

Final declaration of the strategy conference
on 20 to 21 April in Potsdam
"Labour and environmental movement together – worldwide!
Let's save the livelihoods of humanity"



**"THE TIME FOR AWARENESS,
COURAGE AND ACTION IS NOW!"**

WE NEED A SOCIETY-CHANGING FIGHT!

The environmental strategy conference with approx. 500 participants¹ was in many respects something new and a hopeful beginning! It was a contrast to the annual world climate conferences, which send out deceptive hopes and even became a marketplace for environmentally harmful projects. The 450 supporters by name in the run-up came from over 40 organisations and five parties. Individual activists from FFF, parents for future, Omas for Future, the scientific advisory board of the open academy, comrades-in-arms from Letzte Generation, Extinction Rebellion, RAZ (Backing for an Active Civil Society), the IPPNW, the DFG-VK or

Climate Justice. They came from all over the band, from religion to revolution, from the Left Party, ÖDP to MLPD. The environmental trade union played a leading role, actively involved the women's association Courage, Solidarity International, local political electoral alliances, the Rebell youth association and local environmental groups. Young Struggle and the magazine "Rotfuchs" were also represented. Delegations from the international miners' movement or from car, metal and electrical companies, including many trade unions from IG Metall, IGBCE or Verdi, helped shape the discussion. Critical and progressive scientists participated just as actively as representatives of the refugee movement. International delegations came from 13 countries: Cyprus, Spain, Israel, Russia, India, Western Sahara, Morocco, Peru, Congo, Austria, Togo, Ukraine, France. So, we spanned a wide arc. We strongly protest against the German government's refusal to allow a delegate from Yemen to enter the country and the obstruction of entry from Malawi. It was a conference of getting to know each other, building trust and mutual appreciation!

There were twelve competent keynote speeches and a total of over 100 other speeches. Democratic conference rules were unanimously adopted at the beginning and culture was not neglected. Everything is perfectly self-organized! The participants were diverse – but agreed that the militant environmental movement has to →

¹ all names of persons and groups expressly refer to all genders





strengthen and coordinate better. It was a meeting at eye level, contentious and solidary. Common denominator was: The environmental struggle must be a society changer! The fact that the militant environmental movement is critical of capitalism and society, was consensus! The different conclusions from this were controversial and in an atmosphere of solidarity.

A central question was the dimension, seriousness and urgency of the situation. We have achieved unity, that the global environmental catastrophe has begun and the whole of humanity has been plunged into the abyss, if there is no fundamental change of course.

Karl Marx already revealed the systemic undermining of the unity of man and nature in capitalism. This has led to new facts today! Whether the global

environmental catastrophe has become a law that gradually undermines and destroys the basic human conditions of life, we want to discuss further. We agree that a race against time has begun.

The conference discussed a wide range of factors of this development, far beyond the dramatically intensified climate catastrophe that had begun: the extinction of mass species, the imminent tipping of the oceans, the degradation of the soil or the hole in the ozone layer. New factors are added, such as the littering of space or the health crisis. Even today, the organic and psychological effects on people are dramatic. The world's poor are particularly affected. Wars, rearmament and the growing danger of nuclear war threaten nature and humanity. Let us never forget that man is part of nature and that this concerns the very



Foundations of life for children, young people and future generations. Irreversible processes have occurred that reinforce themselves and mutually, such as the thawing of permafrost soils or the melting of glaciers. The debate was a start. There are many points that we would like to discuss in more detail. This is also about defining terms together, finding a common language in order to reach an agreement.

The discussion captivated with its competence and great wealth of information. Many thorough analyses were introduced. Many contributions by industrial workers were also captivating, exposing the greenwashing of their own corporations and drawing the connection to job cuts. We heard moving and shocking reports from those present affected by the flood disaster on the Ahr or indigenuous people from the Amazon. The conference itself struggled to become more and more aware of the dimension of environmental destruction in thought, feeling and action, against the downplaying by governments, corporations and media. The whole environmental movement, the labour movement and all people who are interested in the survival of humanity must understand the implications of the change.

The secrets of success were the principles of the conference. "Democratic and solidarity-based culture of debate about the common cause, world-descriptive openness – anti-communists, anti-Semite's, racists, fascists and climate deniers (specified in deniers of man-made climate change) have no place at the conference. We are non-partisan, financially independent, we organize the conference independently, supported by all the forces involved." (From the call for the conference) The no-goes also include sexism and any kind of discrimination. This will be supplemented by internationalist work or the accountability of all elected bodies. Everyone is free to decide which self-commitments they want to make, either financially or practically. but that must then also be reliable. Only adherence to these principles against anti-communist attacks, divisions or bans on thinking can guarantee in the future that environmental movements will not be

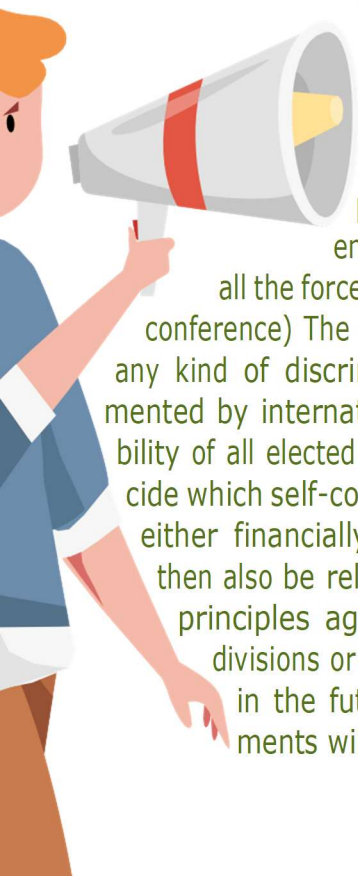
on a leash of ordering factors of the capitalist system. The vast majority of the conference participants relate this to the state-supporting monopoly party "The Greens" in particular with regard to the environmental movement. We want to discuss their character further and not everyone agrees yet. In any case, we are happy about the cooperation of honest environmentalists from the ranks of the Greens. The principles further developed with this final declaration are a guarantee of independence and self-reliance to take the liberty to really work to change society. Many report from experience that there is never a society-changing environmental movement on the basis of anti-communism. These principles point to the future!

Who are our friends? Only together can the workers' movement and the environmental movement become unbeatable – they enrich each other. For social rights, jobs and environmental protection – at the expense of profits! For the right to strike! We need a great alliance of all those who want to save humanity, including the women's, peace, refugee and youth movements.

Who are our opponents? We will focus on the large international corporations and their governments. They drive us and the world into the wall with their eyes open. Zero tolerance for any kind of greenwashing. We protest against the globally increasing repression against environmental activists. For consistent and radical environmental protection, for drastic immediate and protective measures.

A clear stance against fascists, reactionary opponents of any environmental protection and purposefully motivated deniers of the dramatic development. Let's discuss it forcefully and convincingly with people who are influenced by it. The anti-fascist movement and the environmental movement belong closely together.

What are our perspectives, what forms of society do we need? The environmental movement needs optimism and positive visions of the future of a future worth living in unity with nature, free from exploitation and oppression! A number of contributions argued that this can only be scientific or genuine socialism. In view of the environmental catastrophe that has begun, do we not have time for revolutionary changes, or will it not be



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high time for that? The revolutionary and socialist perspective will continue to be discussed on an equal footing with other concepts, such as local and regional autonomy, citizens' assemblies or transformative approaches. Here we agree that we are not yet in agreement!

Let's fill all this with life now!

"We have to set ourselves big goals!" summed up one participant.

Let's provide broad information about the results, including the controversies of the conference, of course. Let's go public together. Let's work on raising awareness among people and strengthen the participating organizations and their cooperation. This requires a lot of detailed work in everyday life, for which we need enough space and time. Only when our ideas take hold of the masses will we become strong enough for social upheavals.

Let us work more closely together locally and regionally, e.g., with joint actions of the labour and environmental movements. Let's expand the organized movement. A highlight could be the International Environment Day on 16.11.2024 on the occasion of the next World Climate Conference. We are in favour of resistive actions, including political strikes and mass blockades, as reported by representatives of the global workers' movement at the conference. Helping people to help themselves and joint activities of international solidarity in acute emergency situations are also necessary.

The homepage of the strategy conference is intended to become a joint information and discussion platform.

to coordinate activities, to organize cooperation on certain events in the sense of a "Day X" and to inform each other about our work so that others can participate.

An important result is a strong and broad-based coordination group.

As a continuation and further development of the strategy debate, we call for regular environmental policy consultations with international participation so that the struggles are better coordinated nationally and internationally. Let's agree on the most important common concerns and demands. There were different views on whether they should take place more often than every two years as proposed. The coordination group is to organize a decision-making process with the organizations and people involved. Let us also use other forums and congresses for our meeting.

We are convinced that humanity does not want to perish in a destroyed environment. We call for this : Let us fight together for a dignified (survival) life in unity with nature.

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