

Opening Address

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Dear Juche followers, dear friends.

We can see already online many invited participants, besides the participants in person in this hall, and I think that we can begin the work of this international Seminar.

Good morning to everybody, or good evening, according your respective local time in the various continents. For some of you now the time is in the middle of the night and so we have a special appreciation for your participation, that testify your greatest interest. A great interest in fact is also testified by the high participation in this Conference, from so many countries: not only of those connected online, who were not able for different reasons to arrive to in Rome, but also of the many gathered here, despite difficulties.

Opening this Seminar, let me say, first of all, that it is a real pleasure to see you not only in videoconference, but at long last start meeting again after the health problems of the pandemic.

Welcome to you all and thanks to you all. Your participation will give a considerable meaning to this initiative, organized on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and it will certainly enrich the debate with various interventions on the theme "Independence, Sovereignty and Social Advancement". A theme that, taking inspiration from the brilliant results achieved during this period by the DPRK, is a theme of particular relevance on the international scene today, as the following speeches will certainly highlight.

Many texts in fact were sent from all over the world. Time at our disposal is today very short and so we will be able to listen unfortunately only to some

of them. But others will be distributed and anyway will be received by the International Institute of Juche Idea.

I wish to preliminarily inform that congratulatory messages were sent by the Korean Association of Social Scientists and from each Regional Institute for the Study of the Juche Idea, namely from the Asian Regional Institute, the African Regional Committee, the Latin American Institute, and the European Regional Society for the Study of Juche Idea.

I won't read them to you so as not to take too much time, but they are very warm messages that, congratulating for the initiative of this International Seminar, express deep appreciation for the successes accomplished by the Korean people and emphasize that these successes are due to the application of Juche and Songun principles, pointing out as well that Korean experience can constitute an example for all people in the world aspiring to accomplish their independence, sovereignty and social advancement.

All texts recall the important achievements of the Korean people since when, on September 9, 1948, just 75 years ago in some days, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was founded until nowadays events.

The Foundation of the DPRK itself was an historical event attained by the Korean people after a long struggle for their liberation from the colonial yoke, a victorious struggle conducted according to the principles of Juche elaborated by President Kim Il Sung on the basis of the experience of concrete situations.

These principles emphasize the role of the popular masses in order to accomplish their revolution relying on their own forces and their role also in order to implement a social system, centered on the man as the master of his destiny and aimed at satisfying his needs as the social being.

This is the essence of independence, that involves at the same time the independence of man and people, as well as independence of state and nation. And it can only be realized in connection with sovereignty in a system socialism-inspired.

Applying these principles, the Korean people were able to victoriously defend its country from attacks of imperialism, in the form of military

aggression or economic pressure, including unjust sanctions, while developing social achievements.

In a short period of time successful results were really surprising in transforming a country previously subject to foreign domination into an independent, modern and developed state, with a powerful national self-defense force, including nuclear, that imperialism can no longer attack with impunity; and at the same time successful results were really surprising in transforming a system previously still feudal into a system inspired to advanced socialism, building construction in civil life with many achievements at the speed of Chollima, the legendary winged horse.

The success of Korean experience proved the validity and vitality of Juche and Songun principles, that allowed the Korean people to develop and safeguard their independence, sovereignty and social system, as theories based on consciousness of popular masses, even when other countries in Eastern Europe collapsed and succumbed to imperialistic maneuvers.

More and more peoples in the world look therefore with interest to the Korean experience, as more and more peoples aspire to realize a real independence, sovereignty and social advancement, in a new world order without domination and interference.

This is why Juche Idea and Songun Idea are more in-depth studied throughout the world, as useful means to attain those objectives.

Our task and commitment, as followers of these Ideas, is deepening and diffusing their study.

My task now was only to introduce this Seminar, and so, not to take other time, I let following speeches take place, dealing more in depth with the various aspects of the theme.