

# **A CALL TO SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS AROUND THE WORLD TO PROTEST THE G20 SUMMIT IN SEOUL**

**20 COUNTRIES ALONE CANNOT DEFINE THE DESTINY OF THE ENTIRE WORLD**

**FOR SYSTEM CHANGE AND AN END TO BUSINESS AS USUAL, LET'S BUILD ANOTHER WORLD!**

**THE PEOPLE WILL NOT CONTINUE TO PAY FOR THE CRISIS.**

**Join the People's Week of Collective Actions in Seoul, November 6 to 12, 2010**

## **Background**

The financial earthquake that hit at the end of 2008 – the most recent expression of the grave systemic crisis of the neo-liberal capitalist model (also manifested by the climate, food prices, energy and employment crises, plus relentless poverty) – continues to spread throughout the world, showing its tragic face to the peoples in both the rich and poor countries of the planet.

Global powers reacted immediately to the crisis, coordinating their efforts to save the system, which, as the crisis clearly shows, is responsible for growing inequality and poverty in the world. The leaders of the most powerful countries united in the G8<sup>1</sup> decided to give a new configuration to the G20<sup>2</sup> by inviting the Heads of State of this select group of large and 'emerging' economies to join them and Finance ministers at G20 summits. Claiming to be the premier forum for global economic governance, the revamped and strengthened version of the G20 seeks to establish itself as the centre of global power, turning its back on the other 172 countries in the United Nations that, coincidentally, just happen to be, for the most part, the world's poorest.

The inclusion of "emerging" countries of the Global South is not a sign of the G8 altruistically consulting and joining hands with the developing countries, but rather a change in its tactics. The G8 decided to include these developing countries in its exclusive club in order to 1) effectively prevent South-South alliances from developing further and stifle criticisms of the neo-liberal model, 2) shore up the G8's dwindling legitimacy and 3) gain access to foreign exchange reserves accumulating in the "emerging" countries. By acquiring access to foreign exchange reserves in global south countries, the 'old' powers of the G-8 were able to temporarily salvage the financial system from collapse and revive the ailing International Monetary Fund and other International Financial Institutions. In turn, these reinvigorated IFIs have since gone on the offensive again with their structural adjustment programs, this time not only in the South, but also in the North.

---

<sup>1</sup> Countries participating in the G8 are: Canada, United States, UK, France, Japan, Germany, Italy and Russia.

<sup>2</sup> G8 countries + Brasil, Argentina, South Africa, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Australia, China, South Korea, India, Indonesia, Turkey and the EU.

Inclusion however does not mean equal participation. As can be seen, the real decision-making powers remain with the former G8 and their corporations. Furthermore, expansion does not also translate into legitimacy. The G20 is just as equally illegitimate and undemocratic as the G8. It is a non-elected and non-representative body that does not and should not represent nor decide on the economic and political directions of the entire world.

And just like the G8, the G20's real aim is not to solve the crisis, but rather to revive the neo-liberal regime. The G20's "active" measures to supposedly save all the world's economies betray its true agenda and interests. Ideas initially introduced in its debates (namely the proposals for financial transaction taxes and measures to control tax havens) have been replaced by a push for fiscal austerity policies, further trade and investment liberalization and the fostering of new business and even more financial speculation through the promotion of false market solutions for the climate crisis, namely carbon trading. Even its financial reforms impose no real democratic control and accountability over the operations of banks or multinational corporations.

Against all the evidence of a failed economic model, which not only has plunged millions of people worldwide into poverty (including many of the people living in G20 countries) but also continues to contribute daily to the destruction of the very basis of life on the planet, the G20 governments continue to promote business as usual.

To make matters worse, the G20 --- which originally emerged to contain the crisis --- now aims to transform itself into *the* political space with the power to define the course of the world economy and governance, continuously broadening its agenda to include issues such as climate change, subsidies to fossil fuels and even development aid, while doing little of real substance in these areas. And with the World Trade Organization (WTO) bogged down in stalled negotiations, it is evident that countries are focusing their efforts more and more on the G20, which has increasingly become the centre of debate and decisions on issues of the global economy.

### **Our demands**

We, social movements and organizations, must halt the G20's agenda and undemocratic process, while continuing to build from below socially and ecologically sustainable and democratic alternatives. We demand:

- a change in the economic model, which implies putting an end to neo-liberalism and moving towards a new model based on systemic change and for the benefit and well-being of all peoples in the world (rather than corporate profits), including the adoption of bold economic strategies to create decent jobs, as well as a new international financial architecture;
- a halt to market based "solutions" for climate change and the anti-democratic Copenhagen Accord (a clear step backwards from the positive aspects of the Kyoto Protocol), and the immediate adoption of profound changes to our current system of production, distribution and consumption;

- an end to a global food system based on price speculation by agribusiness corporations and its replacement by a system of food production and distribution that supports small farmers and promotes food sovereignty;
- a suspension of trade negotiations at the WTO and of bi-regional or bilateral free trade and investment regimes until a new international agreement has been reached on trade and investment rules based on truly just and sustainable development for all.

Movements fighting for democratic alternatives and social and climate justice must unite to demand real change and denounce the G20 as a threat to the people of the world and an emerging target for disputing global power.

### **The Time to Mobilize is Now!**

#### ***Join the People's Week of Collective Actions in Seoul, November 6 to 12, 2010***

The **Korean People's G20 Response Action** - a broad coalition of Korean labour unions, social movement organizations and progressive NGOs formed in order to respond to the G20 Seoul Summit - is calling upon international social movements to join the **People's Week of Collective Actions in Seoul from November 6th to 12th, 2010**. During this week of action, the main activities will be:

- Opening and closing ceremonies (November 6 and 12, respectively)
- National Workers' Rally (November 7th)
- International People's Conference in Seoul (November 7th to 10th)
- Press Conference to announce the Seoul Declaration protesting the G20
- Mass Rally and March (November 11th)

We call on social movements and organizations from around the world to unite forces in solidarity with friends and comrades in Korea during the People's Week of Collective Action in Seoul.

For this, we strongly urge everyone to:

- send representatives to participate in the coalition activities in Seoul during the G20 Summit in November;
- organize a solidarity action in your own country to highlight what's happening in Seoul during the G20;
- meet with government officials in your own country prior to the Seoul G20 to raise critical issues and gather intelligence.

**EVERYONE TO SEOUL TO STOP THE CORPORATE AGENDA:  
END BUSINESS AS USUAL AND WORK TOWARDS SYSTEM CHANGE!!**

## List of signatories

### Regional and International Networks

Asian Peasant Coalition	Asia
Africa Europe Faith & Justice Network( AEFJN)	International
Agriculture and Trade Working Group of the Hemispheric Social Alliance	Latin America
Agribusiness Action Initiatives in Latin America	Latin America
Asian Pacific Research Network	Asia Pacific
Focus on the Global South	Asia
Hemispheric Social Alliance	Americas
International Gender and Trade Network (IGTN)	International
Jubilee South Americas	Americas
La Via Campesina	International
Latin American Network on Debt, Development and Rights (Latindadd)	Latin America
NouSud	International
Plataforma Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, Democracia y Desarrollo (PIDHDD)	Latin America
Social Watch	International
Seattle to Brussels Network (S2B)	Europe
World March of Women	International

### National organizations, networks and movements

21st Century Korean University Student Association	South Korea
Action for Energy Justice	South Korea
Agenda de Mujeres de Desamparados - ACAMUDE	Costa Rica
Alianza Social Continental Capítulo Perú	Peru
Alianza Social Continental Centroamerica	Central America
All Nepal Peasants Federation	Nepal
All Together	Korea
Alliance for Responsible Trade (ART)	United States
Alliance of Progressive Labour (APL)	Philippines
Alternative Forum of University Students	South Korea
ATTAC Argentina	Argentina
ATTAC Austria	Austria
ATTAC Catalunya	Catalunya
ATTAC France	France
ATTAC Germany	Germany
ATTAC Japan	Japan
ATTAC Norway	Norway
ATTAC Québec	Québec
ATTAC Spain	Spain
ATTAC Vlaanderen	Vlaanderen
Basic Income Korean Network	South Korea
Bharatiya Krishak Samaj	India
Bia'lii, Asesoría e Investigación, A.C	Mexico
Brazilian Network for the Integration of the People (Rebrip)	Brazil
Brazilian Network on Multilateral Financial Institutions (Rede Brasil)	Brazil
Center for Education and Communication (CEC)	India
Center for Energy Politics (CEP)	South Korea

Center of Concern	United States
Centro de Investigación Sobre Inversión y Comercio, CEICOM	El Salvador
Chile Sustentable	Chile
Citizen's Coalition for Economic Justice	South Korea
Citizen's Movement for Environmental Justice	South Korea
Civil Society Network for Financial regulation and taxation on speculative capital	South Korea
Civil Society Organisation Network in Korea	South Korea
Coalition of Commemorating Groups for Martyrs and Victims Democratic Movement	
MINGAHYU Human Rights Group	South Korea
Colectivo de Estudio y Vivencia Intercultural Nexos Culturales	Ecuador
Colectivo de Mujeres Acción Política por la Equidad (APE)	Ecuador
Colibri e.V, Beitraege fuer ein Menschenwuerdige Welt	Germany
Comisión Nacional de Enlace (CNE)	Costa Rica
Common Frontiers	Canada
Consejo de Investigaciones e Información en Desarrollo (CIID)	Guatemala
Corea Institute for New Society	South Korea
Corporate Europe Observatory	Europe
Council of Canadians	Canada
CRBM-Mani Tese	Italy
Democratic Labor Party-Korea (DLP-Korea)	South Korea
Ditsö	Costa Rica
Ecologistas en Acción	Spain
Ecuador Decide	Ecuador
Energy & Climate Policy Institute for Just Transition (ECPI)	South Korea
Fair	Italy
Farmers Pharmacy	South Korea
Fédération interprofessionnelle de la santé du Québec - FIQ	Québec
Federation of Independent Trade Unions and NGOs (FITUN)	Trinidad & Tobago
FOCO Foro Ciudadano de Participacion por la Justicia y los Derechos Humanos	Argentina
Foro de Mujeres Afrodescendientes	Costa Rica
Foro de mujeres de Occidente	Costa Rica
Global Call to Action Against Poverty Korea (GCAP-Korea)	South Korea
Green Korea United	South Korea
IBON Foundation	Philippines
Imagine Institute	South Korea
Iniciativa Paraguaya de Integración de los Pueblos	Paraguay
Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services (IDEALS)	Philippines
Institute for Global Justice	Indonesia
Institute for Global Political Economy	South Korea
Institute for New World	South Korea
Institute for Research in Collaborationist Activities	South Korea
Institute of 21st Century Korea Research	South Korea
Joint Committee with Migrants in Korea (JCMK)	South Korea
Jubilee South Brasil	Brazil
Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP)	Philippines
Korea Alliance of Progressive Movements	South Korea
Korea Federation for Environment Movement (KFEM) / FOE Korea	South Korea

Korea Labor & Social Network on Energy	South Korea
Korea NGO's Energy Network	South Korea
Korea Progressive Academy Council	South Korea
Korean Clerical and Financial Workers Association	South Korea
Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU)	South Korea
Korean Federation of Medical Groups for Health Rights	South Korea
Korean Peasants' League (KPL)	South Korea
Korean People's Solidarity Against Poverty	South Korea
Korean Urban Poor Association	South Korea
Korean Women Peasant Association	South Korea
Korean Women's Alliance	South Korea
Korean Women's Association United (KWAU)	South Korea
La Unidad Ecologica Salvadoreña - UNES	El Salvador
Labour Human Rights Centre	South Korea
Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre	Nigeria
Marcha Mundial de las Mujeres Perú	Peru
Migrant Workers Rights Watch, Korea	South Korea
Movimiento Social Nicaraguense Otro Mundo es Posible	Nicaragua
NANUMMUNHWA_ Global Peace Activities	South Korea
National Association of Professors for Democratic Society (NAPDS)	South Korea
National Democratic Association of Street Vendors	South Korea
National Students March	South Korea
Network for Women Rights	Pakistan
New Community Institute	South Korea
New Progressive Party-Korea (NPP-Korea)	South Korea
"No to War, Yes to Peace" Coalition	South Korea
Observatorio de la Deuda en la Globalización (ODG)	Spain
Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU)	Trinidad & Tobago
People not Profit	South Korea
People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD)	South Korea
People's Solidarity for Social Progress (PSSP)	South Korea
Platform for Alternative Development (PAPDA)	Haiti
Polaris Institute	Canada
Progressive Strategy Council	South Korea
PUMALAG (Peoples Network against Liberalization of Agriculture)	Philippines
Red Costarricense de Agendas Locales de Mujeres- REDCALM	Costa Rica
Red de Acción Ciudadana Frente al Libre Comercio e Inversiones SINTI TECHAN	El Salvador
Red Mexicana de Acción frente al Libre Comercio (RMALC)	Mexico
Resistance and Solidarity against Agrochemical TNCs (RESIST Network)	Philippines
Revolutionary Workers' Front	South Korea
Serikat Petani Indonesia	Indonesia
Servicio Paz y Justicia Paraguay	Paraguay
Sindicato de Profesores de Nova Friburgo e Região	Brazil
Socialist Party-Korea (SP-Korea)	South Korea
Solidarité	France
Solidarity for Street Vendors and Informal Workers	South Korea
SpecWatch Korea	South Korea

Students' Alliance against G20	South Korea
Students Supporting Committee for Prisoners of Conscience	South Korea
Tanggol Magsasaka (Peasant Network for Land, Justice and Human Rights)	Philippines
The Committee for a Socialist Workers' party (CSWP)	South Korea
Transnational Institute (TNI)	The Netherlands
Transparency International Korea	South Korea
War on Want	United Kingdom
Workers Institute of Social Science, South Korea	South Korea
World Development Movement	United Kingdom
Youth & Student Alliance for Implementation of June 15 Joint Declaration	South Korea