



SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

For a New Internationalism and a New Culture of Solidarity

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS

XXIV Congress of the
Socialist International
Cape Town, South Africa
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XXIV Congress of the Socialist International For a New Internationalism and a New Culture of Solidarity

The XXIV Congress of the Socialist International met in Cape Town, South Africa, on August 30 - September 1, under the heading "For a New Internationalism and a New Culture of Solidarity". Bringing together leaders and delegates of member parties from around the world, including a number of heads of state and government and specially invited guests, the event was attended by representatives of 130 parties and organisations. The African National Congress (ANC) hosted the event in the centennial year of its foundation. It was the first Congress in the history of the International to take place in Africa.

The agenda comprised four key themes that are of central importance to the Socialist International today: 'For an economy with jobs, growth and social protection: the social democratic response to the financial crisis'; The struggle for rights and freedoms: strengthening representative democracy and gaining new democracies around the world'; 'For a common road to peace, sustainability and cooperation: the need to secure multilateralism'; and 'For a new internationalism and a new culture of solidarity among people and between nations'.



A minute of silence was observed in memory of John Atta Mills, Ghana’s inspirational late president, whose work remains a testament to the achievements of the social democratic movement in the continent.

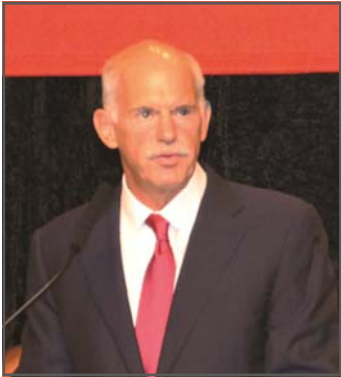
Introducing the proceedings, SI President George Papandreou thanked the hosts and expressed gratitude for the welcome and warm hospitality members had received in Cape Town.

Deputy President of South Africa and of the ANC, Kgalema Motlanthe, opened the Congress with a welcoming speech. He thanked George Papandreou, SI Secretary General Luis Ayala, and all the delegates and guests present, on behalf of the ANC and his democratic nation, for holding this meeting in Africa. Motlanthe conveyed his appreciation for the continued support of the SI in the struggles of the African people against colonialism and racism, highlighting the significance of this event taking place during the ANC’s centennial celebrations. He remarked on the similarity between the foundations of the ANC and the SI, both being inspired by the desire to change the world for the better, for freedom, social justice and solidarity. The ANC, he said, places great emphasis on



Kgalema Motlanthe, Deputy President of South Africa

internationalism, in particular working with other democratic organisations in pursuit of the renaissance of the African continent. Challenges we all now face, he explained, include reducing the control of wealth by transnational corporations, resisting the homogenisation of the media, and reforming a weakened system of global governance. Urging the Congress to come together to find a clear way forward on these issues, he called on the SI to continue being a force for the mobilisation of the world progressive movement for a better world and a better Africa. He concluded by observing a common saying in South Africa, that was extremely pertinent to the Congress, ‘working together, in solidarity, we can do more’.



SI President George Papandreou

Following on, George Papandreou gave his opening speech. He acknowledged the struggles the ANC has undergone, praising its leadership for never giving up and the proud men and women of Africa who continue to carry a deep sense of hope and vigour for change. ‘We are honoured that we are here’, said Papandreou, ‘to celebrate with you the 100 years of struggles which came to fruition under the inspired leadership of Nelson Mandela’.

Papandreou emphasised the importance of the values and commitment of the Socialist International from its inception to our contemporary global platform. Recalling the political events he experienced in his youth, he remarked upon the inspiration the SI had offered social democrats throughout its history. We must continue to fight for change, to address the problems of the global economy and restructure the market to fit the needs of all people, he said. Reminding participants that the economic crisis of 2008 should not have happened, he stressed the necessity to ensure the protection of future generations, sustainable resources and a conflict-free world. The SI must continue to work, Papandreou said, ‘to succeed in transforming our global economy into one with democratic governance and regulation that serves our people, for a just global society’.

For an economy with jobs, growth and social protection: the social democratic response to the financial crisis



Elio Di Rupo, Prime Minister of Belgium

The first main theme of the Congress began with a significant address on the state of the global economy by Elio Di Rupo, Prime Minister of Belgium and SI Vice-President. Di Rupo emphasised that the financial sector is out of control, causing enormous damage to the real economy, with impunity. Stock markets are capable of destroying businesses and wiping out employment within seconds; without supervision the financial sector lies in absolute speculation. This constitutes one of the biggest contemporary challenges for the

progressive movement, he stressed. States and governments should not be subordinate to financial markets. He explained that the only way to ensure greater social justice and regain prosperity for all is to take them under control. He stipulated that well thought through reforms must be applied to the financial sector. These can only be achieved, he said, by avoiding the liberal and conservative policies that currently risk steering us toward social chaos.

Phil Angelides, Chair of the US Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, from the United States Democrats, was a specially invited keynote speaker on this highly pertinent theme. Angelides gave a thought-provoking speech on the roots of the financial crisis and power structures in the current global financial sector. Global unemployment levels, he said, clearly demonstrate that the ramifications of the crisis are far from over. Angelides



Phil Angelides

warned that conservatives wishing to disassociate their market practices from blame could rewrite history, implying the crash could have happened at any time, or was the result of over spending on welfare. The crash, he explained was due to ruthless risk-taking at the expense of innocent people. We must now ensure greater market regulation and accountability, he said, and further we must address both the global economy and climate change, investing in energy efficiency for a green economy. A truly democratic economic system with opportunities and financial justice for all can be achieved, he concluded, if we are able to learn from previous mistakes.

A further contribution on this theme was heard from Ségolène Royal, SI Vice-President (PS, France). Other speeches were given by Trevor Manuel, Minister of Planning of South Africa; Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, SI Vice-President and leader of CHP, Turkey; Alfred Gusenbauer, SI Vice-



President of South Africa Jacob Zuma, Ségolène Royal, PS, France

President (SPÖ, Austria), Sergei Stanishev, President of the PES; Beatriz Paredes, SI Vice-President (PRI, Mexico); Hannes Swoboda, President of the S&D Group in the European Parliament; Ouafa Hajji, the new President of SI Women; Carlos Eduardo Vieira da Cunha, SI Vice-President (PDT, Brazil); Fatallah Oualalou, former Finance and Economy Minister of Morocco (USFP, Morocco); Manuel Laguarda (PSU, Uruguay); Purificación Causapié (PSOE, Spain); Ousmane Tanor Dieng, SI Vice-President (PS, Senegal); Christoph Zöpel (SPD, Germany); Liu Jieyi, Vice-Minister (CPC, China); Svetlina Yolcheva (PBSD, Bulgaria); Manuel Rosales, leader of UNT, Venezuela; and Rafael Michelini, President of NE, Uruguay.

Following discussions on this first theme, a resolution outlining the SI's priorities was unanimously adopted. The statement stressed that a lack of action would slow global economic growth, widening inequalities between

countries, and threatening the progress and implementation of the UN Millennium Development Goals. The SI supports a progressive and integrated approach to the crisis, with financial, economic, social, and environmental concerns given equal importance.



Gilles Mahieu, PS Belgium

Further, those accountable for the crisis must take responsibility for the rectification of its consequences. A more progressive fiscal strategy would stabilise the economy and protect the future and this can be achieved through financing tools such as the introduction of a Financial Transaction Tax.

It was again recognised that austerity cannot be the remedy for this crisis but instead a new paradigm is needed to secure growth and shield the economy against speculative attacks. Transparent, effective regulation must be ensured in the banking sector and a new multipolar Global Financial Architecture should support these goals, reduce injustice and guarantee inter-generational fairness.



Congress Delegates

Elections

SI Members at the Congress in South Africa took part in an electoral process introduced for the first time in the history of the Socialist International.

Following the decisions taken by the Council in the January 2012 meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica, the vote would be formal, competitive and open to all full members of the Socialist International that had complied with the statutory requirements. The registered candidates would further be elected by a secret ballot.



***Navinchandra Ramgoolam,
Prime Minister, Mauritius***



Pendukeni Ithana, SWAPO, Namibia



Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo



Delegates Voting



*Wenceslao Mansogo,
CPDS, Equatorial Guinea*



Electoral Commission, counting votes

The election of the SI President took place first. President George Papandreou, the sole candidate, was unanimously re-elected by a show of hands and he graciously accepted the vote for his continued presidency.

Votes for the Secretary General and the Vice-Presidents followed. Candidates for the post of Secretary General were incumbent SI Secretary General Luis Ayala and SI Vice-President Mona Sahlin from the SAP, Sweden. Both candidates were first given the floor for a presentation to the Congress, to detail their ambitions and goals for the future of the organisation.



Electoral Commission, announcing the results

Member parties cast their votes for the positions of SI Secretary General and those for the Vice-Presidents in a ballot box. This was overseen by an Electoral Commission that comprised representation from all continents: Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, former Prime Minister of Mali, Martín Torrijos, former President of Panama, Senator Mian Raza Rabbani, from PPP, Pakistan, Achim Post, International Secretary of SPD, Germany, and Tero Shemeikka, International Secretary from SDP Finland, who headed the Commission.

After the votes were counted, the head of the Electoral Commission Tero Shemeikka, from the Finnish Social Democratic Party, announced the results. Luis Ayala was re-elected with the majority of the votes, which he warmly accepted. Ayala gave his thanks to Mona Sahlin for her commitment to the SI.



Luis Ayala and George Papandreou

Thirty-three Vice-Presidents were elected from a ballot paper including candidates from all regions through a system that secured a fair geographical representation and also ensured gender balance as stipulated in the Statutes. The list of those voted that now form the new Presidium of the organisation can be found on page 40. The Congress mandated the next Council to elect three Vice-Presidents for the remaining three posts open in the Presidium.



Members of the newly elected Presidium

The struggle for rights and freedoms: strengthening representative democracy and gaining new democracies in the world



H.E. Jacob Zuma, President of South Africa

The second theme of the Congress, strengthening global democracy, opened with a special address by the President of the Republic of South Africa, and of the ANC, H.E. Jacob Zuma. The President gave a warm welcome, thanking all the members present and expressing his honour and pride that South Africa was hosting the event and that it took place in the ANC's centennial year. He expressed particular thanks for the solidarity that had been extended by SI parties to the oppressed South African masses during the struggle against colonial oppression

and apartheid. Confirming the importance of the Congress, he explained that an effective response to all the challenges discussed during the event, in line with the main theme of the Congress, would pave the way for our common objective: a new internationalism and a new culture of solidarity.

Jacob Zuma examined the adverse effects of globalisation in order to illustrate this. While globalisation, he recognised, has produced profoundly positive effects, it has also caused extremely negative consequences. Three quarters of the global population have become victims of the globalisation process, and now suffer deepening poverty and inequality. Under current political and economic scenarios the gap between rich and poor has widened, and nations are still vulnerable to military conflict. To tackle this, he stressed that lasting solutions and a democratic multilateralism were needed, rather than the increasing unilateralism that can be seen today. The Socialist International, he said, has been vital in pursuing these goals, fostering unity and achieving great strides in all regions of the world, including on the African continent.

On the theme of Democracy, Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister and Leader of the Labour Party of Mauritius, addressed the Congress with a motivating speech on the democratic processes that he had fought for in his country.



Jessie Benoit, Haiti

Further valuable contributions were heard from Marian Lupu, Leader of PDM, Moldova; Sükhbaataryn Batbold, former Prime Minister of Mongolia (MPP, Mongolia); Stefan Löfven, Chair of SAP, Sweden; Yasmine Durate (ANC, South Africa); Mian Raza Rabbani (PPP, Pakistan); Juan Moscoso del Prado (PSOE, Spain); Mohamed Ghaleb Ahmed Alsaqladi (YSP, Yemen); Ibrahima N'Diaye (ADEMA-PASJ, Mali); Zharmakhan Tuyakbay, Chair of OSDP, Kazakhstan; Zita Gurmai, President of PES Women; Marcelo Stubrin (UCR, Argentina); Kofi Awoonor (NDC, Ghana); Omar Barboza (UNT, Venezuela); Kalla Ankourao (PNDS, Niger); Gaoussou Touré (RPG, Guinea); Denis MacShane (The Labour Party, Great Britain); Bachir Sayed (Polisario Front, Western Sahara); Wenceslao Mansogo (CPDS, Equatorial Guinea); Beatriz Talegón, Secretary General of IUSY; Nouzha Chekrouni, SI Vice-President (USFP, Morocco); Ahmed Ould Daddah, SI Vice-President and leader of RFD, Mauritania; Khalid Azizi (KDP, Iran); Martin Ziguélé (MLPC, Central African Republic); Umut Oran (CHP, Turkey); Chantal Kambiwa, SI Vice-President (SDF, Cameroon); Gia Jorjoliani (SDD, Georgia); and Pia Locatelli (PSI, Italy).



Ahmed Ould Daddah, RFD, Mauritania



NDC, Ghana

On the second main theme of the Congress, a resolution was unanimously adopted that underlined the commitment to further strengthen democracy across the globe. The resolution highlighted that currently more than 1.5 billion people – almost a quarter of the world’s population – continue to suffer daily under state-sanctioned repression,

reiterating SI’s commitment to challenge undemocratic regimes. Support was pledged for the Arab Spring nations of Tunisia, Yemen, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Syria and Bahrain.

In Africa, support was expressed for the democratic efforts in Niger, Guinea, Senegal and Zambia, while deep concern was stated over Equatorial Guinea and Guinea-Bissau. In Mali, the SI expressed its full support to its member parties in restoring democracy and their efforts to secure the integrity and unity of the nation. In Mauritania, the SI denounced again the denial of citizens’ right to free and democratic elections, calling for a full reinstatement of those rights.

In Europe, international pressure was again called for to secure the release of all political prisoners in Belarus, where the social democratic leader Mikalai Statkevich, former presidential candidate, remains in prison. Further concern was voiced over democratic restrictions in Ukraine, Georgia, Turkey and Russia. Solidarity was reiterated with the new full SI member party, A Just Russia Party.

Deep concern was conveyed over the ‘parliamentary coup’ in Paraguay with a call to support those in the country seeking democracy. An SI mission was announced to visit Venezuela in order to observe the presidential elections to be held in October 2012, where SI members and other like-minded forces would be participating in a coalition with a single candidate.

For a common road to peace, sustainability and cooperation: the need to secure multilateralism



Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma

Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, newly elected Chairperson of the African Union Commission, gave a keynote speech on the third main theme of the Congress Agenda. Speaking on the importance of multilateralism, she described how humanity could find solutions to common problems through cooperation. Paying tribute to the work of the United Nations, Dlamini-Zuma observed that it represents ‘the greatest collective achievement of humankind’. She stressed that the reform of the UN and the Bretton Wood’s Institutions must be at the top of the agenda and, that by defending and strengthening the United Nations we can

advance an inclusive multilateralism. There has never been a better time to move for change, she explained, and we must now unite around these issues, as we have done around the debt crisis and the isolation of apartheid. The multilateral approach she called for would confront injustice and promote peace, as development is not sustainable without justice. She emphasised the difference the Socialist International could make in promoting and securing multilateralism and concluded by acknowledging the sense of urgency the SI Congress must convey, to translate our words into action and move our values to centre stage.

The Congress heard further contributions on the importance of multilateralism and a sustainable world from Satyaurat Chaturvedi (India National Congress, India); Hermes Binner (PS, Argentina); Sergey Mironov, leader of A Just Russia Party, Russia; Nabeel Shath (Fatah, Palestine); Avshalom Vilan (Meretz, Israel); Mustafa Bargouthi (PNI, Palestine); and Hikmet Mohammed Kareem (PUK, Iraq).

On this theme a resolution was adopted underlining the necessity of multilateral efforts to construct a sustainable, prosperous, just and peaceful world society. In this text, a number of regional issues are included and among them deep concern was expressed over the situation in Syria, where the Assad regime refuses to accept change. A call was made to end hostilities and begin a Syrian-led process of transition to democracy. Support was given for a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The SI further decided to re-establish a Special Working Group on the Kurdish Question with the aim to advance and protect in accordance with international law the rights, the security and the improvement of the living conditions of the Kurdish people.

The situation in Western Sahara also featured among the issues addressed in the resolution, reflecting the involvement of the International in the search for a just, peaceful and lasting solution to this conflict. Other themes included in the resolution were the situation in Cyprus and the Falklands/Malvinas conflict.



Amendments to Resolutions

For a new internationalism and a new culture of solidarity among people and between nations



Gwede Mantashe, ANC, South Africa

The final theme of the Congress underpinned the discussions held during the event. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, former Prime Minister of Mali and Leader of the RPM, Mali; João Ribeiro (PS Portugal); Lise Christoffersen (DNA, Norway); Viviana Pineiro (IUSY); Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana, SI Vice-President and Secretary General of SWAPO, Namibia;

Gültan Kisanak, Co-Chair of the BDP, Turkey; Nicos Hadjistephanou (EDEK, Cyprus); and Esther Mordoch (Meretz, Israel) gave speeches on the importance of a renewed solidarity between people and nations.

Contributions emphasised that a new internationalism should ensure progressive change, spread democracy, enhance cooperative security, share collective burdens and strengthen democratic international institutions. Calling for greater world governance it was not only stressed that organisations such as the IMF, World Bank and the World Trade Organisation need strengthening, but also that there is a need for social and cultural reforms. The need to advance on a new internationalism will allow for more responsible political systems, democracy and freedom for the people as emphasised by former Prime Minister Keita, or the need for more foreign policy and less foreign affairs as underscored by Ribeiro.



PRD, Dominican Republic

The Congress reaffirmed the need to prioritise solidarity in facing challenges such as the consequences of the financial crisis, deepening global inequalities and the abuse of human rights and freedoms in regions across the world. 'A New Internationalism and a New Culture of Solidarity', in conclusion, together constitute the central pillar not only to find solutions to today's problems but also to promote new opportunities and development for every country. In short, this new internationalism and new culture of solidarity forms both the road and the requirement to achieve a just global society of rights and freedoms for all.



***Zharmakhan Tuyakbay,
OSDP, Kazakhstan***



Rafael Michelini, NE, Uruguay

The Congress confirmed membership decisions taken by the Council during in the inter-Congress period and adopted changes to the Statutes to reflect the decisions on SI reforms agreed by the previous Council held in Costa Rica in January 2012. The Congress also agreed to empower the next Council to take decisions on membership with full effect in the current inter-Congress period.



As the Congress concluded, President Jacob Zuma addressed the gathering with a farewell speech, emphasising the increasing role of Africa in the world. He expressed his belief that the SI will provide even greater leadership in determining what type of democratic world we can live in and that its voice will be heard now more than ever.

George Papandreou, in closing the Congress, thanked all the members for their constructive and vital contributions to the debates. We will continue, he said, to be active in the global arena, and to create greater dialogue and understanding. The Socialist International is now stronger than ever before and this has been demonstrated in the internal democracy shown in this Congress.



RESOLUTION 1
FOR AN ECONOMY WITH JOBS, GROWTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION: THE
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC RESPONSE TO THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

A. The implications of the financial crisis and the fragile state of the global economy

The ongoing financial crisis threatens world economic growth and sustainability in all continents. The continuation of instability in the banking system, recession in the Eurozone and slower-than-expected growth in the USA and in emerging economies continue to characterize the state of the global economy.

According to the latest data, global growth will slow to 3.5% in 2012 - down by 0.1 percentage points from the April 2012 forecast and significantly lower than the growth of 5.2% in 2010 and 3.8% in 2011. Clearly, the policy action undertaken until present at global, regional and national level has been neither timely nor efficient enough to address the economic downturn and to allow for a more robust recovery.

Africa faces some of the most challenging economic circumstances. Stable economic growth in much of Sub-Saharan Africa is being translated neither into poverty reduction nor sustainable development. In addition, Africa faces the challenges of Least Developed Countries: food security, basic healthcare, education, and massive lack of access to irrigation, piped household water and electricity. In these circumstances human rights and basic livelihoods are nearly impossible to attain. The global crisis originating in the North will have a disproportionate impact on Africans, including possible decline in development assistance.

In Europe the economy of the Eurozone has shrunk by a further 0.2% since April 2012, while in the first quarter of 2012 the growth rate was zero. The dogma of further fiscal discipline imposed by the conservative majority in Europe has led to a vicious circle of budget cuts, continuing recession, reduced private consumption and alarmingly increased unemployment especially among young people.

In the United States, the latest data show growth of 2%, lower than expected in the beginning of 2012. Consumer spending has decreased, job creation has slowed, the unemployment rate remains high, while the developments in Europe and slowdown in emerging markets have a negative effect on exports.

Growth has slowed also in a number of major emerging economies, especially Brazil, China, and India, due to an unstable external environment and a decline in domestic demand. Only in the Middle East and in Northern and sub-Saharan Africa is growth expected to remain stable in 2012.

At the same time, the crisis has slowed the progress towards the implementation of the UN Millennium Development Goals, as financial support and development aid for countries are reduced to lower than expected levels. Many developing countries have also seen delays in investment in extractive industries as a result of the financial crisis. It is essential that OECD countries honour and implement their development assistance commitments, in particular those to Least Developed Countries.

Taking into account the above factors, the Socialist International supports a progressive and integrated approach to the crisis, with financial, economic, social, and environmental concerns given equal importance. Only with such an approach can the acute inequality and unfairness that currently define the global economy be corrected.

Our progressive political family has always been in the forefront of developments since the beginning of the crisis. Back in 2009 our Presidium addressed the G20 Summit, taking place at that time in Pittsburgh, asking for a more balanced and inclusive approach towards the crisis, an approach focussed not on “austerity only” policies but measures that combine fiscal consolidation with jobs and growth.

B. Negative social trends and growing inequality

In combination with the consequences of the global financial crisis, an increased concentration of wealth leads to deeper inequality between countries and within them. In many countries around the world wages have stagnated or fallen and any growth of income coming out of the recovery has

gone to the upper 1% of the highest earners. In the United States, for example, this 1% today take nearly a quarter of the nation's income and control 40% of the nation's wealth. Not only have the most vulnerable groups of society seen their condition worsen, but the middle class is shrinking, something that has important political implications.

Our movement has to face a series of policies undermining the social rights that we achieved after years of struggle. Conservatives use the financial crisis to rewrite history and find pretexts to apply neoliberal policies. They blame the welfare state for the crisis and try to dismantle social protection.

However, today it is more than evident that the financial crisis was not caused by excessive government spending. It was not caused by the cost of social security or people not working hard enough. The real causes of the financial crisis were deliberate high-risk policies and actions which directly precipitated the near collapse of the financial system.

As a result, the need to correct growing national and global inequality is not just economic but social. Growing inequality has unleashed around the world a sense of injustice, a sense that those responsible for the crisis have not been adequately held accountable for the irresponsibility of their actions, a sense that they continue to enjoy their benefits while ordinary citizens who suffer from the crisis are paying the bill.

C. Priorities for the progressive movement

1. A Progressive Fiscal Policy

In order to fight inequality and increase social justice, a more progressive fiscal strategy is necessary; a strategy that at the same time could help stabilise the economy. For this reason an increase in aggregate demand is required. This can be achieved through the deployment of several mechanisms and innovative financing tools including: a bank levy or increased income tax on high earners, redistributing wealth from the top to the bottom; the introduction of a Financial Transaction Tax (FTT); a new global reserves system that could provide developing countries with access to financing, giving them purchasing power and helping to drive demand by using resources that would

otherwise be idle; and by establishing new financial institutions such as development banks and green banks that could create new credit mechanisms, enabling credit to flow once more and provide more liquidity to ensure the resources meet public needs.

2. The need for a paradigm shift - addressing austerity only strategy

For many governments and international institutions all over the world, austerity is presented as a remedy for the crisis, although so far it has failed to result in growth in all cases where it has been explicitly tried as a policy. There is no example of a large economy recovering as a result of austerity. Today, it is more evident than ever that austerity has failed to resolve the fiscal problems in the most developed economies and led in many cases to deeper recession, higher unemployment and lower tax revenues.

A new path beyond austerity is needed. There needs to be an approach that secures growth and shields the economy against speculative attacks. At this moment of low growth and high unemployment, it is crucial to expand investment, stimulating growth and ensuring that the economy is better prepared for the future. Moreover, what we need today is a bold approach based on a new culture of solidarity, solidarity that works separately and simultaneously at different levels: economic, political and social. Otherwise, any government that acts alone risks being crushed by markets and ratings agencies. Common action and creative initiatives are needed to bring about a paradigm shift from the failed austerity policies; that is the only way to a sustained recovery.

3. Strengthening regulation for a more transparent financial system

Effective regulation of the banking sector is the only way to prevent a return to the excessive risk taking and unethical practices that were rife in many financial institutions. A number of countries have started to separate speculative trading from retail banking, a trend that needs to be supported.

In the short- and medium-term more action is needed in order to prevent becoming once more hostages of speculative attacks that threaten the stability and sustainability of our economies. Strict regulation of hedge funds

and all shadow banking activities are steps in the right direction. The International believes that a new regulatory structure needs to be adopted in order to mitigate the risks that hedge funds pose to the global financial system. This will only be possible if regulators are granted the effective means with which to enforce strict financial rules.

We should also address the issue of rating agencies that operate with a total lack of oversight. Until there is better regulation and oversight of them, they will continue to pose a serious and immediate threat to global financial stability.

There is a pressing need to dismantle tax havens, close loopholes and create automatic tax record exchange systems. Only under the auspices of a new Global Financial Architecture can this take place, one that significantly increases transparency and strengthens enforcement of the regulations. According to recent reports at least 21 trillion dollars of untaxed private wealth was invested in global tax havens in 2010. The figure, derived from offshore assets under management deposits and custody assets of the top 50 individual banks globally, is equal to more than a quarter of the global GDP.

4. A new Global Financial Architecture

As the continuing crisis shows, the prevailing economic model needs to be adapted to current challenges. To do so we need a new Global Financial Architecture that will provide global institutions that can guarantee stability and risk management.

A new multipolar Global Financial Architecture should create a new regulatory framework that ensures the safety of the financial system; protects consumers; maintains economic stability; and guarantees access to finance for all, in particular through the institutionalisation of a more accessible system based on solidarity. A new regulatory framework can only be successful if there is adequate enforcement of regulations.

In the longer term, investment in the future is needed in order to reduce injustice and guarantee intergenerational fairness. For members of our political family it is also about ensuring that our vision of a Global Welfare Statehood is guaranteed for present and future generations.

RESOLUTION 2
THE STRUGGLE FOR RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS: STRENGTHENING
REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY AND GAINING NEW DEMOCRACIES AROUND
THE WORLD

A. Democracy and freedom: the foundations of the progressive movement

The Socialist International has always been committed to the fight for democracy in the world, a fight based on the values of freedom and equality. As progressives, we strive to achieve equal rights for all, regardless of sex, race, ethnic group, nationality or any other identity.

However, these rights are seriously in question in many regions of the world today. More than 1.5 billion people – almost a quarter of the world’s population – suffer every day under the weight of state-sanctioned repression. In many of these countries the lack of freedom is further compounded by crippling poverty, much of which is due to the concentration of national wealth in the hands of an elite few. Globally, the division between wealth and poverty is sharper than ever before.

It is only possible to speak of democracy if people have a free choice between political alternatives within the framework of free and fair elections; if there is a possibility for a change of government by peaceful means based on the free will of the people; if individual and minority rights are guaranteed; and, if there is an independent judicial system based on the rule of law impartially applied to all citizens.

All these principles have been outlined and highlighted in our Declaration of Principles adopted by the XVIII Congress in 1989 and they represent the core values of our organization. It is our responsibility as progressives to be at the forefront of the struggles for democratic governance.

As the events of the past two years have demonstrated, people around the world yearn for more freedom, for more equality, for more democracy. The Socialist International, which from the first day supported these movements, is determined to continue to be engaged on the side of all those political and civil society forces fighting for their legitimate rights.

The Socialist International considers that legitimising the will of the people is the crucial and determinant priority in ensuring the sustainability of the new democracies. Those who persist in retaining power illegitimately have to give way to the call for democracy; those who are engaged in organising the transitions have to respond to the expectations of the people for the democratic changes to be instituted without unnecessary delay, and the support and solidarity of the international community for those new emerging political systems must be a priority.

B. Democracy in the world today

North Africa and the Middle East

In 2011 the tide of democracy rose in North Africa and the Middle East, as thousands poured out onto the streets to demand their inalienable democratic rights. The Arab Spring demonstrated the power of solidarity as peoples throughout the Arab World marched together to demand that which is rightfully theirs, even doing so when faced with the threat of brutal reprisal. Since the outset of these movements, the Socialist International placed itself at the side of those in the Arab world who fight for our common objectives and principles of social justice, human rights, freedom of speech and expression, and representative democracy and our commitment to this cause remains undiminished.

In Tunisia, it is vital to support those political stakeholders working to create a more peaceful and tolerant state for all Tunisian people, among them the Democratic Forum for Labour and Freedoms (FDTL). In particular, it is of paramount importance that the new constitution reflects and acknowledges the equal rights and inclusion of people of all genders, religions and ethnicities, as well as minorities.

The historic steps taken towards democracy in Yemen would not have been possible without the strength and perseverance of the Yemeni people and Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), of which the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) is a leading member. The national dialogue undertaken by the new authorities in search of consensual solutions to the problems faced by the country is crucial to ensure the realisation of hopes and aspirations for a democratic future. The

challenges faced in Yemen are made evident by the recent assassination attempt against the secretary general of the YSP, and appropriate sanctions must be taken against those who obstruct the political path.

In Egypt, socialists and social democrats were instrumental in the revolutionary movement which brought about the democratic transition. The Egyptian Bloc has brought together parties and movements striving to build a more liberal and tolerant Egyptian society, an important challenge for the country today in which they have the full support of the Socialist International.

In Morocco, elections have taken place under the new constitutional framework, which grants more power to elected representatives. The USFP, an experienced and recognised social democratic force which chose to be in opposition, will be taking the opportunities provided by the new constitution to hold the government to account.

Though a democratic future is starting to take shape in many countries of the region, including Egypt, Tunisia, Libya and Yemen, these developments have yet to reach the oppressed peoples of some other Arab states.

The continued brutalisation of the Syrian people is an affront to humanity, and the Assad regime which bears responsibility for the deaths of tens of thousands of Syrian civilians has lost all legitimacy. The cry for freedom and democracy in Syria is stronger than ever and we have stood, and will continue to stand in solidarity with the citizens of Syria struggling for freedom and democracy, and support the efforts of the UN and the Arab League to find a viable end to the conflict.

We also support those in Bahrain who were unjustly and cruelly treated in the regime's crackdown on pro-democracy forces last year. The continued detention of Ebrahim Sharif, secretary general of the National Democratic Action Society (Wa'ad), and other political prisoners is totally unacceptable, and they should be released immediately.

The SI underlines its conviction that the ongoing changes across the Arab world make the need for progress on Middle East peace, based on the internationally agreed upon terms of reference, all the more urgent. Heeding

the aspirations of the people in the region must include the fulfilment of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including its right to statehood, as a crucial element for lasting peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

Across the Arab world, women have featured prominently in the struggle for freedom and democracy, and continue to play a prominent role in the democratic transitions. The Socialist International supports these and all women that strive to secure their freedom and equality, calling on political and social leaders in the region to pursue a future where women are afforded the same opportunities, rights and freedoms as men.

Africa

Throughout Sub-Saharan Africa social democrats and progressives have been at the forefront of the strengthening of democratic principles and institutions. Our movement is symbolised by the struggle for freedom and democracy, and our member parties continue to work for the opening up of more opportunities for the citizens of the continent.

In March 2011, Mahamadou Issoufou of the Nigerien Party for Democracy and Socialism was elected President of Niger in an electoral process deemed free and fair by international observers. The election marked a successful return to civilian rule after the country was plunged into crisis following the attempts of the former President Tandja to undemocratically hold on to power at the end of its term in December 2009 and the coup in February 2010. The positive steps taken by the new government have given the citizens of Niger cause for renewed hope and optimism to accompany the country's return to democracy.

In November 2010 Alpha Condé of the Assembly of the Guinean People was elected President of Guinea in the first free and fair elections to date in that country, immediately embarking on the crucial tasks of reform of the armed forces and tackling the situation of public finances. Despite violent attacks against them, President Condé and his party remain committed to a democratic future for Guinea and its citizens. The Socialist International strongly encourages and supports Guinea in the holding of free, transparent and credible legislative elections before the end of 2012.

Recently in Senegal, change took place through a democratic process, and a new president and governing coalition have taken office in a continuation of the democratic heritage of that country, a legacy of previous socialist governments. The 2012 election, won by a diverse coalition including the Senegalese Socialist Party, was conducted peacefully and in line with democratic standards, and brought about Senegal's second change of government, following that of 2000.

Positive steps toward a more democratic future have been taken in Zambia, where there was a successful transition of power from the incumbent Rupiah Banda to Michael Sata, following the latter's victory in a presidential election held in September 2011.

Unfortunately, there are still anti-democratic forces elsewhere in the region that continue to subvert democracy, deny freedoms, and commit deplorable human rights abuses. The coup d'état in Guinea-Bissau, as the country prepared for the second round of presidential elections in April 2012, was a subversion of the constitutional order and an attack on our shared values and principles. It is crucial for the international community and regional organisations to act decisively in favour of a prompt return to the normal functioning of democratic institutions of the country. Our member party, the PAIGC, has been a central actor in the democratic life of the nation and has our full solidarity in its ongoing struggle.

Democratic order must be restored following the coup d'état in Mali on 22 March 2012 and occupation of the north, leading to a de facto partition of the country. The Socialist International expresses its full support to its member parties in Mali, and to those who are working for the restoration of its constitutional order and territorial integrity, and the liberation of occupied zones of the country. We support the efforts of the interim President Dioncounda Traoré and his government in its crucial task of restoring democracy and organising free and transparent elections, and call upon the international community and regional organisations to act with the Malian authorities in this regard.

Mauritania is suffering a serious constitutional crisis under the current regime, whereby democratic principles are flouted by the blatant violation of

laws and constitutional provisions currently in force. The regime refuses to organise the municipal and legislative elections due more than a year ago, plunging Mauritania into a political impasse where the state fails to respond to the needs of its citizens. Similarly, all so-called democratic institutions are rendered meaningless by the sole control of the country by the regime. The SI again denounces this abnormal situation, which denies Mauritanian citizens their right to freedom and democracy, and calls for the respect of these fundamental values.

The lack of political and social freedom in Equatorial Guinea remains of grave concern to us. The Socialist International expresses serious concern about the way in which elections are organised and the manner in which political opponents are treated. We continue to support the Convergence for Social Democracy (CPDS), whose members have been victims of the political repression in Equatorial Guinea, and other pro-democratic forces opposed to the repressive regime.

In Cameroon, the SI has made repeated calls for true democracy prior to, during and in the aftermath of presidential elections in October 2011. Regrettably, the current electoral code is far from able to guarantee free, fair and transparent elections and the electoral commission (ELECAM) is not independent, with key demands of the opposition in this regard unfulfilled. Furthermore, while the judiciary should have the power to settle disputes, it is controlled by the executive.

In Zimbabwe the SI supports the efforts of President Zuma and SADC in restoring legitimacy after the presidential election of 2008. The SI urges the full implementation of the global political agreement between the parties followed by a peaceful, credible, free and fair election which respects the will of the people.

The Socialist International is concerned by the rise in religious fundamentalism and growing insecurity, notably in sub-Saharan Africa. The Socialist International calls for a deepening of freedoms in the region, particularly religious freedom, the absence of which is often the cause of pogroms and conflict in the continent, and will continue to closely monitor developments therein.

Europe

In Belarus, the incarceration of Mikalai Statkevich, presidential candidate in the 2010 Belarusian presidential election, continues. Since the 2010 elections Belarus has further entrenched its status as a dictatorial, authoritarian regime. International pressure should be further applied with the aim of securing the unconditional release of Mikalai Statkevich and all other political prisoners in Belarus, and putting an end to the daily repression of opposition politicians and activists.

In Ukraine, recent actions taken by the president and authorities have severely curtailed democratic freedoms. This gradual descent into authoritarianism must be brought to an end. The Socialist International supports pro-democratic forces in Ukraine and has called for the release of political prisoners, including former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, in advance of the October parliamentary elections.

We have also called upon the incumbent regime in Georgia to bring an end to the constraints on political activity and create fair and competitive conditions ahead of the October parliamentary election, which will prepare the ground for the transfer of power at presidential elections in 2013.

We share the concerns of many in Russia over increasing state-sanctioned threats to democratic principles and institutions. The International stands in solidarity with those, both in Russia and elsewhere, that are for a society underpinned by democratic principles of freedom and equality. We will continue with the help of our Russian member party, A Just Russia, to monitor events in the country.

The International supports the strengthening of democratic institutions and values through the announced constitutional reform in Romania, where the new government led by Victor Ponta has also initiated policies of stimulating growth and repairing the damage done by austerity and crisis.

In Turkey, elected members of parliament are being obstructed from performing their duties by arbitrary court decisions. This is contrary to the stipulations of the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights, bringing into question the independence of the judiciary, which is a fundamental condition of

democracy. The situation is a violation of human rights; along with the prolonged detention of journalists, students and public servants amongst others in Turkey, it is a cause for concern.

Asia

We can only draw inspiration from the dignified struggle for democracy of Aung San Suu Kyi, an honorary president of the Socialist International. The Socialist International remains resolute in its support for the people of Burma, Aung Sang Suu Kyi, and her party, the National League for Democracy (NLD) in their quest for freedom and democracy. We applaud recent democratic reforms in Burma, but believe more should be done, and call for the process of democratisation to be continued and extended to all citizens.

Democratic progress in the central Asian states has been very limited, as authoritarianism has continued in the post-Soviet era. The Socialist International continues to support and work with its members in Kazakhstan, the Nationwide Social Democratic Party, who are engaged in the struggle for democracy, in the face of politically-motivated obstacles and barriers created by the ruling regime.

As South East Asia grapples with terrorism, it is necessary to strengthen democratic movements, political parties and elected governments in the region, realising that democracy is the antithesis of terrorism. Respect for human rights, a priority for our movement, should continue to be promoted and reinforced.

Latin America and the Caribbean

The summary removal from office of President Lugo of Paraguay in June 2012 was of grave concern to our organisation. This so-called 'parliamentary coup' denied a fair process and due defence to the ousted president, with these deficiencies undermining the legitimacy of the entire process, which was in contradiction to the very nature of a democratic presidential system. The Congress reiterates the support and solidarity of the International to all those in Paraguay who are seeking to guarantee respect for democracy in that country.

Political forces in Haiti must work to strengthen the climate of political stability in the country by organising credible elections in line with the dates foreseen by the constitution. The SI reaffirms its support for the Fusion party (PFSDH) and progressive organisations working in favour of democracy and human rights for all Haitians, who also have our full solidarity following the devastating impact of Hurricane Isaac. In this regard, the SI calls on the international community to respond to Haiti's urgent need for aid.

With regard to this year's presidential elections in Venezuela, the SI calls upon the authorities to guarantee the transparency, equity, security and protection of the electoral process, permitting international observation during the voting and the count. The SI will send an observer mission to monitor these elections, in line with our solidarity with and support for SI member parties and all the democratic forces in Venezuela.

C. The Socialist International and democracy

Our longstanding commitment to the values of democracy and human rights across the world has distinguished the global social democratic movement, which is proud to contain within its ranks parties that have brought democracy to their countries and who continue to struggle today for these fundamental ideals. These member parties have been instrumental in creating the conditions for democracy in countries in all continents of the world. Our goal must be for every citizen of the planet to have the same opportunity to live under democratic conditions, to exercise their fundamental freedoms and liberties, bringing an end to oppression and authoritarianism, corruption and the illegitimate exercising of power.

RESOLUTION 3

FOR A COMMON ROAD TO PEACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND COOPERATION: THE NEED TO SECURE MULTILATERALISM

Societies and nations across the world are more than ever interlinked and interdependent. The greatest challenges we face are global, with impacts that are felt from the most to the least developed economies. To confront and overcome these challenges, we need solutions that take into account the needs of all people.

To bring about such solutions, the Socialist International has consistently underlined the necessity of multilateral efforts to construct a sustainable, prosperous, just and peaceful world society. Only through cooperation among peoples and between nations can the pressing issues that face our societies be resolved: the hardship brought about by the global economic crisis and long-term economic injustice, the devastation and destruction as a result of ongoing conflict, the lack of food security for millions and the threat of catastrophic climate change.

International institutions are a vital part of the multilateral and multilevel global political system, and must be given the necessary instruments to secure a viable future for all. There is a need to strengthen democratic legitimacy and trust in these institutions by making them more representative, more transparent and more accountable. A commitment to multilateralism is a prerequisite in order to effectively face challenges to global stability and sustainable development.

A. Peace and conflict resolution

The Socialist International has always been at the forefront of the efforts to achieve peace and stability. We reaffirm our faith that a multilateral approach is the only way to achieve these goals. Ongoing conflicts impede development and progress. There are numerous local and regional conflicts, which today have both regional and global repercussions. We should seek to resolve these conflicts through national and regional efforts, and with multilateral

interventions and support when such efforts fail. A failure to promote such a strategy will inevitably result in severe economic, social and environmental degradation, and the prolongation of conflicts which are extremely detrimental to prospects for progress and the well being of citizens in conflict-hit countries and regions.

Dialogue and negotiations should be actively promoted wherever peace and stability are at risk based on the fact that human rights are not bound by political borders. A commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including civil and political rights, is non-negotiable. Moreover, any policy of humanitarian intervention must be based on a UN mandate and on the principles of international law.

During this critical juncture for regional and world peace it is imperative that the role of the United Nations (UN) must be strengthened. To that end the UNSC requires a reform of its membership, and consideration should be made to appoint more permanent members to the council, in order to make it more representative. There have been cases made for India, Brazil, Japan and representatives from Africa and the Arab world. All of the cases should be considered thoroughly and there should be more steps taken to improve the implementation of the council's resolutions. In many current conflict situations, it is evident that multilateralism is the only route by which a lasting resolution may be found.

With regard to Syria, the SI is following with deep concern the massacres that take place on a daily basis, as the Assad regime refuses to accept that change is inevitable. We stand firmly on the side of the Syrian people in their fight for democracy and human rights and condemn the brutal actions of the regime. We call for all sides to end hostilities and enter into negotiations without any preconditions. We are not in favour of foreign military intervention, which can lead to further human suffering and instability in the whole region. We strongly support a Syrian-led process of transition to democracy.

To ensure an effective and decisive role of the international community to save lives and to implement without delay the democratic demands of the citizens of Syria we call on the Security Council of the United Nations, and in particular Russia and China, to act in line with the overwhelming sentiment of the international community to protect the Syrian people.

The Socialist International renews its support for a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Palestinian issue based on international law through inter alia, two states with Jerusalem as capital of both states, living in peace and security, on the borders of 1967 - and which coexist with full respect for all the rights of their citizens. The end of occupation and peace are the best guarantee of security for Israel, and for freedom, sovereignty, development and democracy in Palestine.

Therefore, we reiterate our firm commitment to the recognition by the international community of the state of Palestine on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and its admission to the United Nations, in accordance with the right of its people to self-determination, freedom, justice and dignity. We commit, as member parties, to actively work to secure such recognition and support for the admission of Palestine to the UN by our respective countries.

The Socialist International has urged all parties to redouble efforts to promote dialogue and the resumption of direct negotiations, notably by putting a complete end to settlement policies which constitute gross violation of international law, a serious obstacle to peace and amount to discrimination and segregation. These Israeli policies include notably settlement activity, confiscation of land and home demolitions, including in East Jerusalem, and the blockade on Gaza. The settlements' products, which use Palestinian land and resources, should be boycotted. The thousands of Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli jails must be freed. The SI insists that violent confrontations should be avoided, and civilian lives be saved and protected.

The Kurdish question, like that of Israel and Palestine, is one that requires a multilateral answer. Parties representing Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Syria and the Kurdish people with the assistance of the UN and other supranational institutions must work within a multilateral framework. The Congress of the Socialist International has decided to re-establish a Special Working Group on the Kurdish Question with the aim to advance and protect in accordance with international law the rights, the security and the improvement of the living conditions of the Kurdish people.

The Socialist International is particularly concerned with conflicts in Africa. In order to tackle these conflicts there must be strengthening of regional

institutions, such as the African Union (AU). Its members have the capacity to make the Union a more effective tool for maintaining regional stability. When threats to democracy manifest themselves, as has recently been the case in west Africa, a unified and coherent multilateral response is a crucial step to upholding the rule of law and the integrity of democratic institutions. In Mali, for example, multilateral cooperation is crucial to ensure national unity, integrity of the territory and geo-strategic issues, as well as a relentless war against terrorism, transnational organised crime and drug trafficking. Equally, the African and international community must strive to bring about peace and stability in relation to the existing conflicts in East Africa, especially in Somalia and South Sudan.

Recalling the resolutions and statements of the Socialist International on Western Sahara and in particular the one adopted at the Athens Council; further recalling the United Nations and African Union resolutions on Western Sahara; considering it as a case of decolonisation; and concerned with the recurring violations of human rights; the Socialist International reiterates its full support for the right of self-determination of the Saharawi people and demands the urgent implementation of all the United Nations resolutions and African Union resolutions guaranteeing this right. It calls for the urgent resumption of direct negotiations between Morocco and Polisario Front under the auspices of the UN. The SI supports the efforts undertaken by the UN Secretary General to achieve a just, peaceful and lasting solution to this long conflict. We express our concern on the degrading situation on human rights and further demand the opening of the territory to independent observers, NGOs and the media. The Socialist International agrees to send a mission in the spirit of the proposal of the SI Mediterranean Committee.

Regarding the Cyprus issue, the Socialist International continues to find the status quo on the island unacceptable and expresses its great disappointment at the failure to date of the UN-led talks to reach a lasting agreement. The SI urges the parties to intensify their efforts to achieve a just solution and unification of the island based on all relevant UN resolutions. The resolution of the Cyprus issue will have an important positive impact on regional peace and stability as well as economic development.

The Socialist International calls on the governments of the United Kingdom of

Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of the Republic of Argentina to find a just, peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict of sovereignty on the Falklands/Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich islands and adjacent territorial waters, in accordance with the resolution of the United Nations and the Special Committee for decolonisation.

B. Achieving sustainability

Multilateralism is crucial to achieving a sustainable future for the planet, and is of particular importance in relation to climate change. Our movement has long recognised the need to tackle climate change multilaterally, and our Commission for a Sustainable World Society has been a high-level forum for exchanges within our organisation in the long tradition of the efforts of the Socialist International to promote and ensure equality, economic opportunity, social justice and sustainable development. Our ideas and initiatives continue to influence discussions and conclusions at international talks on sustainability and climate change, a process facilitated by the regular presence of those who have participated in meetings of the SI in these fora.

The threat of climate change to world society is more apparent than ever before. While it has consequences for all of world society, the impact of climate change is disproportionate, with those that pollute the least often suffering the most. Nowhere is this truer than in Africa, where many of the countries most vulnerable to climate change are situated. There is a need for more solidarity between the developed and developing world, and commitments to reduce carbon emissions worldwide can be reduced worldwide and potential catastrophe averted.

We recognise that for some, faith in multilateralism has been damaged by the inability of governments to reach binding conclusions that are sufficiently ambitious to halt and reverse the trend towards catastrophic climate change. Our movement must find ways to restore this belief that the solution is to be found through the UN process, which will require all nations, in both the developed and developing world to make sacrifices for the sake of future generations who will inhabit our planet. Global greenhouse gas reduction efforts must however work in tandem with a pro-poor adaptation agenda. The

reality is that long-term sustainability means each and every nation, government and citizen taking responsibility and is only achievable through cooperation.

The future of nuclear energy

Cooperation and collaboration in the search for energy solutions has been endorsed by our Commission for a Sustainable World Society, which has consistently called for the use of renewable energy, underlining that nuclear energy does not represent a medium to long-term solution. In light of the meltdown at Fukushima nuclear power plant in March 2011, careful consideration needs to be given to the use of nuclear energy. The dangers presented by nuclear energy production should be a catalyst for the development of clean energy to progressively replace nuclear power in the energy mix.

The Socialist International will continue to accompany its Japanese comrades in the rebuilding process underway, and supports the proposal of the Social Democratic Party for phasing out the production of nuclear energy in Japan by 2020 and generating 100% of energy in Japan from clean and renewable sources by 2050.

C. Cooperation among people and between nations

At the heart of the concept of multilateralism is the idea of cooperation among people and between nations. The Socialist International has within its membership representatives from all regions of the world, united in their pursuit of a fairer and more prosperous future for all, with each citizen able to enjoy full freedoms and opportunities. As social democrats, we recognise the value in cooperation and mutually agreed solutions to shared problems.

Multilateralism also entails cooperation within the framework of regional and international institutions, to allow an effective system of global governance. Not only will more cooperation result in more durable outcomes in areas of dispute and conflict, but it can provide mutual benefit in achieving common

goals more effectively, for example in the field of disarmament, where multilateral moves to curtail WMDs, in particular through nuclear disarmament, can open up opportunities to cooperate more substantially on economic and social issues and to reduce defence expenditure, allowing public funds to be deployed for more positive objectives.

Many of the great successes of our movement have been achieved as a result of the unique position of the Socialist International, an organisation which is able to promote dialogue and understanding and has a track record of finding consensus in the most difficult disputes. This characteristic of the SI is one which we should seek to strengthen, not only within the framework of our organisation, but in all aspects of political life.

Elected by the XXIV Congress of the Socialist International

PRESIDENT

George A. Papandreou (Greece)

SECRETARY GENERAL

Luis Ayala (Chile)

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Sükhbaatar Batbold (Mongolia)

Victor Benoit (Haiti)

Nouzha Chekrouni (Morocco)

Ahmed O. Daddah (Mauritania)

Elio Di Rupo (Belgium)

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Chantal Kambiwa (Cameroon)

Kemal Kiliçdaroğlu (Turkey)

Marian Lupu (Moldova)

Mario Nalpatian (Armenia)

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Attila Mesterhazy (Hungary)

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Helga Pedersen (Norway)

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Sandra Torres (Guatemala)

Miguel Vargas (Dominican

Republic)

Carlos Vieira da Cunha (Brazil)

Asif Ali Zardari (Pakistan)

Jacob Zuma (South Africa)

Decisions of the Congress regarding Membership of the Socialist International

CHANGE OF STATUS

Status Upgrade to Full Members:

MOLDOVA: Democratic Party

PALESTINE: Fatah

YEMEN: Yemeni Socialist Party

RUSSIA: A Just Russia Party

TUNISIA: Democratic Forum for Labour and Freedoms

Status Upgrade To Consultative Members:

TURKEY: Peace and Democracy Party

PALESTINE: Palestinian National Initiative

NEW MEMBERS

Consultative Members:

GAMBIA: United Democratic Party

KAZAKHSTAN: Nationwide Social Democratic Party

EGYPT: Egyptian Social Democratic Party

Observer Members:

KENYA: Labour Party of Kenya

BELARUS: Belarusian Party of Labour

OTHER DECISIONS:

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA: The Congress decided to end the membership of the SNSD

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Luis Ayala (Secretary General)

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