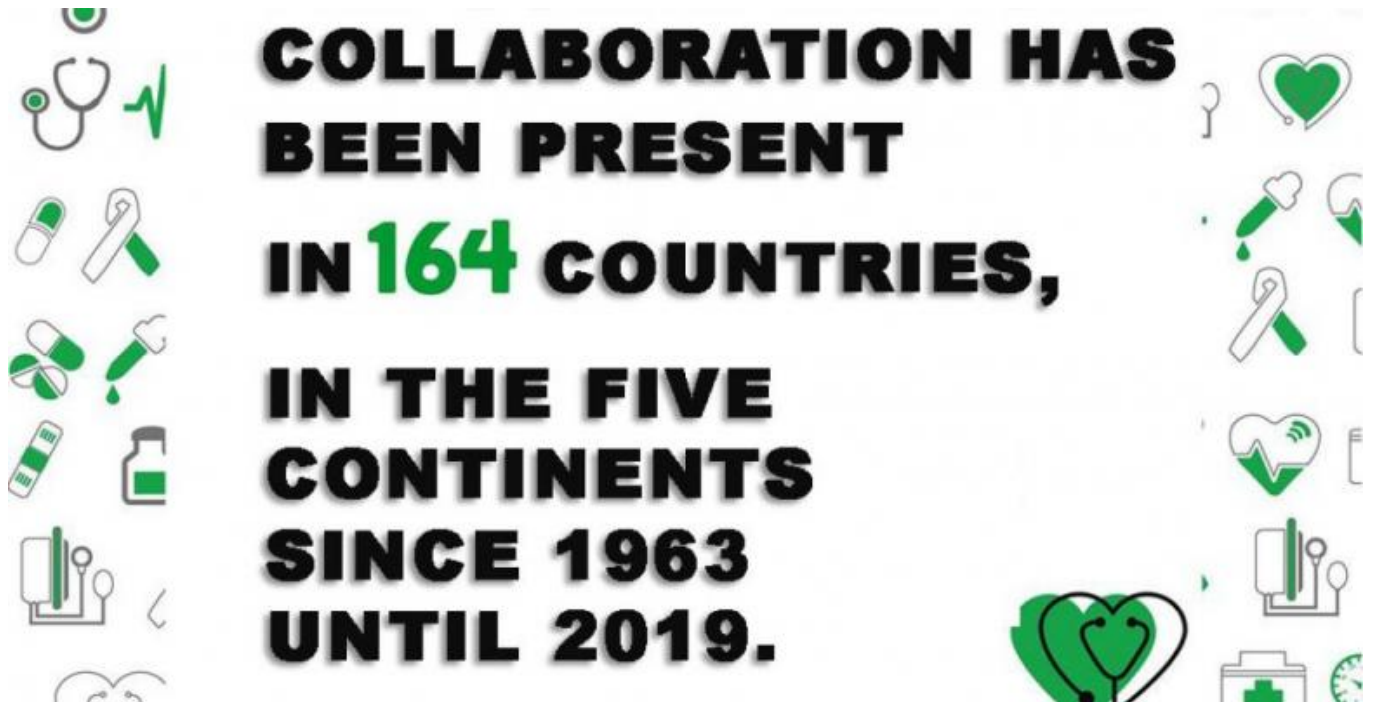


Solidarity: Basic Condition of an Anti-imperialist

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Being an anti-imperialist today is to be anti-capitalist, to be anti-colonialist, and understand imperialism in all its dimensions, in its economic dimension and, persistently, in its cultural dimension. Why? Because it's the most subtle and generally less understood. We need to see that cultural dimension every time more to be able to face it.

We need to know how to differentiate what's anti-interference and another antimperialism. There may be an anti-interference position – which is very good — as there was even in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century but still all that anti-interference was not antimperialism. Martí and Bolívar were precursors, ahead of their historical time in being able to see all these dimensions of North American imperialism.

And from that understanding, act; act in correspondence with those ideas and of course embrace all fair causes of the peoples that today face all those types of dominations. As Camilo said: "Those who fight, no matter where, are our brothers". I believe that this is a basic condition of an imperialist: solidarity.

But you have to know how to tell apart too — within tactics and strategy - where is the main enemy, so afterwards defeat that imperialism. And I keep saying that that main enemy resides in the leading power of that imperial system that still is the United States and which is a threat not only to other political systems, and socialism itself, because in the way they attempt to avoid or destroy any experience that opposes their hegemony, they are a threat to the very existence of the human species and of life on earth, like the Commander in Chief pointed out so many times.

And we must embrace those causes that today appear in that first anti-imperialist trench I'd say that if we put ourselves in the context of Latin America, in our case we are being attacked practically every day, it's a constant persecution. But we must also understand that Venezuela is placed in a situation of direct aggression,

understanding what that country means in the international geopolitics for the resources they owned and for what it means for the rest of the region.

We are the burning flame, from the moral point of view, from the ideological point of view we are the biggest challenge for that imperialism, but after the Revolution appears in Venezuela with Chavez and with all that process that has withstood all the imperial attacks, for that flame to spread and last over time, it's essential today to put a knee on the ground with these causes.

Therefore being anti-imperialist today is also understanding that what happens in Venezuela it's a very peculiar situation and will largely define the future of the region and humanity. No wonder imperialism has its eyes set on Venezuela and that's why everything they do against Cuba responds to a strategy against Venezuela and everything they do against Venezuela responds to an intention against Cuba, and against all the progressive and leftist causes that had strongly thrived, especially in the late 90's.

But there's a new left-wing that is resurfacing, that's why we don't believe it's the end of the cycle. There's disputed ground in the region and there are processes that may not be seen at all because they are in progress underground, but the peoples are gaining awareness with every passing day of what oligarchies mean, what these right-wing governments mean and what imperialism means to social justice and for the hope of progress for all our countries.

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