

# **WORLD CONGRESS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE**

## **12th-15th October 2023, Milan, Italy**

Letter from the WCCJ committee

Dear all,

first of all, we deeply and sincerely thank all the participants in the first WCCJ. It has been an immense pleasure, a huge challenge. These were four intense, anticipated, tiring, and enriching days. Days inadequate for finding solutions, yet extremely important for indicating a path of convergence, listening, and cooperation, with the goal of establishing the first International for climate justice. Let's proceed step by step...

On Thursday, October 12, we started with an activist workshop at the University of Milan, where the first conversations took place, and we wrote the "Art for Radical Ecologies Manifesto" before the ClimateJustice Legae's performance and the creative chaos with leaves, tubes of color, music, and banners took over. We continued with a convivial and decolonial evening at the social center PianoTerra, at the foot of the city's gentrification symbol skyscrapers, with a lovely vegan dinner provided by Comida, while many self-managed social spaces in Milan supported us in welcoming delegations from various corners of the planet. The square in front of Piano Terra, on private property, once again became a space of resistance against profit-driven logic: a free place, open to many.

On Friday, still at the university, we collectively organized more than twenty thematic seminars, and informal circles spontaneously formed: an opportunity for discussing struggles against harm and the defense of Planet Earth, the aspects of the ecological and systemic crisis, and a chance to get to know the climate justice movements more closely. This energy led us to march and bike through the streets of the city center, slowing down the daily traffic congestion in our cities until we opened the doors of the Porta Romana railway station with music. Today, this station hosts the construction of a major, useless, harmful, and imposed event: the 2026 Winter Olympics. An event that threatens the fragile alpine ecosystem, one of the areas already compromised by climate change and reckless human interference.

Before concluding, we rested and danced, hosted by the Camera del Non Lavoro.

Saturday turned out to be the densest day, where the Committee's organization gradually gave way to the delegations of the movements that gathered for ten political assemblies and set the stage for Sunday's plenary hosted by Leoncavallo. The format of the spaces didn't entirely suit everyone. Some saw the assemblies as panel discussions with speakers and an audience. The request to prioritize welcoming the delegations didn't convince those who wanted a purely congressional dimension or those who desired a more open form of intervention and discussion. Some disagreements that we would have preferred to address through dialogue arose unpleasantly, and some wrong words and postures were not rectified promptly. Therefore, we cannot attribute success or dissatisfaction to the spaces, but rather to our ability to tackle the enormity of the impending crisis, starting from diverse sensitivities, geographies, and experiences. The anonymity of a diverse organizing committee perhaps facilitated the diversity of delegations but didn't shield us from stumbling several times. However, being aware of these limitations and inspired by numerous positive expressions, we gathered to sort out the notes of these four days, which we now share with all of you in a complete and transparent form through the report's words, which form the heart of this account.

What we take home is not "just" a transformative experience, both individually and collectively. We didn't wait for a COP or a grand meeting full of empty words to self-convene; we did it "from the grassroots," with a horizontal and self-managed approach, embracing both the insight and the risks of the proposal. We propose to start a new together from here:

1. We don't need a new movement. The International for Climate Justice is meant to be an alliance: a place to identify subjects, places, dates, and actions suitable for networking territories, activists, and movements in struggle.
2. No one is sufficient to have a global impact. Together, we can generate the shockwave we need.
3. The International arises with the formation of a transnational committee free from aligning with any single entity and open to movements operating with a decolonial, transfeminist, and anticapitalist projection.
4. Domination doesn't begin or end with the fossil phase of capital, but we want to start from here to strengthen resistance to consumerist, extractivist, and appropriation logic.
5. Repression affects the new social movements in the Global South and North. We urgently need a mutual support initiative adapted to capture devices.
6. To solidify this experience, we need to foster dialogue and solidarity between distant experiences, with older and more rooted struggles, mutual learning, and recognition of even fiercer oppressions.
7. In line with practices and trajectories, we acknowledge that no isolated subject is adequate to face the current challenge, and this construction attempt needs to happen now before it's too late.
8. No summarized discourse here can fully capture the richness of experiences, but today we propose a collective commitment to establishing a committee that identifies the timing, locations, themes, and, especially, the goals of the next meeting to build the International for Climate Justice.

We thank all the delegates, all the social spaces and all the organizations that hosted and supported the Congress. We invite you to review the reports and indicate any corrections in the parts that concern you. We have written a summary document that we believe encapsulates the plenary, including the main points the congress has decided.

*October 27, 2023, Milan, Pianeta Terra*

