WILPF RESOLUTION
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Global Cooperation for the Health of the Planet

Whereas the deliberate, ongoing destruction of small farmers and food sovereignty in favour of corporate power and an industrialised and militarised agrifood system has created the global food, hunger, health, and ecological crises, and created the preconditions for the global pandemic of COVID-19; and

Whereas, the global pandemic of COVID-19 has caused massive and devastating loss of life and health to people in countries around the world, and is accelerating the impacts of the globalised system built on industrial agriculture, food system financialisation and market concentration, hyper-specialisation/monocropping of commodity crops, industrial animal farming, fossil-fuel derived packaging and agricultural inputs, and free-trade agreements; and

Whereas, responses to the pandemic rely on similar methods of militarisation, financialisation and market concentration; and

Whereas, a symptom of this intersectional crisis is that in 2021 around eleven billion doses of Covid-19 vaccine were produced globally with grossly inequitable access, the majority of vaccines going to the developed countries, and vast profits returning to global pharmaceutical companies; and

Whereas, another manifestation of this crisis is that because of US foreign policies towards Cuba, the world cannot take advantage of the advancements and contributions that Cuba has developed in responses to pandemics including COVID-19, HIV/AIDS, and Ebola, especially in Africa and in Latin America; and

Whereas, these vaccine disparities mirror and deepen pre-existing disparities in health and create a catastrophic moral failure and global public health crisis which is disproportionately impacting Indigenous populations and racialised minorities in wealthy countries and in the countries of the global south; and

Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC, UNCTAD, UNESCO and UNEP.
Special Consultative Relations with FAO, ILO and UNICEF.
Whereas, the 12th Ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in June 2022 continued to protect the interests of Big Pharma by refusing to adopt a comprehensive waiver of intellectual property (IP) restrictions on vaccines, treatments and tests related to Covid-19 within the WTO’s Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) agreement; and

Whereas, these decisions are preceded by the WTO’s imposition of international food standards for trade, including forcing countries to adopt technological agricultural methods and patented agricultural inputs; and

Whereas, the equitable recognition and support of global knowledge and resources, including but not limited to agroecological food production, vaccines, and medications, are the only means by which this pandemic will be controlled and by which future pandemics will be prevented;

Therefore, in accord with WILPF’s principles of people over profit and global health and wellbeing as a prerequisite for true peace, we call on all Sections of WILPF to promote discussions with their governments that call for unrestricted cooperation amongst all countries to improve human and planetary health along the vision put forth in this resolution; and

Therefore, we ask the International Secretariat to do research on the issue of a treaty that would allow for unrestricted agricultural, scientific, and medical cooperation amongst all nations of the world and report back on their findings.