

Who are we ?

● The International Workers Committee Against War, Exploitation, for a Workers' International (IWC) was set up at the World Conference held in Mumbai (India) on November 19, 20, 21, 2016 gathering delegates from 28 countries.

● The IWC was set up on the basis of the Mumbai Manifesto against war, exploitation and precarious labour which was endorsed by labour activist and trade union and political organisations officers from 46 countries (*)

● Its continuations committee is composed of labour activists from all political/ trade union backgrounds:

Innocent Assogba (Benin),
Alan Benjamin (USA),
Colia Clark (USA),
Constantin Cretan (Romania),
Berthony Dupont (Haiti),
Ney Ferreira (Brazil),
Daniel Gluckstein (France),
Rubina Jamil (Pakistan),
Apo Leung (China),
Gloria Gracida (Mexico),
M.A. Patil (India),
Mandlenkosi Phangwa (Azania),
Klaus Schüller (Germany),
Jung Sikhwa (Korea),
John Sweeney (Great Britain),
Mark Vassilev (Russia),
Nambiath Vasudevan (India).

(*) Afghanistan, Argentina, Austria, Azania, Belarus, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Korea, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Senegal, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, USA, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

PAKISTAN**PTI government is following US Imperialism Policies to Privatize state-owned companies in Pakistan**

The federal government has decided to privatise 49 organisations within the next five years. The decision was made in a session of the National Assembly's Standing Committee for Privatisation.

The Privatisation Ministry said that 15 companies had been taken out of the privatisation list and eight had been added to it.

Pakistan is in discussion with half a dozen companies from Russia and China to run the Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) under public-private partnership and increase its capacity from 1.1 million to 3.5 million per year.

The committee was informed that the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and the PSM have so far racked up combined losses of around Rs600 billion, of which the PIA losses stand at around Rs400 billion.

This ruling government is sitting on the laps of US Imperialism and constantly adopting what agreement they signed with IMF/World Bank.

The mills current total losses are around Rs200 billion. Secretary Privatization said that the government had decided to PIA and PSM are in the list.

He said, "The steel mills will be sold on public-private partnership, to enhance its production capacity from 1.1 to 3.5 million tons per year."

However, among other more than a dozen public sector enterprises, PIA has been put off the list of privatization programme and the government is making hectic efforts to bring this national flag carrier into a profitable entity.

He further said that in next one and a half years, the government would give seven public entities in private hands that include SME bank Limited, First Women Bank Limited, 1,223 MW Balloki Power Plant, 1,230 MW Haveli Bahadur Power Plant, Mari Petroleum Limited (divestment of remaining shares), Jinnah Convention Centre, Islamabad, Lakhra Coal Mines (now Lakhra Coal Development Company) and Services International Hotel, Lahore.

The privatization project is a vast programme of stipulations – known as conditionalities – to be met. Its agenda of undesirable changes

has included creation of Oil and Gas Regulating Authority (OGRA) and breaking down of WAPDA into various power supply companies, lifting of price controls, linking of POL prices with those in the international market, pegging the Rupee to US Dollar and thus exposing it to constant devaluation, terminating the beneficial subsidies on essential items and giving freedom to foreign buyers of SOEs to repatriate their profits in foreign exchange.

Distress and Damages Caused by Privatization.

The conditions and consequences let loose by the privatization project have been harmful economically, socially and even politically, both for the State and the people. People are suffering from unemployment and a chronic inability to meet the ever rising cost of the basic necessities of daily life, food, electricity, gas, transportation, schooling of children. Impoverishing conditions in the society have increased bribery, robberies and suicides.

When The News contacted the Secretary Privatization, he said that the government has recently delisted 15 entities of the privatization list and Pakistan Steel Mills and PIA are also included in that list. He added that for the Pakistan Steel Mills' running under PPP mode, the Ministry of Industries and Production would execute that process and in discussion with the Chinese and Russian Companies. Aviation division is also working hard on the restructure of the PIA.

He said that other entities which have been delisted of the privatization program are National Bank of Pakistan, Industrial Development Bank Limited (IDBL), Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP), Pakistan State Oil Company Limited (PSO), Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL), Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGC), Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Utility Stores Corporation of Pakistan (USC), Pakistan Steel Fabricating Company Limited, National Highways Authority (NHA), National Construction Limited (NCL), Printing Corporation of Pakistan (PCP) and Pakistan Railways and its allied facilities, factories, workshops etc.

He further said there is a list of 41 entities which the government plans to privatize in second phase, however the concern ministries and divisions have been asked to give their views on their privatization

It is not a new attack of this government, working class always under the attack by the capitalists including with MNAs or MPAs. The Rallies and protests against privatization of state-owned companies started in all over Pakistan.

WAPDA, Banks, Insurance companies workers are on roads.

APTUF/Railway worker's union already decide to start a protest from Lahore, Karachi, Quetta and Rawalpindi in next week.

The working class denounce that they will fight against government anti-worker policies which create more unemployment of thousands of working class.

Imran Khan in his speech said that he will create 50 million jobs for unemployed people but rather than to create jobs the companies are terminating thousands of workers in HONDA, Suzuki Motors, Orient and other private sector. Under the banner of All Pakistan Trade Union Federation we are ready to fight to restore labor inspection, implement labor laws and stop Privatization of companies. ■

Correspondent

HAITI

Long Live the People's Uprising for Democracy and Sovereignty!

For two weeks now, the people *en masse* have been coming out into the streets in Port-au-Prince and the other major towns of Haiti, to demand an end to President Jovenel Moïse's government, his PHTK party, and his anti-worker and anti-popular policies. The masses – with the workers in the forefront – want an end to the high cost of living and to the austerity measures dictated by the International Monetary Fund to a government that only has been able to remain in place thanks to the occupation by foreign troops. The people are denouncing the top State dignitaries' pillaging of the funds of PetroCaribe, the Venezuelan government's programme that sells cheap oil to Haiti. The MINUSTAH -- the UN troops that have been occupying Haiti for 15 years now -- are in a state of alert.

In the face of this popular uprising, the regime has unleashed its repression. The worker and anti-imperialist weekly *Haiti Liberté* reports:

“Since Friday 23 September, the popular mobilisation to overthrow the PHTK regime has gathered cruising speed. Once again, the people are showing their capacity and their determination to lead an active offensive to change the conditions in which the exploited and abandoned masses are living. Thus, in the aftermath of the various popular demonstrations, many activists have been victims of police repression.” Sources quoted by *Haiti Liberté* state that tens of people already have been killed.

But as repression will not suffice against an entire people, high-level manoeuvres have begun, under the aegis of the major foreign powers. *Haiti Liberté* reports:

“A meeting was arranged in Pétion-Ville on Monday 30 September between the government and the opposition, under the umbrella of Core Group, which is made up of the United Nations Secretary General's special representative; ambassadors from Germany, Brazil, Canada, Spain, the U.S.A., France, and the European Union; and the special representative of the Organization of American States (...). The truth is that as far as the United States government is concerned the Haitian people should not be allowed to decide for themselves the election of the president of their choice, much less demand the resignation of a sitting president.”

Haiti Liberté concludes:

“Core Group might decide to let go of Jovenel if the relationship of forces so determines it, but that would only be a semblance of a victory and a false one. It would be an outcome in the interest of the Core Group and not in the interests of the Haitian people, since the policies that will be implemented will be, without a doubt, those of PHTK continuity, albeit without the PHTK – just as the leaders of the country have continued to perpetrate Duvalierism without Duvalier.”

The entire tragedy of Haiti is concentrated here today in these events: it is a country where the revolution against slavery, which began in 1791, proclaimed

the First Black Republic in the world in 1804, and which constantly has been repressed and oppressed by the major imperialist powers ever since, yesterday by France and today by the United States.

As *Haiti Liberté* reminds us:

“The uprising against ‘president-for-life’ Jean-Claude Duvalier, known as Baby Doc (who led the bloody and pro-imperialist dictatorship in Haiti, in the wake of his father, from 1957 to 1986 — editor's note) began 33 years ago. On 7 February 1986, Baby Doc left Haiti on a C-130 airplane chartered by the U.S. government, without omitting to also board his collection of luxury automobiles. His departure marked the beginning of a new chapter in the history of Haiti, where the masses of this neo-colony have been fighting for democracy and sovereignty against the bloody counter-revolution of local and foreign leaders. Each electoral victory of the masses (1990, 2000) was crushed by a coup d'Etat followed by foreign military occupation (1991, 2004), up until the Empire finally changed tactics by organising the fraudulent elections of Martelly in 2011, then Jovenel in 2016 (...). This is what is behind the massive demonstrations against Jovenel Moïse that today are demanding his head.” ■

With our correspondents from the weekly *Haiti Liberté*, founding member of the International Workers' Committee against War and Exploitation, for the International Workers' International (IWC).