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Proposals of the FTE of MEXICO

17. Energy and workers

ABSTRACT: Energy is at the heart of the dispute economic and political of capital. The claim of imperialism is to take over all energy sources, through privatization or war. Workers should oppose an independent energy policy.

1. Introduction

The global energy matrix is dominated by the growing production and consumption of primary non-renewable energy such as coal, oil and natural gas, base of the capitalist economic model.

The capitalist energy crisis associates a growing strategic vulnerability, choking economic growth and recurrent social and political crisis. The energy sources and industries are dominated by transnational corporations, backed by severe privatization process sponsored by the States, according to the recommendations of the financial agencies of imperialism.

In the present and near future, the trends tend to increase.

2- World energy outlook

In the past 40 years, world primary energy supply is based on oil, coal and gas, where demand has been increasing and keeps growing, which has caused the energy crisis of capitalism.

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), in 2008-2009, the outlook for energy production and consumption was briefly as follows:

Primary energy supply- The global primary energy supply was 12,267 megatons equivalent (Mtoe), corresponding to oil (33.2%), coal (27%) and gas (21.1%).

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries are the largest suppliers; representing 42.2% of world total (5,170 Mtoe), mainly oil, gas and coal. The greatest contribution comes from North America.

Oil- The total world production of crude oil in 2009 was 3,843 megatonnes (Mt), corresponding to the Middle East (30%), OECD (22.3%), Russia (16.7%) and Africa (12.4%). The main producers are Russia, Saudi Arabia, United States, Iran and China. Global exports of 1,952 Mt came mainly from Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iran, United Arab Emirates and Nigeria. Imports totaled 2,090 Mt, mainly U.S., Japan, China, India and Korea.

Gas- World production of natural gas in 2009 was 3,101 billion cubic meters (bcm), corresponding to OECD countries and Russia 36.9% 24.8%. The main producing countries are USA, Russia, Canada, Iran and Norway. Total exports were from 736 bcm, mainly by Russia, Norway, Canada, Qatar and Algeria. Total imports were from 749 bcm, mainly by Japan, Germany, USA, Italy and France.

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Coal- World coal production in 2009 was 5,970 Mt major producers are China, USA, India, Australia and Indonesia.

Electricity- The largest proportion of electricity generation is from fossil fuels. In 2008, total generating capacity rose to 20,181 Tera Watts hour (TWh), with 41% from coal, 21.3% and 5.5% gas oil. A hydropower accounted for 15.5% and nuclear 13.5%.

Electricity generation from coal was 8.263 TWh, mainly China, USA, India, Germany and Japan. Based on oil, the world total was 1,111 TWh, mainly Japan, Saudi Arabia, United States, Mexico and Indonesia. Based on the gas, the total was 4,301 TWh, mainly U.S., Russia, Japan, UK and Iran.

The main generators are the OECD countries with 52.9% of the world's total. The world's most important contribution comes from the United States, China, Japan, Russia and India.

Nuclear- The nuclear power generation capacity in 2008 was 2.731 TWh, corresponding to 92.8% in the OECD. The major producers are USA, France, Japan, Russia and Korea. The global installed capacity of 372 GW is mainly the U.S., France, Japan, Russia and Germany. France provides for domestic 77.1%, Ukraine (46.1%), Sweden (42.6%), Korea (34%) and Japan (24%), being the global total of 13.5%.

Hydro- World production of hydroelectricity was 3,288 TWh, corresponding to 49.1% in OECD countries. The main producers are China, Canada, Brazil, USA and Russia. The largest installed capacity is in China, USA, Brazil, Canada and Japan. For domestic purposes is the global total of 16.2%. Norway provides users with 98.5%, Brazil (79.8%), Venezuela (72.8), Canada (58.7%) and Sweden (46.1%).

Energy consumption- The biggest global primary energy consumption (8,428 Mtoe) is oil (41.6%), gas (15.6%) and coal

(9.8%). OECD 3.696 Mtoe consumed 48.7% being oil and gas 20%, with 43.8% of world's total, corresponding to the North American 50.3% of total consumption in the OECD.

El 78.5% del carbón se consume en la industria, el 61.4% del petróleo en el transporte, el 31.1% del gas y el 41.7% de la electricidad, en la industria.

3- Conclusions

Through reforms to the laws, or war of aggression, imperialism and transnational tend to seize all available energy sources, including renewable sources (wind, water, geothermal, tides, waves, ocean currents and solar radiation). These, which could be an alternative, have the disadvantage for the people to be privatized from the beginning.

Another option that imperialism promotes is nuclear energy, which is not a convenient option for the people because the many unresolved technical problems and others associated with nuclear proliferation.

PROPOSALS

The FTE of Mexico presents to the 16th World Trade Union Congress the following proposal:

- 1- The WFTU calls for workers to defend the world's natural energy resources, renewable or not, as a collective heritage of humanity.
- 2- The WFTU calls for struggle against transnational energy corporations, and regressive laws of war, aimed at the private appropriation of energy.
- 3- The WFTU calls for struggle against the privatization of energy and the re-nationalization of energy industries and natural energy resources.

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