical force not only in the Americas but also in the world order. It has ceased to serve as the backyard of the US as it was perceived in the past. These developments have challenged the hegemony of the US in the region.

The political parties of the left and the indigenous people's movement, although not necessarily homogenous, have brought about these changes. The challenge though in this region is the relationship between the left Parties and the indigenous people's movement. The differences are caused by the divergent objectives, while the objectives of the left Parties is economic growth and control of the natural resources, the concern of the indigenous movements have been more about environmental degradation caused by developmental projects that also involve the exploitation of the natural resources.

Latin America has made progress when it comes to interaction of Progressive Left Parties and organizations. An example of this is the Sao Paulo Forum which consists of Parties from Latin America and the Caribbean. The Forum was established after 1990, launched by the Brazilian workers Party with the objective of engaging the new international scenario post the fall of the Berlin Wall and the consequences of the implementation of the neo-liberal policies by the rightwing governments of the region at the time with the aim of coming with alternatives to this neo-liberal agenda.

The Bolivarian Revolution as a philosophy is driving the political and economic trajectory of a number of countries in Latin America and the islands like Venezuela, Cuba, Honduras, Ecuador, Bolivia, Barbuda, Antigua, Dominica, Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The Bolivarian philosophy named after the liberator Bolivar, is a democratic form of democratic socialism that repels perceived imperialism and rewards nationalism while promoting self-sufficiency of the nation as a whole.

The Bolivarian Alternative for the People of Our America (ALBA) was launched in 2004 by Venezuela and Cuba as an alternative to the US backed 'Free Trade Area of the Americas'. By June the same year, the group had grown to nine members and the name was changed to Bolivarian Alliance for the People of our America. It could be described as a trade bloc that does things differently, advancing economic growth not through the free market but through government intervention, welfare and social reform. This reflects how far Latin America has moved in crafting for herself an alternative philosophy to the hegemonic neo-liberal ideology that had engulfed the world through the Washington consensus.

A progressive move had also recently taken place in Latin America with the formation of Banco Sur (Bank of the South). This is a monetary fund and lending organization established on September 26, 2009 by Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Venezuela with the start up capital of US\$20 billion. The plan is to have all Latin American countries to be part. The plan is to lend money to nations in the Americas for the construction of social programs and infrastructure. The formation of this Bank would cause a serious blow to the IMF and the World Bank as it will render these Bretton Wood institutions redundant. Countries involved have been advised to contribute an equitable share of seed capital to avoid dominance of one country by the other.

The Bank was formed due to the disapproval of the conditionalities that came with borrowing from the World Bank and IMF. It also seeks to attain regional independence and endogenous development. The insistence by Venezuela to withdraw from the IMF and encourage other members to do so has witnessed Brazil and Argentina also refusing to borrow from the IMF. Borrowing from IMF has fallen dramatically between 2005 and 2008. In 2005, Latin America made up 80% of the IMF's lending portfolio. By 2007 that had dropped dramatically to 1%. These are radical blows to the hegemony of the neo-liberal ideology of the West and the question is what can the Communists learn and adapt from this revolution taking place in the Latin America Financial system.

2.6 The Position of Africa

Africa is a continent endowed with mineral and agricultural resources. Historically and currently, the political economy of Africa had been characterized by the exportation of raw materials and the importation of manufactured products by the colonial and imperial powers. This legacy of colonial capitalism still remains and poses a challenge to most African countries whose economic structures were built on these historical colonial economic structures. Over and above this Africa has a plethora of other geopolitical challenges created by the legacy of colonialism, the ruling elite and the metropole, which has a bearing on Africa's development. Africa has recently been earmarked globally as a new market, This is both an opportunity, a challenge and risk for the continent.

Southern Africa as a region is relatively stable, notwithstanding the socioeconomic challenges and the challenge of consolidating democracy. Central Africa is volatile. There is a challenge of creating and maintaining stability in the Great Lakes. Also here the challenge is to manage the resource driven international agenda. When it comes to the East and the North of Africa, these countries are also engulfed by instability, conflict, weak and failed state such as Somalia. Although West Africa is somewhat stable with pockets of instability, it is fragile, particularly on issues such as cross-border and organised crime cartels.

North Africa is also relatively stable, however with questionable governance with examples of leadership that has hereditary. Different regions in Africa also share common challenges as more often than not regions had a common colonizer. However the question of unity is also key as links between former colonizers and the colonized still contribute to divisions amongst African countries. A case would be the Anglophone and the Francophone. The form and shape of colonization also has an impact on the approach to be used to undo the past.

Post her independence a number of African leaders adopted what was widely known as African socialism. One of the protagonists of African socialism was Nkwame Nkrumah, who put socialism in the context of the spirit of traditional African society that promoted communalism. It saw a confluence of egalitarianism, humanism, communalism combined with the teachings of Karl Marx, Engels and Lenin. It was therefore a synthesis of the modern philosophy reconciled with African traditional values. Nkruma believed in the kind of African communism that would have to be homegrown, taking into consideration the uniqueness of the country and its environment. These and influences of Communist countries like Russia, China, Cuba and North Korea contributed to the ideological base of political and economic regimes of a number of the newly independent Africa states. These culminated in for example Ujama by Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Humanism by Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, negritude by Leopold Senghor of Senegal, Harambee movement in Kenya.

This was even more appealing at the time as it also meant a break from the imperialist's ideology of capitalism that had subjugated the people of Africa for centuries. The question we should be asking ourselves as young communists is what happened to African Socialism. We are aware that post this period, neoliberal ideology gained hegemony in Sub Sahara Africa imposed by the World Bank and the IMF through conditionalities that came with structural adjustment programs (SAP's). SAP policies were about cutting on social expenditure by developing nations, deregulation of the market and a minimalist role of the state in the allocation of resources.

These were imposed as a one size fit all for all the African countries that were indebted to the IMF and the World Bank. SAP conditionalities only plunged African countries into worse economic and political turmoil. The question is what currently occupies the ideological space of Africa and whether the Communists in the Continent are making a concerted effort to provide direction in this regard. What we have observed is that some Africa leaders still purport to subscribe to socialism, notwithstanding that they implement a free market economy. This is a reflection of a vacuum of ideology that needs special attention and it would be counterrevolutionary to leave this to chance.

This ideological vacuum has a causal-effect relationship with the disjointed and uncoordinated measures of addressing the colonial legacy political economy of Africa. As mentioned, the political economy of Africa had been characterized by exports of raw materials and importing manufactured goods. Central to the African developmental paradigm and program, is value add and local content policies enacted. Nigeria for instance is one of the biggest oil producing countries in Africa, however have not exploited this resource fully by expanding its petrochemical industry and the downstream sectors in general.

Africa accounts for approximately 10% of oil production in the world. It is the biggest cocoa producer in the world. Africa is endowed with a plethora of natural resources, ranging from mineral resources, agricultural resources, biodiversity resources etc. and the question that Communist should engage themselves in is how best can these resources be utilized to serve the interest of the working class and the poor. Championing this ideal of dealing with the imperial and colonial legacy of the Africa's political economy and the consolidation of a left

hegemony in Africa needs left forces to unite and to develop interventions needed. We have seen the leadership role of the South African Communist Party (SACP) in uniting the left forces in Africa and beginning to shape a left platform within the continent through programmes such as ALNEF.

The SACP has hosted over the past few years important gatherings of the left in Africa. There was hosting of the African Participatory Democracy Conferences and the hosting of the 1st Africa Left Network Forum (ALNEF). Also in December of 2010 has seen the hosting of the 12th International meeting of Communist and workers Parties (ICWP), held in Africa for the first time with the theme *'The deepening systemic crisis of capitalism. The tasks of Communists in defense of sovereignty, deepening social alliances, strengthening the anti-imperialist front in the struggle for peace, progress and Socialism'*.

This is the reflection of the leadership role that the SACP have assumed in Africa which should be consolidated and sustained. Also in December South Africa for the first time will be hosting the World Federation of Democratic Youth's (WFDY) 17th World Festival of Youth and Students under the theme ' Lets defeat imperialism, for a world of peace, solidarity and social transformation. The role of the Young Communist League in this Festival cannot be overemphasized in creating networks with the African left and the left in the world to advance the struggle for socialism and further sharpen the contradictions of the capitalism system.

Africa cannot develop the left forums and develop a progressive ideology, however if she has weak institutions, this will pose a greater challenge. Also the institutions of Africa need to be remodeled in both form and content to serve the interest of the working class and the poor. This should also go for Africa's Regional bodies and Continental bodies like the African Union, the Pan African Parliament, and the sub regional bodies like SADC, Marghreb, ECOWAS, EAC, COMESA, and IGAD etc.

China's Role in Africa

The dominance of China and her presence in Africa is at its highest. With China's growing appetite and the need for natural resources to match her fast growing economy, China has immensely increased its presence in Africa. China has skillfully done this without repeating the mistakes that the European colonizers did. Mugabe has recently been quoted as saying *'We have turned east where the sun rises, and given our backs to the West where the sun sets'*.

The President of Senegal Abdoulaye Wade in the EU-Africa Summit in Lisbon in December 2007 said *'Today it is very clear that Europe is close to losing the battle of competition in Africa'*. This is clear confirmation of the move to the East by Africa, and China in particular. There are several factors that are attributed to this move by African leaders to set their eyes on the East: unfulfilled promises, hypocrisy, double standards and self righteous control of the West. In the recent history as has been alluded, the imperialist tool in the form of the World Bank and the IMF has misled Africa.

With this scenario China offers what can be viewed as a different approach. One of the other common factors that the West has been best in doing has been the issues of using African leaders, turning them into despots and then dumping them. A case in history is Mobutu Sese Seko of the former Zaire, Jean Bokasa of the Central Republic and Ahijo of Cameroon are some of the few examples. Around these times countries like America offered protection and cultivated alliances with dictators like the worst African dictator, despot and personality cult

Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, Omar Bongo of Gabon, Obiang Nguema of Equatorial Guinea amongst others. The West has had a hand in the several coups and conflicts in the African region. Even in the recent history in the judicial system in South Africa, We saw the son of Margaret Thatcher, former British Prime Minister who was found guilty by the South African courts of planning a coup in Central Africa. The 1994 genocide of Rwanda was the culmination of seeds of artificial division between the Hutus and the Tutsis that were sowed by the West.

Some see the presence of China in Africa as a reflection of the current phase of a scramble for Africa. The *first phase* is seen as the phase of colonialism where mostly European powers struggled amongst themselves to control colonies in Africa for their economic ends during the Industrial Revolution. The *second phase* of the scramble is seen as the period of the cold war where there was a war of ideologies between the US and Russia. The *third phase* is seen as the period of American domination in Africa, post the cold war after the fall of the Soviet Union, termed as the period of 'New World Order', which promoted the expansion of capitalism at the detriment of communism.

This was then seen to be followed by the China's presence in Africa which causing a paradigm shift, sparking debates about on world debates, also making African leaders to be bold, increasing the Africa's stakes in world politics, awakening the West about the true value of Africa, thus reawakening the new scramble for Africa in the world. What is crucial for Africa at this point is to use the leverage it has with these strengthened and strategic relations with China. Africa should position herself to benefit from this relationship so that she can improve the material conditions of the people of Africa and Africa's institutions in a systematic, organic and sustainable way.

The relationship with China should not be glorified without ensuring that it is mutually beneficial for all. Over and above this relationship with Africa, China has a strategic relationship with South Africa and South Africa should be able to apply the same approach that Africa should as it manages the relationship with China. Most recently in September 2010 the bilateral between South Africa and China culminated in the Beijing Declaration, Signing of agreements and the Memorandum of Understanding's. The agreements touch on several sectors like railways, power transmission, construction, mining, insurance, telecommunication and nuclear. The role of South Africa is important here because of South Africa's economic and political clout in Africa and the world and her strategic position to be a catalyst in changing the material conditions of the continent.

2.5 Emergence of Social Movement and left forces

There is a growing phenomenon of social movements. These are mostly found in Latin America as we have highlighted earlier. These social movements converge to challenge the current status quo of global policies. These range from economic and trade issues to environmental issues. Although they do not necessarily have a coherent class character, the social movements nevertheless have challenged the neo-liberal ideology which has been the dominant ideology of the hegemonic America and her allies of the West.

We have seen several huge protests when global meetings like the World Economic Forum, G8, Trade Rounds, and G20 of developed nations take place. These do not necessarily have the organizational strength but do have the strength of campaigning. The base for these social movements have been the World Social Forum which has seen participation and a convergence

of a range of social movements and progressive organs of civil society like the trade unions and the churches, under the slogan 'another world is possible'.

3. The Global Economic Crisis

The ideology of market fundamentalism which was seen as the 'only alternative' was directly responsible for the 2008 recession in many countries. The global financial crisis which had its roots in the Financial Institutions of the US and Europe saw the world being plunged into a global economic crisis that led to the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s. This financial crisis spilled over the real sector in a very negative way as consumption dropped leading to a drop in production and demand for goods and services and therefore a drop in income.

Exacerbating this also is that in some countries, the financial sector makes up a significant share of the GDP. Amongst other things, this crisis was caused by a flawed loan regime, under regulated financial sectors where money was created from the money that does not exist. Financial instruments that were used were twisted and unsustainable. This has led to the wiping out of companies whose worth is estimated at trillions USD. Financial Institutions had received huge bailouts from governments in the US and in Europe which was to ensure that these do not collapse.

This has gone against the neo-liberal fundamentals of free market capitalism. What is problematic is that these bailouts were only made to rescue the Financial Institutions who were responsible for the crisis and leave out the taxpayers who lost jobs, houses, livelihoods because of this credit crunch. Because of people now having lost trust in the system, in certain instances Governments have had to help Banks guarantee people's savings.

A number of European countries are now taking the route on cutting on social spending which has sparked strikes and protests by the working class mostly in the countries in Europe. We have witnessed protests in Britain, France and Greece. European Union Countries like Greece and Ireland have been hit hard by the financial crisis, struggling with their debts that led to them seeking bailouts. Spain, Italy and Portugal are also said to be likely to have the same challenges in the near future should investors lose more confidence. The working class and the poor are the ones who have paid for this crisis and still have to pay for it in these countries, as austerity measures are being imposed.

The thesis of '*there is no alternative*' (TINA) was based on the notion that 'there is no alternative' to the liberal ideology and that government should play a minimal role and leave the market to distribute resources, 'trickle down' approach. However we have seen the contrary with this crisis. The 'end of history' as espoused by Fukuyama has been proven to be unfounded and premature.

What is disconcerting though is that this has not fully brought the resurgence of socialism to the point where Marxist ideologues would feel vindicated. Market fundamentalism was seen as the

panacea for the world economy's problems. The continuous electoral victories by rightwing parties taking power in European countries are an example of this. We have seen this in Britain, France, and Sweden etc. The reality is that the neo-liberal discourse although discredited, still dominates the policy discourse and practice. The role of Communists is therefore to sharpen these contradictions in the policy and practice discourse globally and nationally.

This crisis has created fertile ground for the alternative to the neo-liberal ideology to thrive and has created more of a fertile ground for the socialist agenda to be pursued with less vigour in opposition, compared to the past few years. Regulations of the Financial system which includes regulation of speculation and capital flows is now gaining ground and should be consolidated.

There is a thesis that talks about triple crisis. This thesis argues that the crisis has not only been financial but that also it is a culmination of a climate change crisis and fuel crisis/energy crisis that has also led to a food crisis. To call it a triple crisis is also limited. This crisis has led to a multiple crisis scenario where the ecosystem, people's health, education and many other social challenges are at hand. This has led to high food costs which at times is a planned food crisis as in some instances crop production for food purposes has been replaced by production for bio fields to meet the unending energy needs. The poor who relied on remittances from those who work in prosperous countries have been highly affected by this also.

4. The Ecological Challenge and Climate Change

Climate change has taken a new turn in the recent years, with global warming accelerating because of the carbon emission that mainly come from fossil fuel. Industrialisation and economic growth have been going hand in hand with carbon emissions that are having a detrimental impact on the climate. If we continue at the route we are going, predictions are that some islands will even disappear in future because of the rising sea levels. The West and the rich countries are mainly responsible for this state of affairs as their industrialisation dependent largely on energy sources that were not environmentally friendly. However they are the ones who are resisting making commitments about change.

Issues of climate change and the measures that need to be taken have huge implication on jobs. An example of this is the mining sector, particularly coal mining. If new energy sources will be pursued, what we need to be talking about is the social impact with regards to the loss of jobs. There is a need to implement what has been widely called 'just transition'. Workers will need to be reskilled in order to be absorbed into new industries, for instance.

The alternatives are linked to the green economy, green jobs and these concepts are currently occupying the current public discourse. Others talk of a 'green new deal'. Linked to this is the issue of sustainable production and sustainable consumption. At the rate that things are going, we will plunge into more environmental problems if we continue at the current rate of production and consumption that the world, particularly the rich nation and emerging markets are going.

This has put the ecosystem under a lot of strain. Economic liberalization has always promoted unchecked and unlimited consumption not taking into cognizance the fact that resources are finite. Consideration for future generations has been ignored. Exponential growth which is not environmentally friendly cannot be sustainable.

What should be of concern for us is how the climate change regime looks like. At this point, the detrimental effects of climate change will mostly affect the developing nations, the working class and the poor. The Least Developed Countries will be hardly hit by this. What should also be of concern to us is the fact that the major polluters are less committed to making commitments to change this situation. Up till now, the United States of America, the worst polluter and emitter of carbon emissions is not a signatory of the Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol is the United National Convention on Climate Change whose objective is to fight global warming. The 2009 Copenhagen Summit on climate change which was supposed to come up with a legally binding agreement and a treaty to chart a way forward and commit countries with regards to dealing with climate change failed due to disagreements. This December the Climate Change Conference in Mexico is also less likely to come up with radical commitments as countries seem to be reneging on extending targets of the Kyoto Protocol. This is a clear indication of a capitalist system in crisis, prioritising profit over the environment and the people. Communists need to be able to wage these environmental struggles.

5. Progress Report on the YCL International Engagement

As part of our Vision 2010, the main task of the National Committee in International work was to forge solidarity with the peoples of the world who are still under colonialism or neo-colonialism, or whose states were persecuted due to their allegiance to or commitment towards a socialism futures, and those countries, especially in the African continent, are still experiencing political violence and dictatorships. The second task was to strengthen relations with various progressive forces in the world as part of deepening the principles of democracy, non-racism, gender equality and social justice. Through these tasks, we have been able to forge relations with countries from Cuba in Latin America; communist youth in China within the Asia Pacific; Swedish Left in Scandinavian countries and many others within the African continent.

Since the last National Congress, two delegations were sent to Sweden as part of the collaboration between the gender and international departments. The purpose of the delegations, fully financed by the Swedish left, was to train young women in defense classes and to broadly strengthen our gender work.

We have also sent various delegations to WFDY meetings, including in Venezuela, Namibia, France (where the International Secretary was deported due to poor organisation leading up to the Basque Country Conference) and in Zimbabwe. The YCLSA membership to WFDY now awaits confirmation by the WFDY General Assembly, which will be sitting sometime next year.

In the same period, we also sent a delegation to be part of the elections monitoring in Zimbabwe in 2008. This was a success also given the fact that members of the YCLSA led delegation were deported in 2005 when they were going on a fact-finding mission. There has never been a formal engagement with any of the youth political structures in Zimbabwe, except the interim structure that has been established towards the formation of ZAPU, however, there remains a need for the YCLSA to engage formally with youth political structures in Zimbabwe. The adoption of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) and the overseeing of its implementation by our government

As we meet in this National Congress, we are preparing for the 17th WFDY International Youth and Students Festival to be held from the 13th—23rd December 2010, exactly a day after our National Congress. The YCLSA was part of the National Preparatory Committee, whose main driver was the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA). The responsibility of the YCLSA in the NPC is that of Research and Policy, which means that we are expected to co-ordinate the policy input and discussions, and lead in terms of discussion documents and resolutions. The activities, thus far, of the NPC have been the following:

- i. Deal with the Logistics of the venue for the Plenary Sessions, Opening and Closing Ceremonies, transport within the country, catering and accommodation for delegates and all other items related to this;
- ii. Market the event throughout the world, a project which began with Venezuela with the collection of the torch and the handover by the former hosts;
- iii. The visiting of, within the continent, Namibia, Zambia, Senegal and North Korea as part of marketing the event; and
- iv. Visiting of various regions of WFDY have been scheduled.

In the period under review, the International Section has also interacted with the delegation of the Communist Party of Cuba and the government (led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs), together with the National Secretary and by invitation of the SACP. The YCLSA briefed the delegation on the need to strengthen relations with the Communist League of Cuba, and the forthcoming WFDY Conference.

We are still consistent in our participation with regards to the Swaziland situation. As is now, the political situation is worsening, with more suppression of political parties and the arbitrary arrest of political activists. We are part of the mobilisation for the weekly pickets at the Swaziland Embassy aimed at pressurising the Mswati regime to release all political prisoners and unban all political activities. The YCLSA was one of the most vocal organs that condemned the bombing of the house and subsequent arrest of former SWAYOCO President Cde. Alex Sangweni.

The National Secretary, as part of the Anti-Xenophobia Campaign, formed part of the Ubuntu Cup, which was a soccer match between Zimbabwe Highlanders and Jomo Cosmos. More than 40 000 people attended this event at the Johannesburg Stadium. We should intensify our work to oppose Xenophobia, and ensure that our structures, especially in Gauteng and Western

Cape, actively supports or initiates activities meant towards this campaign. We have the responsibility to unite all working class youth irrespective of their origin, and our highlight of how wrong xenophobic attacks are should remain consistent.

In relations to European based Youth Communist Leagues, we hosted four comrades from the Belgian Workers Party youth-wing, COMAC, who visited Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal and Northern Cape. A delegation of the YCLSA has twice met with the leadership of these structures in Belgium. This is also part of the relations sustained through the visits by the SACP. The idea was also for them to experience first-hand the lives of YCLSA cadres, our organisational work, political education and campaigns. We have been invited in many Congresses by our European counterparts, but unfortunately, due to financial constraints, have not been able to attend and could only send them our well wishes.

The YCLSA International Section has been instrumental in the work relating to the hosting by the SACP of the Second ALNEF Conference held in August and also the International Conference of the Left held in December. The purpose of the Conference is to bring together left forces within the continent, Latin America together with the Swedish Left Party to discuss issues relating to democracy and the building of left organs within the continent.

Country	Actions
Zimbabwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held demonstrations at various embassies of Zimbabwe in South Africa and also at the Limpopo Border gates; • Sent a team of comrades to monitor the 2008 Presidential Elections; • Continued with our efforts to engage with both the ZANU-PF and MDC Youth (both M and T) with the intention of uniting the youth voice and getting a deeper understanding of the situation; • Form part of the Zimbabwe Solidarity Forum which promotes dialogue and action on the Zimbabwean situation.
Palestine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are part of the Palestinian Solidarity Forum which seeks to unite all the sects which were scattered all over the country under one banner; • We visited the Palestinian People's Party during their Congress and engaged with various organs from civil society to government and political formations on the Palestinian question; • Formed part of the many pickets, demonstrations and marches that were meant to highlight the struggle of the people of Palestine and pressurize Israel to respect Palestinian sovereignty.
Swaziland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are members of the Swaziland Solidarity Network and holds the position of Secretary General; • We have formed part of the two successive blockades against Swaziland, organized together with COSATU and SSN; • We continue to enjoy a good relationship with the Swaziland Youth Congress (Swayoco) • We have engaged with the Swaziland monarchs embassies in various parts of the country.

Western Sahara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We contribute to the various discussions that are meant to end the occupation of Western Sahara by Morocco, which is dubbed the last colonizers of Africa; • We formed part of the Summit that was held recently to discuss the Western Sahara situation; • We attended the International Solidarity meeting on Western Sahara which was held in Italy; • We continue to enjoy a good relationship with the Polisario and their youth wing.
Burma (Myanmar)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are a member of the Free Burma Campaign and held endless pickets and demonstrations during the protests and killing of innocent people during the recent revolts; • We still interact with Burmese people who are based in South Africa in order to get development in that country.
Cuba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are still part of the Focus, and have been involved in the Free the Five Campaign; which is about the five Cubans who are held in US jails on accusations of espionage; • We released a delegation together with the Cuban Brigade to go and visit Cuba; • We are yet to send an YCL delegation to strengthen ties with the Communist Youth League of Cuba; • We were part of the SACP- and FOCUS-led march to the US Embassy, where the National Secretary handed over a Memorandum of Demands
Basque Country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We remain in constant interaction with our comrades from Batasuna receiving constant reports on development in that country.

In terms of solidarity work, the following are organisations we have and continue to interacted with:

Country	Organization
Botswana	Botswana National Front (Youth League)
Mozambique	Frelimo Youth
Zambia	<i>The Post</i> newspaper coordinates engagements with various youth formations in that country.
Tanzania	Chama Chama Mapinduzi Youth League
Sweden	Swedish Left Party (Youth)
Portugal	Young Communist League of Portugal (JCP)
China	Communist Youth League of China
France	Movement of Young Communist (MJC)
Italy	Italian Communist Party (Youth League)
Britain (UK)	Young Communist League (Britain)
Greece	KNE
Western Sahara	UJISARIO
Palestine	Palestinian People's Congress
Cuba	Union of Young Communists
Swaziland	Swaziland Youth Congress

6. Another World is possible an agenda for global revolution and solidarity

'Another world is possible' has been the slogan of the World Social Forum, with assertions that there are alternatives to the neo-liberal ideology and its program. The World Social Forum has been used as a platform for a festival of ideas that promote left alternatives. Launched in Brazil, Porto Alegre in 2001, this movement has grown in the number of participants, attracting all organs of civil society and has sparked debates on all sorts of issues ranging from environmental issues to labour issues. It is not surprising that this started in a country in Latin America and has been given wide support by the Latin American countries and their Presidents as Latin America is swaying to the left and is experiencing a revolution.

The contradictions that were brought about by the recent financial crisis have even made it clearer that 'Another World is Possible' as the current world of free market capitalism has proven to be a failure. The booms and bursts (cyclical capitalist crises) that have characterized the global capitalist system have proved that the fundamentals of the free market are flawed and are an illusion. The current economic theory that the system has been based on is flawed. The Communists need to be at the forefront of this revolution to provide ideological direction and to sharpen these contradictions. This new world will need to be based on a just ecosystem, just social and economic system. Building a strong left movement in Africa that can in future collaborate with the left revolution in Latin America is remains key. As Africa is seen by all as the new market, this task cannot be more emphasized.