

First Congress of the Communist Party (BSCI) (1922)

Constitution



## **Our Congress**

Reasons independent of our will have delayed the publishing of the news of our Congress to the workers, held in the last March, where it decisively concluded the constitution of the Communist Party of Brazil. We do this announcement today, although in a summarised way, for the knowledge of the entire Brazilian Proletariat.

## **Antecedents**

The oldest of the existing communist groups of Brazil was Porto Alegre's, organised in November 1918 with the name of Maximalist Union. This constituted, then, the oldest organic nucleus of steeled partisans of the Soviet Russian Revolution and of the Communist International.

In other cities like Rio de Janeiro, Recife, São Paulo etc., where the most advanced sections of the Proletariat were always exclusively influenced by the anarchists, a lot of militants demonstrated, since the first minute, their fondest sympathies for the work of the Russian Communist Party and of the Third International. However, only slowly, at mercy of the lessons of the experience of the Russian Revolution and by directly reading bolshevik literature, was that the more or less chaotic ideology, then predominant, transformed and walked a Marxist way.

These tendencies were accentuated in Rio in the middle of 1921, when some comrades who definitely had been won by the communist cause held general meetings with the most known militants of the local Proletariat.

In the meetings were largely discussed the problems of the World Revolution in light of the experiences of the one in course in Russia. Countless documents were read and discussed. After a series of burning debates, the positions and attitudes defined themselves one way - the most part - decidedly inclined towards the bolsheviks, and the other part stayed unwaveringly against. This showed the partisans in Moscow that further debate was useless. It was necessary to concretise things. It was in these conditions that twelve of the most enlightened comrades joined together and decided to found the Communist Group, with the goal of propagating and defending, in Brazil, the programme of the Third International. The founding session of the Communist Group was for a good will's coincidence held in November 7th 1921.

Constituted the Communist Group of Rio de Janeiro, it immediately contacted all other Proletarian organs of Brazil, expousing its programme, the 21 conditions for entering the Third International and decided on the publishing of a monthly periodical about communist doctrine and information about the international communist movement, titled "MOVIMENTO COMUNISTA", its first edition was published January of the same year.

## **Other groups are formed**

From the exchange of letters from the Communist Group of Rio with the diverse working centrals of the country emerged, since then, other congener groups in the following places: Recife, Juiz de Fora and Cruzeiro. And that is not counting the old Maximalist Union of Porto Alegre, turned Communist Group, in accordance with Rio's group. In other many locations of the countryside of the country, many revolutionary elements, although sparse, manifested themselves in accordance to the Communist Group's work.

The latter mentioned would, at the same time, create roots in Rio, conquering little by little the adhesion of militants of better and more well known revolutionary trade-unions. This way, the twelve founders of the Group, multiplied themselves, week after week, counting with, at the time of the opening of the Congress, 70 secure members to the cause, selected by the most conscios, most active and most influent workers amidst us.

## Realization of the Congress

In the middle of February, with the initiative of the comrades of Porto Alegre's Group, Rio's Group held talks with the other existent groups about the necessity of hurrying the Congress meeting, with the delegates from the groups, to once and for all organise the Communist Party. There was urgency for the organisation of the Party because the Fourth Congress of the Communist International, held in Moscow, loomed closer and closer, in which they had the responsibility of representing the communists of Brazil. An active work was started in this direction, with the date of the meeting being set to the days 25, 26 and 27 of March.

Finally having come the 25th of March, it was realized the first session of the Constituent Congress of the Communist Party of Brazil, being then enthusiastically read a salute by the Communist International Bureau for Propaganda in South America. Two sessions were realized in the following day, the 26th, and two final ones in the 27th. Directly represented were the Groups of Porto Alegre, Recife, São Paulo, Cruzeiro, Niterói and Rio. The Groups of Santos and Juiz de Fora were unable to send delegates. Equally represented were the CI Bureau in South America and the Communist Party of Uruguay.

## Agenda

It was established the following agenda regarding the work of the Congress:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Examination of the 21 conditions for admission into the Communist International;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – The Statutes of the Communist Party;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Election of the Central Executive Commission;
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Show support to those scourged in the Volga;
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Varied subjects.

1<sup>st</sup> – The 21 conditions for admission established by the Communist International were object of thorough and time-consuming study by the part of the delegates present, being discussed, and accepted unanimously, one by one.

2<sup>nd</sup> – The Statutes of the new Party, inspired by those of the Communist Party of Argentina, and having in mind the special conditions of the Brazilian situation were elaborated, discussed and approved, as a provisional title, unanimously by the present delegates.

3<sup>rd</sup> - The election for the positions of Central Executive Commission of the Party were done with a perfect spirit of friendliness, having in mind the abilities and capabilities of everyone.

4<sup>th</sup> - As it exists, since September of last year, an Aid Committee for the Russian Scourged, of which, communists, anarchists and trade-unionists were members, the Congress deliberated that the CEC should promote, in accord with the aforementioned Congress, a greater expansion of the composition of the organisation, inviting indistinctly for the organisation of a common action all workers and revolutionary organisations in Brazil, whatever their tendencies may be.

After other resolutions of secondary place and the approval of motions that will carry forward, the Congress was considered over, the delegates, standing, movingly chanted the verses of the internationale. A Long Life to the Third International! And so were done the preliminary works of foundation of the Communist Party of Brazil.

Not for being few, and without overplaying their modesty in their role, the delegates present in the Congress were not the less convicted of the historical importance of their actions. They represented, then and there, even if not organically, certainly in spirit, the highest aspirations of all Proletarians of Brazil, finally integrated into the vanguard of the worldwide proletariat.

## Motions approved by the Congress

1<sup>st</sup> – Salute to the Communist International – the Constituent Congress of the Communist Party of Brazil, held in Rio de Janeiro on days 25, 26 and 27 of March of Year V of the Social Revolution, salutes effusively and fraternally the worldwide communist family and its great vanguard, The Communist International.  
Long live the Communist International!

2<sup>nd</sup> – Salute to the Russian Revolution – To the glorious Russian Revolution and its invincible vanguard, the Russian Communist Party, our most enthusiastic salute and our most unbreakable revolutionary solidarity.  
Long live the Russian Revolution!

3<sup>rd</sup> – In memory of the heroes of Revolution – In memory of all the heroic battlers for the world Proletarian cause, who gloriously fell in the camp of battle, our most heartfelt tribute to the soldiers of the same red legion whose job is the integral liberation of the workers of the world.  
Hail the martyrs of Revolution!

4<sup>th</sup> – Salute to all those being chased by Capitalist reaction – To the brave comrades that expurgate, in the dungeons of the international bourgeoisie, the sins of their dedication to the Communist cause, our most jovial salutes of solidarity and admiration.

5<sup>th</sup> – To the Bureau of the Comintern in South America – To the comrades of the Bureau of the Comintern in South America we express our word of enthusiasm for the encouraging and vibrant appeal they addressed to us on the occasion of the opening of the Constituent Congress of the Communist Party of Brazil.

We express here, in this historical hour for the Brazilian Proletariat, our uttermost, most decisive and burning will to work, alongside the communists of the whole world, for the common cause.

Long live the Bureau of the Comintern in South America

6<sup>th</sup> – To the Communist Parties of Argentina, Uruguay and Chile – To the comrades of the Communist Parties of Argentina, Uruguay and Chile, the Constituent Congress of the Communist Party of Brazil sends fraternal continental solidarity over the conventional borders of the capitalist homelands.

Long live the union of South American workers integrated in the Communist International!

7<sup>th</sup> – To the Brazilian workers – The Constituent Congress of the Communist Party of Brazil, realized in the city of Rio de Janeiro in the days 25, 26 and 27 of March, solved the question regarding its unconditional adhesion to the Third International, forming itself then by the side of the worldwide Proletarian vanguard, it's expressed a fraternal salute to the Proletariat of Brazil urging it to rally itself in trade-unions and Party organisations in order to, once established in the two bodies that complement each other, be able to fight the last battles for its integral emancipation.

The Central Executive Commission

## To the communist workers of Brazil!

Comrades!

As you convene in your first Communist Congress, the Bureau addresses this warm appeal to you in order to encourage you in the work you so resolutely begun. With effect, as we think, this great assembly takes, in this moment, one of the most important steps for the future of the Proletariat in Brazil: the constitution of the Communist Party, the concentration of the vanguard, the grouping, in a single and only disciplined revolutionary organism, of the conscious forces of the working class, constitutes, in the present moment, one of the most transcendental steps that the Proletariat of Brazil did to its liberation movement.

The importance that assumes the constitution of a Communist Party has always been highlighted by the Communist International, as for all countries in the world; but this importance is much more to emphasize when it is verified the fact that a country has a general working movement that is disperse and scattered and where trade-unions still have a long way to walk until they show their worth as real forces of base organisation. In Brazil, the leading role of the Communist Party reveals itself as especially important; it has been fitted to fixate a clear line of conduct to the Proletariat, it is fated to give words of order to the exploited class, it will have to patronise the great masses of the peasant and working population under the folds of the Communist International's glorious flag, incorporating then the Brazilian workers into the universal movement of salvation.

The communist comrades must know of the magnificent appeal that, some months ago, the Third International addressed to the South American comrades.

In this appeal we emphasized very particularly the need of creating a Communist Party where one didn't exist, no matter how small. The insistence of our International to this question explains itself if you take into account the extremely revolutionary function of the Proletariat.

It is only necessary to examine the mission that the Party of the working class performs in the other South American countries, extracting from them great experience, to understand in its highest meaning the step that today the communist comrades of Brazil took. In Argentina, Uruguay and Chile, the Communist Party is the only institution that gives way for the Proletariat. Amid confusion provoked by elements that, consciously or not, disorientate the workers, perplexing them with preconceived notions that hinder the wakening of the labouring class, the clarity of the communist conceptions are like a beacon of light to the suffering masses. This same revolutionary mission is destined to the Brazilian comrades, that in this moment, take their first steps.

It is then, with great joy, that the Communist International Bureau for Propaganda in South America addresses the Brazilian communists, encouraging them to reach their goals. The Bureau trusts that the comrades, interpreting well the present historical time, will know how to fulfill their commitment and will be worthy representatives at the International in Moscow.

Long Live the Communist Party of Brazil!  
Long Live the Communist International!  
Long Live the World Revolution!

By the Bureau, the secretary of  
R. Vaterland

## Statutes of the Communist Party (BSCI)

### On the Constitution of the Party

Article 1 – It is founded, for an indefinite time, a civil Society, in Rio de Janeiro, but spreading its roots throughout all of Brazil, being titled Center of the Communist Party of Brazil, but being called Communist Party, Brazilian Section of the Communist International [BSCI].

Art. 2 – The Communist Party has as its ends promoting the understanding and the international action of workers and Proletarian political organisations established as Parties with the goal of the seizure of power and consequently the political and economical transformation of Capitalist Society into Communist Society.

### On membership

Art. 3 – The Party is organised around personal adhesion, being established the following rules for admission:

- a) Be at least 18 years of age;
- b) Sign the entry form signed by three adherents who are members for at least three months;
- c) Belong to the respective trade-union of your industry or office, if one exists;
- d) Members of the society are not subsidiarily liable for social obligations.

Art. 4 – The member acquires the right to vote only after three months of their admission.

Art. 5 – The Party also allows membership to people that, for reasonable motives, can't actively militate in its organs. These members, also called contributors, don't have, though, the right to vote.

### On Party centres

Art. 6 – The Party is constituted of spread local centres, where there can be at least nine members present. In the places without organised centres, it is allowed the adherence of isolated people that must organise into propaganda groups once they reach the number of three.

Art. 7 – It is not allowed more than one centre for each location of the country, with exception of the big cities, where the centres can be organised by district. In the latter cited case, the new centres must always be organised by members of previous centres.

Art. 8 – It is the obligation of each member to withdraw from its respective centre, in the first quarter of each year, the official Party booklet, paying the amount of 1000 réis for it.

- a) – Within the same time frame each centre must send to the Central Executive Commission the list of its members with the necessary indications, with the ends of receiving their respective booklets and stamps.
- b) – The monthly quota of each member is of 1000 réis, paid to its respective centre. Of this quota, 50% of it will be destined to the General-Treasury of the Party in payment of the stamps provided by the Central Executive Commission.
- c) – Members are exempt from monthly fees those that, in the judgment of their respective centres, are unable to meet them.
- d) – The isolated members or propaganda groups pay their fees directly to the General-Treasury of the Party.

Art 9. – Also mandatory are extraordinary contributions or subscriptions to jobs of national character by the members, of which can only be established by the Party Congresses or by the Central Executive Commission, with clear goals.

Art 10. – In case of emergencies, the local centres can rely on the Central Executive Commission in the need of financial aid.

## On Communist Youths

Art. 11 – It is the duty of every centre to organise a communist youth group for those below 18 years of age. Those that are over the age of 18 can stay as long as they also become members of the Party.

Art. 12 – The communist youths, to be recognised as such, must accept the Party's fundamental principles and adopt the statutes in accordance with them, under the control of the Central Executive Commission and the centres. Otherwise, they enjoy full autonomy on whatever concerns their internal organisation and whatever concerns the form of development of propaganda.

## On the Central Executive Commission

Art. 13 - The Central Executive Commission is composed of 5 full members and 5 alternates, elected by the Congress.

a) Until the realization of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Congress of the Party, there can only be elected to the Central Executive Commission those that were members before the date of the Constituent Congress.

Art. 14 – In accordance with the principles of democratic centralism, the Central Executive Commission:

- a) – Represents and directs the Party in its multiple activities and promotes the execution of the resolutions decided in the National and International Congresses.
- b) – Watches out for the respect of the Program and of the Party Statutes, making effective the disciplinary measures provided for in the Statutes.
- c) – Maintains the most strict political control over the Party organs, is responsible for orientation of the central organs and in general controls all publications made by the Party.
- d) – Maintains relationships with Communist Parties of other countries, with the Communist International and with other Proletarian organisations.
- e) – Presents in each Party Congress a general report on the work done and the state of the composing organs of the Party.

Art. 15 – The resolutions of the Central Executive Commission, to be valid, must be approved by a majority in its regular and extraordinary meetings.

Art. 16 – Each full member of the Central Executive Commission is in charge of a special branch of activity, according to the following distribution:

- a) – Service of general secretariat, organisation and propaganda;
- b) – Service of international secretariat, world relations and information;
- c) – Service of press and publicity;
- d) – Service of communist nuclei in trade-union and cooperative organisations;
- e) – Service of general treasury, managing and control of finances.

Art. 17 - The following are the special attributions of the responsables of each service:

a) – Service of general secretariat

Their role has as their responsibilities the inherent functions of General Secretary of the Party, they represent the Central Executive Commission, they watch over the application of the resolutions decided by the Commission, they watch over the organisation and discipline of the centres, organises and controls all general Party propaganda.

The titular member who exercises the General Secretariat is the representative of the Society actively and passively, legally and extrajudicially.

b) – Service of international secretariat

Maintains continuous relationships with the Executive Committee of the Communist International and with Communist Parties of other countries and organises a methodical service of information about the international communist movement.

c) – Service of press and publicity

Directs what's published in the central organ of the Party and controls all the other communist publications of the country, whether of collective or individual initiative, it is not admitted, in any way, that, under the pretext of autonomy, any publications can be made contrary to the general political orientation of the Party.

Responsible, towards the Central Executive Commission, of the doctrines upheld in the Party's central publications.

It is responsible for publishing in the central organ of the Party, or in a special bulletin, the acts and resolutions of the Central Executive Commission, the balances of the treasury and of the different organs of the Party.

It has the responsibility to publicise, in the central organ of the Party, all the resolutions of the assemblies of the centres, as well as observations that internal matters or of general interest that are made by the members.

d) – Service of nuclei

Has as its responsibility the organisation, the direction and the control of the communist nuclei in the trade-unions and cooperatives organisations, keeping direct and disciplined contact between the communist nuclei and the Central Executive Commission.

e) – Service of general treasury

The person in charge of the general treasury is responsible for the Party's finances, is in charge of the direct administration of the central safe of the Party, directing and controlling all other financial and administrative services of the newspapers, editions and miscellaneous funds of the Party in general, as well as of the centres.

Art. 18 – Each full member adds to himself, in a council under his immediate direction, the members indicated by the Central Executive Commission, with the approval of the respective centres and according to the needs and qualifications or positions of each one, at the discretion of the Central Executive Commission. These councils study and organise the projects, plans and works related to the respective field of activity, being, however, the person in charge, a full member of the Central Executive Commission, the only responsible before it, on whom the approval depends, in the last instance, of the adoption of said projects, plans and works.

Art. 19 – The members of the Central Executive Commission meet in regular session once a week. Only meetings attended by at least three full members are valid, the absences being filled in by the alternates. These must attend all the meetings of the Central Executive Commission, only having a vote, however, when they work in place of the holders.

Art. 20 – Is considered dispatched of their work the member of the Central Executive Commission that misses the meetings without explanation.

### On Party Congresses

Art. 21 – The Party meets in a regular congress yearly, in a place and time decided by the Central Executive Commission. There can be summoned extraordinary congresses by the Central Executive Commission or by the initiative of more than two thirds of the centres.

Art. 22 – Each centre sends a delegate to the congress representing 39 members or a fraction greater than 15, however, the votes of the delegations are counted based on the number of members represented.

Art. 23 – Centres that are not up to date with the Party's General Treasury or aren't at least three months old can't contend at congresses.

Art. 24 - The agenda and theses to be discussed at the congress are prepared by the Central Executive Commission and sent 60 days in advance to all centres. These, with 90 days in advance, may present to the Central Executive Commission theses or propositions on important issues of general interest, to be discussed at the congress.



Art. 25 - Each centre must send a general report on the status and progress of its yearly work to the Central Executive Commission 30 days in advance.

Art. 26 – Each member of the Central Executive Commission must read a report to the congress regarding the work they performed in their respective role. It is up to the congress what to make of the reports.

Art. 27 – The provisional table of the congress is formed by the Central Executive Commission until the verification of powers is carried out by a commission appointed for this purpose.

Art. 28 – The congress can modify the agenda proposed by the Central Executive Commission and include new issues if two thirds of the delegates decide so.

Art. 29 – Each delegate present at congress can't represent more than one local centre.

#### On management

Art. 30 – The central safe of the Party is constituted by the monthly contribution of the centres of 500 réis per even member; direct affiliates at the rate of 1000 réis per member; and by other extraordinary inflows and eventual rents.

Art. 31 – The general treasurer of the Party has to inform monthly to the Central Executive Commission about the general movements in the central safe, the balances being examined by the accounts committee.

Art. 32 - The accounts committee, made up of three members elected by the congress, is responsible for the monthly inspection of the balance sheets of the general treasury, both with regard to the fees of the centres, as well as the administration of advertising services and other extraordinary income.

Art. 33 – When a centre is dissolved, its assets are transferred to the Central Executive Commission.

#### On the Statutes of the centres, nuclei and youth wings

Art. 34 – The Statutes of the centres and communist youths are to be redacted on the model presented by the Central Executive Commission, depending on its final redaction and approval by the same Central Executive Commission.

#### On Discipline

Art. 35 – In defence of the program, of the morality and harmony of the Party, the centres can decide, with two thirds of its members, in an extraordinary assembly, to suspend, for no more than six months, and to remove of one of its members, with appeal before the Central Executive Commission and a Party Congress. The suspended or removed member can always return to the Party once the causes that led to their suspension or removal have disappeared.

Art. 36 – For the same reasons, the Central Executive Commission can, with unanimity of vote, suspend or remove a local or district centre, or a local propaganda group, with appeal to Congress.

Art. 37 – Members who are absent, without justifiable reason, from three consecutive meetings of their respective centres have their voting rights suspended during the following three meetings. In case this conduct continues, they are considered excluded from the Party.

Art. 38 – Members who fail, for two consecutive months, to pay the established contributions, have their voting rights suspended during the next three meetings of the respective centres. In case this conduct continues, they are considered excluded from the Party.

a) – Are absent from the conditions imposed by this article those listed in case c) of article 8.

Art. 39 – The centres, groups and communist youths can't coordinate acts with alien groups without first the approval of the Central Executive Commission.

Art. 40 – Only Party Congresses have the capacity to realise reforms and modifications on the present Statutes, if they're based on the principles and resolutions of the Communist International, as well as only a Congress, invoked in special conditions, can decide to extinguish the Society and decide where the funds go.

Art. 41 – The cases not solved by these Statutes are to be solved by the Central Executive Commission.

Source: <https://cdm.grabois.org.br/pcdob-documentos/1o-congresso-do-partido-comunista-do-brasil/>