RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE

XXV CONGRESS OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL



CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA 2-4 March 2017



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For a world in peace, with equality and solidarity

2-4 March 2017



Under the heading "For a world in peace, with equality and solidarity", the Socialist International held its XXV Congress in Colombia, lending its global voice in support of the momentous peace process underway in that country following the recent peace accord reached between the government and the rebel group FARC.



S.E. Juan Manuel Santos, President of the Republic of Colombia

The Congress took place in the historic city of Cartagena from 2 to 4 March 2017, hosted by the SI member party, the Colombian Liberal Party (PLC), and was inaugurated with the participation of His Excellency Juan Manuel Santos, President of the Republic of Colombia and 2016 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, who delivered a special address to the gathering.

The opening session of the Congress included four speakers, the secretary general of the Socialist International, the coleader of the host party, the president of the International, and the president of the Republic of Colombia. The SI Secretary General Luis Ayala welcomed participants and expressed the SI's pride to be in Cartagena where the global social democratic movement had convened to demonstrate its support for the process for peace and reconciliation in Colombia, and solidarity with its people. SI parties from other regions represented at the Congress were also trying to achieve peace and bring an end to conflicts in other parts of the world, and the Peace Agreement signed in Colombia and now being implemented, was a source of inspiration for our global family. Our agenda would also



Luis Ayala, SI Secretary General

address other crucial issues of concern, that of inequality in the world economy, the need for greater solidarity within and between nations, and our collective response to those promoting agendas centered on self-interest, populism and nationalism, against multilateralism and international cooperation.



Horacio Serpa, co-Director of the Liberal Party of Colombia

Horacio Serpa, co-leader of the host party PLC, extended to all a warm welcome to Colombia, a country of 1,140,000 square kilometres, with 49,000,000 inhabitants who were a combination of indigenous people, mestizo, black, white, mixed race, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, Catholics, Anglicans, Evangelicals, Muslims, Jews, all coexisting under a constitution that respects gender equality, religious freedom and sexual diversity. He spoke of the advances they had made towards overcoming poverty and inequality, the achievement of the long-awaited peace agreement, and how Colombia should keep its doors open to migrants who are subject to

persecution in their country of origin. As members of the Socialist International, he said, we believed that a world in peace was possible with the right to freedom, social security, employment and bread.

SI President George Papandreou, addressing the Congress, emphasised the solidarity felt with Colombia and with the efforts, courage and determination of President Santos and his government to bring peace. National reconciliation is a fragile and difficult process, he said, but was the way to a lasting and just peace. At a time when many leaders are choosing politics of polarization and fear, here was an example of leadership bringing peace and reconciliation. In outlining basic challenges in the world today, he underscored our capacity to



George Papandreou, SI President



overcome these with a response that was not based on isolationism, hatred. nationalism. walls. authoritarianism or dogmatism. Though diverse, our global family was united by its common values and beliefs in peace, cooperation, respect, dignity, tolerance, sustainability, democracy and equality.

The XXV SI Congress listened to His Excellency Juan Manuel Santos, President of the Republic of Colombia. Welcoming delegates, friends and guests, he underlined the importance of rights, freedoms and democracy to the people of Colombia. Peace, he stressed, was more than the silence of weapons, but needed consolidation through equality, and this he hoped could be a model for others in a world that was sadly polarising. He spoke of the struggle between love and fear in today's world. The human race was a single unity of all races, and it was love that helped us to understand suffering, tolerance, respect and the value of diversity as a treasure of humankind. Fear on the contrary, he said, generated threats from a lack of knowledge, which in turn became a reason for violence. The challenge was to recover unity, tolerance and love, which have been driven away by fear, and the inspiration for this could be found through the ideas, values and principles that characterize organizations such as the Socialist International.

The agenda of the Congress covered three main themes, reflecting the priorities of the movement: "Building a more peaceful world: resolving conflicts and preventing new ones"; "Achieving greater equality in both the national and the global economy"; and "Solidarity within and between nations: a fundamental pillar of our International".

Building a more peaceful world: resolving conflicts and preventing new ones

Juan Fernando Cristo, Minister of the Interior of Colombia, who currently plays a key role in the implementation of the peace agreement reached with the FARC, delivered the first key-note speech on this theme, focusing on the experience of his country in bringing to a close a more than 50 year old armed conflict with rebel groups. It had been a difficult and protracted process, and continued support and encouragement was needed to see through the implementation of the agreement, a crucial part of which had commenced while the delegates to this Congress had been in Cartagena, with the



Juan Fernando Cristo, Minister of the Interior PLC, Colombia

demobilisation and the initiation of the hand-over of arms by the FARC to the United Nations.



Carolina Ordoñez, PLC, Colombia

Many participants at the congress took part in the discussions under this theme, with contributions illustrating their experiences in widely varying contexts. These included Julião Mateus Paulo, (MPLA, Angola); Carlos Eduardo Vieira da Cunha and Carlos Lupi (PDT, Brazil); on the search for peace in the Middle East the Congress heard from Colette Avital (Meretz, Israel), Nabeel Shaath (Fatah, Palestine) and Gal Raij (Israel Labour Party); Henry Ramos (AD, Venezuela); Guo Yezhou (Vice-Minister from the CCP, China), who addressed a special greeting to the Congress; Rubén Berríos (PIP, Puerto Rico); Ouesseini Hadizatou Yacouba (PNDS-TARAYYA, Niger); Miguel Vargas, (PRD, Foreign Minister of the

Dominican Republic); Mario Jiménez (PSOE, Spain); Mikalai Statkevich (BSDP-NH, Belarus); Mustapha Ben Jaafar, (Ettakatol, Tunisia); Shazia Marri (PPP, Pakistan); Mario Nalpatian (ARF-D, Armenia); Zharmakhan Tuyakbay (OSDP, Kazakhstan); Ryoichi Hattori (SDP, Japan); Araz Alizadeh (SDPA, Azerbaijan); Sadi Pire (PUK, Iraq); Khalid Azizi (KDP, Iran); Pia Locatelli (PSI, Italy); Dahan Alnajjar (Yemen, YSP); Andres Esono Ondo (Equatorial Guinea, CPDS); Saleh Mohamed Moslem (PYD, Syria); Limam Ahmed (RFD, Mauritania); Umut Oran (CHP, Turkey); and Carolina Ordoñez (PLC, Colombia).



Pia Locatelli, PSI Italy, SI Vice-President

In the discussion on this theme of the Congress, countries and regions suffering from internal and external conflicts were identified, and their situation presented with recommendations and initiatives to overcome the challenges they faced in order to make peace a less distant goal. From armed wars to nationalism, xenophobia, corruption and the displacement of people on a massive scale, it was stressed that a constructive engagement by the international community was urgently needed, and a point of convergence by the participants was a renewed commitment of the Socialist International to continue prioritising peace, the strengthening of the United Nations as a vital institution for achieving these ends, and working with our parties in the countries throughout the world that today are suffering from conflict. The discussions underlined the need to promote and consolidate democracy and the respect for rights and freedoms for all people in order to achieve and secure peace. The strength of the Socialist International was emphasised, when working in solidarity, collectively opposing right-wing populism and nationalism, defending our values and principles in advancing international cooperation, the protection of refugees and migrants, and standing firm in support of those enduring violence, terror and oppression. A general congress resolution that was subsequently adopted reflects these conclusions.

Elections



Meeting of the Electoral Commission

The decision had been taken the previous day, by the Council of the Socialist International, to appoint an Electoral Commission composed of four members from different regions, two men and two women. These were Eero Heinäluoma (SDP, Finland); Chantal Kambiwa (SDF, Cameroon); Shazia Marri (PPP, Pakistan); and Rafael Michelini (NE, Uruguay). Michelini, acting as spokesperson for the Electoral Commission, proceeded with the votes to be

taken for SI President, SI Secretary General, and SI Vice-Presidents.

Only one candidate stood for the post of SI President, the current president, George Papandreou (Greece). The Congress re-elected him by acclamation. He received the vote with thanks and gratitude, looking forward to continuing his work with the SI family.

There were two candidates for the post of SI Secretary General, Luis Ayala (Chile) and Welile Nhlapo (South Africa). Rafael Michelini explained that the Commission had worked to organise the election under a strict procedure. At the time of the vote, Gwede Mantashe, ANC Secretary General, announced that the South African candidate was withdrawing his candidacy due to family reasons.

Luis Ayala was subsequently re-elected by acclamation to the post of SI Secretary General. He said he was honoured by the confidence placed in him and expressed his thanks to all the many parties that had called on him to stand for election. He believed that the International would continue to be successful as long as it was democratically self-governed by its members.



Rafael Michelini, NE, Uruguay, SI Vice-President

Moving to the election of the Vice-Presidents, Michelini presented a list of candidates that, as agreed by the Council, also included one candidate each from Israel and Palestine. Noting that the list complied with the statutes, thirty two Vice-Presidents were duly elected by acclamation. The Congress mandated the next Council to elect the remaining four vacant posts in the Presidium, respecting the statutory requirements in regard to gender.

The Congress then approved the proposals put forward for the posts of Honorary Presidents of the SI. These were Mustapha Ben Jaafar (Tunisia); Rubén Berríos Martínez (Puerto Rico); Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas (Mexico); Tarja Halonen (Finland); Mahamadou Issoufou (Niger); Lionel Jospin (France); Horacio Serpa (Colombia); and Jalal Talabani (Iraq).

Achieving greater equality in both the national and the global economy



Elio Di Rupo, PS, Belgium, SI Vice-President and Chair of the SI Commission on Inequality

Elio Di Rupo, Chair of the SI Commission on Inequality (PS, Belgium), introduced the second main theme with a key-note speech, focusing on the struggle against inequality, which was on the rise everywhere. Human beings must not be slaves of the economy, he said. As socialists we believed in human equality, it was at the very core of our DNA, and we would fight together for a united world because the greatest problems we face are global.

Eero Heinaluoma, (SDP, Finland), and Ricard Parker (Democratic Party, USA, Professor at Harvard University), both members of the SI Commission on Inequality, made contributions on this theme. In his speech, Heinaluoma warned

against unfettered global capital and underlined that we are facing a generational challenge to our basic values and hard won achievements.



Eero Heinäluoma, SDP, Finland, SI Vice-President



Richard Parker, Democratic Party, USA, Harvard Professor

Richard Parker delivered an address on the current unequal state of the global economy. On this subject, the Congress unanimously adopted a paper which centered on the forces that have resulted in such a wide economic gap between the poor majority and the wealthy few. Economic growth was now needed that produced stable, long-term output and jobs, and where profits could provide essential fiscal flows to governments for public welfare.

Contributions on this theme were presented by Bernal Jiménez (PLN, Costa Rica), Sükhbaataryn Batbold (MPP, Mongolia); Isabel Allende (PS, Chile), Gwede Mantashe (ANC, South Africa); Mani Shankar Aiyar (INC, India); Emmanuel Golou (PSD, Benin); André Figueiredo (PDT, Brazil); Roberto Marrero (VP, Venezuela); Svetlina Yolcheva

(Bulgaria, PBSD); Jesús Rodríguez (UCR, Argentina), and Ouafa Hajji,

President of Socialist International Women.

In the discussions, it was recognised that the issues of poverty and inequality were complex and multi-dimensional, and that structural change to the political economy was necessary to achieve our goals. Calls were made to governments and others to end tax havens, to take other measures to end illicit capital flows from South to North, to

speed up land reform where necessary, to take stronger steps against corruption in the private and the public sector, including multinational corporations, to strengthen gender based budgeting, to raise



Ouafa Hajji, President of SI Women

minimum wages, and to intensify efforts to end conflicts which undermine development and poverty reduction.

Solidarity within and between nations: a fundamental pillar of our International

Under the third main theme of solidarity within and between nations, the dramatic plight of the Rohingya minority in Myanmar was highlighted. The Congress heard an address by Maung Tun Khin, representative of the Burmese Rohingya people, on the extreme conditions his people had endured, with many killed and countless displaced in the last 5 months alone. He cited a report by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for



Maung Tun Khin, Representative of the Burmese Rohingya people

Human Rights dated February 2017 detailing gross human rights violations that the Rohingya people had been subjected to, indicating the likely occurrence of crimes against humanity. The Congress appealed to all governments, and to the international community at large, to put pressure on the Burmese authorities, and to take the necessary action to protect the Rohingya population and bring an end to their persecution.



Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana, SWAPO Namibia, SI Vice-President

Contributions on the theme of Solidarity were heard from Mala Bakhtiar (PUK, Iraq) addressing the situation affecting the Kurdish people, Iraq, and the region; from Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana (SWAPO, Namibia); Sandra Torres (UNE, Guatemala); Saleh Kebzabo (UNDR, Chad); Reijo Paananen (SDP, Finland); Chantal Kambiwa (SDF, Cameroon); Elyzabeth Reyes (UN, Bolivia); Victor Benoit (Fusion, Haiti); Jorge del Castillo (APRA, Peru); Francisco Rosales (FSLN, Nicaragua); Victor Pardo (PLC, Colombia); Roberto César Birri (PS, Argentina); and David Balsa (Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Forum).

The Congress expressions on this point reaffirmed that the Socialist International, which brings together in one organization,

faith communities and cultures from across the globe, stood united by its core principle of solidarity, rejecting all false claims of clashes of civilizations. Solidarity, inspired by the values and principles that define our International, was emphasised in reference to all those opposing populism and extremism, or fighting for democracy, freedoms and rights, and our support for refugees and migrants who are victims of injustice and of the absence of those freedoms and rights that we defend. The Socialist International stood today with the peace process in Colombia, as it was equally committed to working for peace in areas of conflict or civil unrest in different parts of the world. The Congress also expressed its solidarity in combatting and adapting to climate change, renewing its call on all governments to enshrine their climate change obligations in national legislation.

Declarations and Statements adopted by the Congress

Responding to proposals and requests by SI member parties, the Congress discussed and adopted a number of declarations and statements. Along with a general congress resolution, these included a declaration in support of Mexico, in view of the segregationist and discriminatory policies of the Trump Administration in the United States; a declaration in support of the right to self-determination and independence of the people of Puerto Rico; an expression of deep concern at the ongoing political, economic and social crisis affecting Venezuela; a declaration on the question of Palestine introduced by Fatah, Palestine, and the Meretz party of Israel; a declaration in support of the struggle

of its member party in Mauritania, the RDF, against changes to the constitution in that country; on an initiative of the Socialist International regarding the Armenian Genocide; and a declaration against the legal restrictions on Latin American political leaders, noting the increase in politically motivated court cases in the region and calling on the responsibility of the judiciary for the proper functioning of democracy.



There was a discussion by delegates on proposed amendments to the current statutes of the SI in relation to gender equality, an issue which had been discussed by the Council on the eve of the Congress. Amendments to the statutes were adopted to include the objective of an

equal number of men and women at all levels of the organization, declaring that gender equality is an issue of human rights for the movement; and to ensure the representation of women in the SI Presidium as per the statutes, stating that in case of difficulties, the SIW would be consulted. The Congress also adopted a resolution empowering future Councils to make the necessary changes to the statutes to allow for the implementation of the principle of an equal number of men and women at all levels of the organization, and to decide on the setting up and mandate of a Committee on Equality.

Decisions on membership

The Congress endorsed the decisions which had been taken by the Council prior to the Congress to admit the Frente de Unidad Nacional of Bolivia as a new full member party, to upgrade the UNDR of Chad and the TDP of Cyprus to full membership status, and to upgrade the Polisario Front of Western Sahara to consultative status. The Congress equally ratified all the previous decisions taken by the SI Council during the inter-Congress period relating to membership.

CONGRESS RESOLUTION FOR A WORLD IN PEACE, EQUALITY AND SOLIDARITY

The Cartagena Congress of the Socialist International addresses the priorities of our movement and of people everywhere in these increasingly troubling times. Inequality within and between societies is growing. Meanwhile, the history of efforts by our parties to address inequality is under assault as never before from the economically powerful and their well-funded political allies. Peace remains a dream in many places. Though conflicts between States have greatly diminished in recent decades, millions continue to die and to suffer from civil conflict. Whole societies are being destroyed and unprecedented numbers of refugees from war and violence most often find safe haven in countries of the South, further adding to global inequalities. Migrants from failed States and from climate disasters are certain to add to these numbers on a large scale. As well, the late 20th Century hard won solidarity among peoples and States is breaking down in many parts of the world. Increasingly governments and political parties turn to nationalism, xenophobia, and isolation as simple, doomed answers to the ongoing challenges of a truly globalised world which already requires massively scaled up global cooperation and stronger multilateral organizations and practices like the United Nations and the Socialist International.

The Socialist International well recognises these challenges in the knowledge that we, the socialist, social democratic and labour parties, are the best equipped to address them.

Our confidence rests on the unshakable moral base and values of our movement: To use power with humility and for good. To build greatness by investing in human beings. To build democracy to guarantee good decisions. To recognise that capitalism and free markets do not equal freedom. To ensure growth means social growth and greater equality. To liberate, sustain and encourage the diversity and creativity of humanity. To recognise that war solves nothing, and nothing is possible without peace. To believe that love will conquer fear in a world where human beings are of one single origin linked to one single destiny.

Our confidence also rests on our record of achievement over the past seven decades, in government and in opposition, on every continent. One such achievement is here today in Colombia. We are proud and honoured to meet in Colombia with our Socialist International member party hosts the Liberal Party of Colombia. President Juan Manuel Santos, his government and his country are a beacon of hope to the world. We salute President Santos and the representatives of the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces, FARC, for the peace achieved last year that put an end to more than half a century of armed conflict. A road has been opened for the stable and lasting peace that Colombians deserve. The Socialist International welcomes the commitment and will of the whole of Colombian society to overcome the conflict. We celebrate the peace agreement consideration of the victims of the conflict and we maintain an active concern that these commitments will be fulfilled. We welcome this new era of advancing and strengthening civic culture, human rights, tolerance, the peaceful resolution of conflicts and democracy. We are also proud and honoured to have with us at this Congress member parties

from Israel and from Palestine. The Socialist International renews our role and recommits our efforts to help to find a lasting, just peace for Palestinians and Israelis by building on the dialogue that takes place here. We are also pleased to have member parties here from Tunisia, Pakistan, Cyprus, Mali, and other countries where dialogue here will help address local and regional peace building and conflict prevention needs.

Along with our moral base, values and accomplishments we also recognise the unique nature and value of the Socialist International as a world-wide forum of parties that can provide hope to people across the globe. We show humanity and heart in believing in a better world. We believe people have the power to change the world on a path of virtue. In these troubled times we believe in a new deal and a new social contract on a global scale. Now, more than ever, we believe in our unity, the certainty our voice will be heard and the commitment to change for the better the lives of our common humanity.

Peace

We meet in Cartagena at a moment of great concern about the foundations, policies and institutions that have maintained world peace for the past 70 years. Our first concern is the challenge to multilateralism that is a target of nationalists, populists and others who offer no alternative to global cooperation, because there is none. A retreat to a purely national security posture, a return to militarised security while abandoning human security, undermining the global trading system rather than improving it, diminishing already inadequate aid to the South, and side lining and underfunding the United Nations and its critical Charter-based work are steps that will make the world more dangerous for all. In an age of globalised threats, no one will be isolated from these dangers.

The Socialist International has long supported disarmament and reduced military spending, including R&D, and advocated greater resources for development to address the needs of the South and to close the North South divide. We renew that call with great urgency. Military leaders themselves recognise that security cannot be bought through increased military spending. The root causes of insecurity must be addressed. Conflict prevention must be strengthened. The role of women as peacemakers must be supported. We call on governments everywhere, especially those in the North, to reject militarised security and increased military spending which has long ago proved a dead end to meeting real security needs and human progress.

The Socialist International has been a strong advocate of the United Nations and its work since our modern founding conference. We call once again for strengthening the UN system, and in the context of peace, strengthening UN capacities for early warning and conflict prevention, peacekeeping, robust peacekeeping interventions, and humanitarian assistance especially for war related refugees and migrants. Directly related to peace is development assistance. We are dismayed that the world lags so far behind in development assistance spending targets for OECD countries. Closing the inequality gap is central to greater security and peace for all. In a week that the New York stock market reached an all-time high, we call on OECD governments to identify paths to quickly reach a minimum 1% GDP development assistance target, not including climate change mitigation and adaptation funding for the South.

Iraq and Syria

The terror carried out by ISIS is a major threat to international peace and security and to the people of the region. It must urgently be brought to an end. We renew our calls to the international community to unite in response, to support the government of Iraq as it works to strengthen and consolidate democracy and to support all Syrians striving for democracy, freedom and human rights. At least 13 million Syrians require humanitarian assistance. Nearly 5 million are refugees. The burden of refugee care is largely borne by Jordan and other neighbouring States. The Socialist International calls on the international community to urgently scale up support for UN and other humanitarian efforts and to seek a political and diplomatic end to the conflict with the full involvement of all Syrian actors. The Syrian people must decide on the final political solution which could include the democratic federalism proposed by the Democratic Syrian Council who should have a place in peace negotiations.

Vemen

The Socialist International expresses our deep concern about the ongoing war in Yemen. Yemen is now exposed to the risk of partition, terrorism and State failure. The Socialist International calls on all parties in Yemen to return to political dialogue and reject the use of violence. We call on all parties to abide by the output of the comprehensive national dialogue. All parties should have equal chance to participate in the upcoming dialogues.

Democratic Republic of Congo

The Socialist International calls upon the rest of the international community to assist in the organization of elections later this year. The Socialist International is ready to support this while calling for an environment of freedom, rights, release of political prisoners and inclusion of citizens forced to live in exile. We call on all opposition parties to join the electoral process and to help ensure a peaceful transition of power in 2017.

Cyprus

The Socialist International calls on both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders for the resumption of peace talks aiming to reach a bizonal, bicommunal federal solution for Cyprus as soon as possible. We regret that the peace talks in Cyprus are interrupted at the moment despite considerable progress by the two sides. We hope that the island of Cyprus will soon become an example of peaceful coexistence, cooperation and prosperity in the eastern Mediterranean.

Tunisia

The Socialist International salutes the advances in the democratic transition in Tunisia and calls on the international community to support Tunisia in efforts to address economic and social difficulties and the fragile construction of democracy. We call for an acceleration of democratic consolidation through constitutionally based good governance and anti-corruption reforms.

Libya

The Socialist International, aware of the positive efforts for peace in Libya and the region, calls on the UN to strengthen its efforts to re-establish peace in Libya and we note our support for all UN, AU and neighbouring country efforts

Caucasus

The Socialist International calls for increased dialogue to end hostilities, reduce tensions and armaments and build trust between Armenia and Azerbaijan. We call on the international community to support the ongoing efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group for a lasting peace in the region.

Iran

The Socialist International expresses concern about the violation of human rights and especially the deterioration of democratic rights in Iran, as well as discrimination against the Kurdish people. We support a peaceful solution to the Kurdish issues in Iran.

Ukraine

The Socialist International supports the speedy resolution of conflict in Ukraine based on the implementation of the Minsk Agreement.

Turkey

The Socialist International expresses our concern about the violation of human rights and deterioration of democracy in Turkey. We are particularly concerned about the arrest of thousands of activists, the detention of hundreds of elected municipal leaders and the detention of Selahattin Demirtasand and Figen Yuksekdag. We call for their release and for new peace dialogue to address the democratic and human rights development of Turkey.

Myanmar

The Socialist International calls on the leadership and government of Myanmar to immediately end persecution and human rights violations against the Rohingya minority people and to open a full dialogue to address their minority rights and needs to be recognised and respected as full citizens.

Equality

Socialists, social democrats and the labour movement have long fought to address inequality. Conservatives believe inequality is a natural and even necessary part of the human condition. Classic liberals believe equality of opportunity is enough, even if rarely achieved. Our moral base and values reject these views. Our vision is of real equality in the enjoyment of dignity, citizenship, the economy, public goods and the global commons. This includes equality of genders, ethnic groups and faith communities, equality of young and old, and all levels of ability.

The Socialist International recognises that poverty and inequality are complex and multi-dimensional, including gender dimensions. This includes complex multi-dimensional poverty in the South and within highly developed societies. We recognise that structural change to the political economy is necessary to achieve these goals. It is not about creating a level playing field in current power relationships in most societies. Across the globe real reform and real change are necessary.

The Socialist International is committed to economies and expanding wealth that serve societies and human progress. We are dedicated to this through peaceful, democratic processes and oversight based on human rights and freedoms. And we are convinced that our member parties offer this hope to humanity.

The key elements to our approach are values based. We advocate clear goals of change and reform, transparency in public affairs and the private sector, accountability (fighting corruption private and public), the redistribution of power- to the people, and redistribution of wealth through investments in public goods and services that provide for human needs and peaceful, successful societies (this includes the arts, creativity, self-realization, ending alienation in the digital age, and opportunities for youth).

Reducing inequality requires access to free, public education. In turn, education must lead to meaningful secure employment. Workers' rights, promoted and defended by free Trade Unions, is a proven requirement for meaningful and secure employment and for reducing inequality.

For much of the world development is the key to reducing inequality, particularly for poverty reduction. Yet, development often increases inequality by benefiting elites (sometimes elites who have captured the State) only, leaving vast majorities with no benefit from development. This can be addressed through policy change and government intervention on behalf of the poor, especially to address complex dimensions of poverty with attention to gender, food security and nutrition, health care, education, sustainable agriculture, climate change adaptation, indigenous rights and other efforts.

Along with robust attention to complex poverty, political reform and redistribution of resources the Socialist International also calls on governments and others to end tax havens, take other measures to end illicit capital flows from South to North, especially in Africa, speed up land reform where necessary, take stronger steps against multi-national corporation, private sector and public sector corruption, strengthen gender based budgeting, raise minimum wages and end conflicts which undermine development and poverty reduction.

Solidarity

Solidarity is not a slogan. It means we stand together, now more than ever when forces of division are on the rise and so powerful. Stand together means - humanity as one. We are all citizens in a global reality. We are all refugees from the human conditions and history of want, violence, and fear. Our parties and movements stand together at this challenging time as never before.

We stand together North South. We stand together all faith communities and all cultural mosaics – rejecting false claims of clashes of civilizations. We stand together across generations embracing and empowering the next generation who must lead the world through coming perils and advances. We stand together both genders and all sexual minorities.

Our parties stand together as the Socialist International whose current accomplishments include standing with the peace process in Colombia, supporting democratic left unity in Greece, facilitating dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians, supporting the peaceful transfer of power in Gambia. We build on the proud foundations and accomplishments of past decades and herald even greater political activism and results in the term ahead. Activism that will benefit ordinary people, the marginalised and poor, the voiceless and dispossessed across the globe. We are the change, the reform, that the world needs and will need in coming times.

We welcome and call on others to join and to renew these commitments and our historic solidarity more vital to the world than at any time in 70 years.

We are in solidarity to combat and adapt to climate change. In 2015 we enthusiastically welcomed the Paris Agreement, particularly the 2 degrees Celsius commitment. We renew our call on all countries to enshrine their climate change obligations in national legislation.

We stand in solidarity with migrants entering Europe and being lost at sea. In the last months we noted European countries have failed in their commitments, and in their moral and international legal obligations, on refugees. We renew our call to the European Union to return to its founding values including the concept of shared responsibility.

We stand in solidarity with all those opposing populism and extreme right parties who inflame societies with hate and xenophobia. We stand in solidarity with all those, sometimes risking their lives, fighting for democracy, more freedom, more economic development, land and indigenous rights, press freedom, equality between men and women and for sexual minorities.

We fully support our member parties and governments in Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria in their struggle to end terrorism and violence in the region.

We stand in solidarity with the Armenian people seeking dialogue with Turkey and we will continue to help, as agreed, a round-table "How will Turkish recognition of the Armenia genocide allow a genuine reconciliation between Turkey and Armenia on the issue?"

The Socialist International joins all progressive Brazilians in their concerns about the removal of President Rousseff in 2016 and the subsequent reforms that have frozen public spending on social services for 20 years along with new social security and labour reforms.

Thanks

The delegates and leadership of the Socialist International greatly thank the Liberal Party of Colombia, the host city and people of Cartagena and everyone associated for an historically successful world Congress. The challenges and troubling times deserve our re-dedicated efforts drawing on our unshakable values, dedication to peace, equality and solidarity and guided by an eternal flame of hope for humanity.

ACHIEVING GREATER EQUALITY IN THE NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ECONOMY

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

That sentence, taken from America's Declaration of Independence in 1776, was followed 13 years later by these words in Article 1 of France's revolutionary Declaration of the Rights of Man:

"Men are born and remain free and equal in rights. Social distinctions may be founded only upon the general good."

In those two sentences--authored on two different continents in two different languages for two different peoples nearly 250 years ago--lie the origins of what we today, on all continents, simply assume are the natural rights we ought to enjoy.

Yet those rights are <u>not</u> rights all of us <u>actually enjoy</u>—even though they are what we at Socialist International, throughout our shared political history, have always fought for—as citizens of our nations and citizens of the world.

Here, in Cartagena, Colombia, representing the 153 member parties of Socialist International, we reaffirm our deep and unshakable belief in human equality and its power as the foundation, measure, and goal of all just societies, and in the irreducible right of all men and women equally to enjoy the fruits of their lives, their liberties, and their pursuit of happiness.

In this moment of insurgent right-wing neo-populism, we do not mean to stop with that affirmation. Instead we are gathered here first to challenge those reactionary forces and ideologies that still prevent billions of human beings from living lives of true equality and freedom. We next will articulate strategies and politics that will lead towards a better and more egalitarian future. Finally, we will express our fierce determination to confront those reactionary forces, again and again, until they are defeated, and universal rights are equally assured in every corner of this tiny planet.

We say this knowing that right-wing neo-populists, with alarming frequency, have begun assaulting democracies for their openness and tolerance---in the name of a frightened, inward-looking nationalism that pits us against one another, the rural against the urban, the newly-affluent against the "new poor", college graduates against the high school leavers, "real" citizens against our new—and dangerously "different"—refugees and fellow citizens. In neo-populist fantasies, a dark, conspiratorial elite, on behalf of a satanic secular globalism, is threatening our traditional values, communities, and ways of life.

Longer History, Deeper Challenges

But these neo-populists, and the truly dark forces behind them, are anything but new—in fact they've been active, in fluctuating form and strength, for more than 150 years. That's why we know they won't deliver the prosperity or the security they promise--because they are congenital purveyors of false hopes, offering easy solutions that won't, in fact, work. Judging from the historical record, all their actual policies do guarantee is that the quite real economic, political and social advances that the poor, the working classes, and the middle classes worldwide have won over the past century will be eroded--and potentially lost for a generation or more.

Neo-populism, however, is only one face of the powerful forces at work on the global right today.

Behind these parties and their leaders are deeply-embedded forms of privilege and exploitation that have, for far too long, favored men over women, the strong over the weak, the violent over the peaceable, the rich over the poor, the North over the South, the West over the Rest.

Those hierarchies have survived by relying, in turn, on the many forms of deep prejudice that condemn billions of our fellow humans to far less than full equality and freedom, not because of their character or actions, but because of their race, or the region, ethnicity or nationality, religion or class into which they were born.

Those sorts of prejudices have, century after century, generated powerful social, economic, and political relationships and institutions—expressed at one level in repressive laws and customs, and at another in judgmental daily attitudes about those not like "us".

Generation after generation, children have been (and still are) born into these worlds built on such prejudices, and been forced to live stunted lives that the powerful have endlessly insisted are the only lives they can expect---even though these sorts of societies, constructed to benefit the few in the name of the many--violate the most fundamental tenets of human equality and liberty.

The Centrality of Economic Inequality—and the Power of More Equality

There is a third overarching issue that we will address here—the issue of income and wealth inequalities, both between citizens of individual nations and between all citizens, spread across all the nations of the world. Today, we know more about the shape and scope of these inequalities than ever before—and know far more about their consequences, both in worsening the prejudices that underpin hierarchies of exploitation, and in fostering the neo-populism that threatens so many of our hard-won achievements.

In recent years, economists such as Thomas Piketty and Anthony Atkinson have reawakened progressives worldwide to the central role our policies toward income and wealth effect equality in a successful future. In fact, we believe that with their laser-like focus on the harms of inequalities, and their carefully-gathered evidence that inequality is growing worse, these economists will in the coming years serve the role Lord Keynes and his work on aggregate demand played in the 20th century by defining government's responsibility for macro-demand.

This new distribution paradigm is so central that we can no longer accept GDP goals of, say, 4% or 5% or 6% growth--if 90 or 80 or 70 or 60% of that GDP's growth go to the top 1, 2, or 3%. When fewer than a dozen mega-rich billionaires are together wealthier than the bottom half of humanity three

billion people---then this is a matter of paramount political and moral, not just economic, importance for us all.

How Did We Lose Sight of Economic Equality's Importance?

For several decades after World War II, the issue of economic inequality actually took a back seat in aggregate growth in the West, as variants of Keynesianism supplanted the more conservative, marketled (and often anti-state and anti-labor) assumptions of 19th century Neoclassical economics. Across the developed world, state-enhanced and regulated market economics kept paying off: aggregate growth rates were high and far more stable, with smaller and shorter recessions than in the "free market" years before World War II years).

What's more, with sharply-progressive income and wealth taxes, and more and more spending on public goods that accelerated upward mobility, as well as legal assaults against racial and gender inequalities, more and more income equality came almost "naturally" with this GDP growth—or so it seemed at the time. There was, in simple terms, more of everything for more people, more fairly distributed than in any other time in modern human history.

The sharp rise of public spending (with most of it on social welfare, from education to retirement to health) ended up doubling democratic governments' share of GDP to nearly 40%, and stirred howls and cries of "socialism" from conservatives.

For ultra-conservatives such as Friedrich Hayek and Milton Friedman, all this public spending was doubly baleful because they thought it meant constant inflation, soaring government debt, crowding out of private investment and eventually the loss of individual freedom. (All this represented, in Hayek's famous phrase, "the road to serfdom".)

Yet for most inhabitants of the OECD countries reality kept defying Hayek's and Friedman's predictions. In fact there was good reason, as Piketty reminds us, to call the three decades after World War II as "les trentes glorieuses"---the thirty glorious years, and very definitely not a road to serfdom.

For democratic socialist and social-democratic parties in the West, these decades were politically "glorious years" as well. In many advanced countries, progressive parties were elected to government, while the old prewar rightist parties languished (or collapsed) and the newer center-right parties either helped progressive pass or didn't try to repeal landmark social welfare and economic regulation legislation that the left had long sought as bellwethers of more equal, more just societies.

The Cold War's sharp divisions, because Soviet and Chinese communism were strongly opposed by Western socialists and social democrats, expanded the space for the non-communist left. Meanwhile, in the rapidly-decolonizing South, the Cold War created political space as well, allowing progressive parties to challenge traditional right and center-right competitors—although the process of building progressive governments was often stalled or reversed by repression in the name of anti-communism.

Still, by the 1970s, in Latin America, Asia, even sub-Saharan Africa, there were good reasons to believe that "the Third World" was poised for real democratization and rapid economic development-but then suddenly in the 1980s the "glorious years" ended—at least for that progress and for he left. For a resurgent right, however, the good times were just beginning.

In the US and Western Europe, Keynesianism and an activist progressive state came under relentless assault. Where nominally "left" governments survived, they found themselves constrained by the forces of neoliberalism. Working-class unions—long a backbone of progressive politics—began a sharp decline in membership, while corporations and finance gained enormous new influence, prestige, and wealth. Politicians across the spectrum embraced lower taxes, less regulation, more global trade and output, and more authority and influence for business. "Government," in Reagan's famous formulation, "isn't the solution; it's the problem." The era of neoliberal globalization was underway.

In the West, left parties began a slow eclipse---either as governing parties or ideologically, as left rather than neoliberal parties. In the Communist East, the Soviet Union and China would begin their unsteady lurch away from detailed, top-down state planning of the economy in favor of an eclectic, often chaotic, amalgam of socialist and capitalist tendencies, labeled perestroika in Moscow and "socialism with capitalist characteristics" in Beijing. By the 1990s, the USSR was gone, and China was changing in once-unimaginable ways.

Across the South, growth plunged and inequalities worsened as the IMF and World Bank effectively imposed textbook neoclassical models on fragile and semi-modern, semi-developing economies. Budgets were forcibly balanced (most often by cutting health, education, and public welfare spending). Trade barriers were removed to allow cheap foreign goods into local markets without regard for the impact on local farmers, small manufacturers, and traditional retailers, as well (needless to say) as on workers and their families.

After the evidence of a "lost decade" of development in the global South became simply overwhelming, the Bank and IMF "apologized", and curtailed their authoritarian neoliberalism. Now their mantra was "growth with poverty reduction", an uneasy hybridization that has shown mixed results so far.

Why We Must Reclaim Economic Equality as Our Goal—and How

Fast forward to 2017. The 1980s surge of pro-corporate conservatism suffered repeated reversals, none greater than the Great Recession that began unfolding in 2008, which has left in its wake nearly a decade of slowed global growth. At the heart of neo-populism's rise, and of growing discontent--across the political spectrum—has been an increasing disillusionment with GDP-measured "economic growth" that policy makers and academics have decreed to be the apogee of modern life, because so many have been excluded from that growth. But populism's essential reactionary conservatism resides in its blaming foreign workers and progressive cultural elites for this situation—rather than understanding how global market forces have done far more to create this intolerable reality. Globalization has unquestionably had an impact on the global distribution of income—in ways well understood by now. What has been lacking is not diagnosis but solutions—solutions that Socialist International can provide.

What is needed?

The first essential is to recognize that nations generate not just national but international growth through trade and investment abroad, by the import and export of goods and services, and by its citizens and firms working outside its borders.

The challenge now is to promote growth that is both deep and broad—that is, growth that produces stable, long-term output, jobs that are also stable, well-paid, and long-term, and profits that reward

owners and investors and also provide fiscal flows to governments so they can carry out their essential public welfare functions.

In the 21st century's globalizing world, that deep and broad growth also requires coordination and cooperation across borders around a core set of principles that in turn will work to sustain and enlarge global growth in a "virtuous circle".

What sorts of principles?

First, <u>our commitment to radically and systematically reducing racial, ethnic, and gender biases</u>. As well as being important moral and political goals, reducing these forms of discrimination will simultaneously promote economic equality and economic growth.

Second, our determination to democratize and publicize evidence-based measures of institutional performance and outcomes on the national, regional, and local levels. As the internet spreads worldwide, democratic governments should encourage NGOs and citizens to use public data to constantly assess the performance of public and private institutions across a broad range of metrics.ⁱ

Third, our determined focus for the rest of the $21^{\underline{st}}$ century on insuring accurate and timely reporting of income and wealth as the elementary essential gauge of national economic performance.

Virtually all 200 nations today publish regular reports of their GDP---but fewer than half systematically collect and report on the distribution of that GDP as the wealth and income of its citizens (and fewer than a quarter prepare generally accurate reports). We call on all nations to regularly collect and publish, along with GDP data, Gini and Atkinson measures of inequality.ⁱⁱ

There is a **fourth** related set of principles: our clear understanding that <u>economic inequality isn't just an</u> "economic issue".

Income and wealth inequalities corrode the chances for a just society, by systematically lowering students' educational performance, raising crime rates, multiplying distrust of governments and fellow citizens, allowing pollution, ignoring illness, fostering obesity, amplifying violence against women and children, and blocking upward mobility. Studies like <u>The Spirit Level</u> contain an array of examples that should be reframed as DSIs---Domestic Social Indicators---that, analogous to GDP in economics, become a nation's annual indices of well-being performance.ⁱⁱⁱ

Fifth, we commit ourselves and our governments to increasing both the information and regulation of income and wealth flows across borders. As global financialization has accelerated, it has created systemic challenges for modern democracies, not least through the vast "offshoring" of individual and corporate wealth and income beyond the reach of governments. Some expects now estimate that offshore wealth alone exceeds \$25 TRILLION—more than the combined GDP of three-quarters of the nations of the world. Offshore income figures are no less astonishing.

Solutions here are multi-pronged, and call for:

- 1) standardization of income and wealth surveys nationally, with special attention to accurate reporting of top level groups ("the 1%" who control nearly half the world's private financial wealth);
- 2) strictly-enforced transparency requirements for all "shell" corporations and trusts, and a policy prohibition toward "tax havens";

- 3) strong monitoring and controls over cross-national financial transfers, including much stricter auditing of transfer pricing by multinational firms;
- 4) strong reporting requirements for banks of all significant international financial transfers;
- 5) regular intergovernmental exchanges of these crucial data;
- 6) much stronger regulation and enforcement of illegal cross-border financial transfers.

There are more, and more detailed, recommendations we at Socialist International intend to advance going forward---but these are preliminary essentials, both in terms of principles and in terms of policies and mechanisms meant to realize those principles.

The world is moving swiftly toward authentic globalization, in which citizens of nations around the world will come to know the lives and values by which others live. One clear benefit of that process is the steady globalization of rights, including equality as a core essential right, as the number of democracies grows steadily.

But the equally clear danger of globalization is that it will worsen inequalities of all kinds, not lessen them---and in the process will nurture the fundamentally authoritarian politics we see emerging in neo-populist parties and governments around the world.

Equality for us is thus not a lofty value or abstract right—but a compelling organizing principle for our work politically in the decades ahead. Re-centering our politics around that principle by recognizing that as socialist parties we can no longer simply promote economic growth and assume that such growth will "solve" issues of inequality.

We live in an anomalous time, when some of the most rapid economic growth is happening in some of the world's most authoritarian—and kleptocratic—countries. Our duty—our opportunity—is to expand what we have, through our democratic socialist parties and values, actually built: the modern foundations for a democratic and egalitarian world.

We intend to keep building that world.

¹ See the US News/McKinsey "Best States" evaluation of American states as just one example: https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states?utm_source=All%20Poynter%20Subscribers&utm_campaign=222b0f6b27-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_02_28&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5372046825-222b0f6b27-2578882

ⁱⁱ The IMF's "Causes and Consequences of Income Inequality: A Global Perspective" provides an invaluable technical introduction to these issues.

iii For a detailed review of The Spirit Level and systemic models for implementing its recommendations, See The Equality Trust, https://www.equalitytrust.org.uk/resources/the-spirit-level

DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF MEXICO

Original: Spanish

On 25 January 2016, only five days after his inauguration as President of the United States of America, Donald Trump signed an executive order for the construction of a wall on the border with the United Mexican States in order to prevent the irregular entry of citizens of Mexico and of other Ibero-American countries into the United States of America.

Since the executive order was signed, Trump has repeatedly reaffirmed his intention that the cost of the wall (estimated at between US\$10,000 million and \$25,000 million) will be "directly or indirectly" borne by Mexico and is even considering a 20% tariff on imports from Mexico, stating, inter alia, that such an approach would offset the cost of the wall in a short space of time.

As President of the United States of America, these actions and statements are a manifestation of the attitude of contempt that Trump has shown towards people of Hispanic and Latin American origin throughout the electoral period. This is not just an attack on Mexico and Mexicans, but also an attack on the entire Ibero-American Community and as such, the entire international community.

These acts have serious consequences, and the Congress of the Socialist International cannot remain on the sidelines in the face of such acts. As socialists, we cannot allow any country to be treated with contempt, especially Mexico today, a sovereign country that cannot have its dignity humiliated.

We must remember that the United States of America has always managed its borders and set a high level of requirements for its trade and other relations. Other international actors have always respected the interests of the United States of America. It is out of place to be treated or to have a relationship that is not respectful and equal. Donald Trump must realise that understanding and dialogue – rather than contempt and threats – with his neighbours from the South and allies are not just in the interests of his own country, but also of the entire international community.

The XXV Congress of the Socialist International:

- 1. Expresses its firm solidarity with the United Mexican States, faced with contemptuous treatment through the actions and statements of the President of the United States, Donald Trump.
- 2. Condemns President Trump's decision to build a wall between the border of Mexico and the United States of America and any action to economically penalise Mexicans in order to meet the cost of constructing such wall.
- 3. Urges the immediate convocation of a meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Ibero-American Community of Nations in Mexico to address this issue jointly and to promote a common position in support of Mexico.

DECLARATION ON PUERTO RICO

Original: Spanish

From the moment in which the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP) joined the Socialist International (SI) in the Albufeira Congress in 1983, the SI categorically expressed its support for the independence of Puerto Rico. By doing this, in spite of the big pressures put onto them at that time when the Cold War had reached its peak, the SI honoured its commitment to its principles and to the cause of decolonisation and the right of peoples to their self-determination and independence.

As from that point in time, the SI has reiterated on many occasions their support for Independence and has expressed its views on the developments that have marked the course of events in Puerto Rico. Today, we are especially satisfied to be able to celebrate that the then President Obama listened to the world's voice –including the demands made by the SI – and finally decided just a few weeks ago, to free the Puerto Rican fighter for independence Oscar López Rivera who had been in jail for more than thirty five years accused of the crime of seditious conspiracy.

During the years since the Congress in Albufeira, the solidarity of the SI with the Puerto Rican Independence Party and with the cause of Puerto Rican independence has taken different forms among which there are the testimonials of the current SI President and of several Chairs of the Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (SICLAC) before the Special Committee on Decolonisation of the United Nations, and the continuous election as from 2000 in the Paris Congress of Rubén Berríos Martínez, President of the PIP, as an Honorary President of the SI.

In the year of 2016, after ten years of an overwhelming economic depression originated by the inability of the colonial model to promote economic growth, the loss of more than 10 per cent of the population due to an unbridled migration, and the declared insolvency of the national treasury, the United States Congress has unilaterally decided to resume direct control of the government of Puerto Rico, reducing even more the meagre spaces of self-government of the colonial territory.

Instead of responding to the claims expressed in a referendum in 2012 in which a clear majority of the electorate manifested to be against the continuation of the colonial regime, the reply of Congress has been to create a Board of Fiscal Supervision, appointed by the President of the United States, to exercise all-embracing powers over any legal or executive decision of an economic or fiscal nature by the government of Puerto Rico, and to be able to impose their criteria over the elected officials of the Puerto Rican government.

Just in case that anyone had any doubts about the powers of the Congress to approve such a control mechanism, the US Supreme Court, on the same day (9 June 2016) in which the Congress approved the law for the creation of the Board of Supervision, issued an historical decision, in line with the request of the US President, that affirms the plenary powers of Congress to govern Puerto Rico, and reaffirming that Puerto Rico is nothing more than a possession of the USA in

which any partial concession of self-government may be revoked unilaterally by the Congress, at its sole discretion.

Considering these dangerous and worrying developments, the SI Congress meeting in Cartagena, Colombia, agrees the following:

- 1. To reiterate our support for the inalienable right of the People of Puerto Rico to their self-determination and Independence in accordance with Resolution 1514 (XV) of the United Nations.
- 2. To urge the Government and the Congress of the United States to fully comply with their decolonising obligations in relation to Puerto Rico and not to hinder in any way the celebration of a plebiscite convened by the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico among the alternatives contemplated in Resolution 1541 (XV) of the United Nations.
- 3. To support the repeated claims made by the Decolonisation Committee of the United Nations that the General Assembly of the United Nations fully examine the case of Puerto Rico and pronounce itself on the matter.
- 4. To congratulate the Puerto Rican Independence Party on its perseverance defending the cause of independence and the political and ethical values of social democracy, and to express their trust that the political initiatives carried out by the PIP will help to set in motion a process that will finally take Puerto Rico towards its decolonisation and independence.

DECLARATION ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

The Council of the Socialist International, meeting in Cartagena, Colombia, on 1-3 March, 2017, held discussions based on the theme "for a world in peace, with equality and solidarity". This includes the Question of Palestine, that this year marks anniversaries, including 100 years of the Balfour Declaration and 50 years of the 1967 occupation, that reaffirm the urgent need to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Recalling its previous declarations of the SI, in particular the SI Councils in New York in June 2010, in Istanbul in November 2013, on December 2014, in July 2015, and in Geneva, July 2016.

SI Reaffirms its support for the two-state solution, ending the Israeli occupation and reaching a just and lasting peace based in international law

- 1. Reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the right to their independent State of Palestine on the June 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, and reaffirms its commitment, in accordance with international law, to bringing a complete end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian state that started in 1967 in order to achieve the two- state solution, as two sovereign and democratic states for all their citizens, as well as a solution to all final status issues, including the refugee issue, based on international law and UN resolutions.
- 2. Welcomes the French Efforts for a multilateral frame for the Middle East Peace Process, based on international law and UN resolutions. Such efforts must include a clear timeframe, terms of reference based on international law and a mechanism of implementation, including accountability.
- 3. Recognizes the Arab Peace Initiative as the only possible regional framework for normalization of relations between Israel and the rest of the region once a final status agreement between Israel and Palestine is achieved, fulfilling the internationally recognized rights of the Palestinian people under international law.
- 4. Calls upon the US administration to express its unequivocal support for the two-state solution on the 1967 border, reaffirming the illegality of Israeli settlements and the right of Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace, freedom, security, justice and equality. Also calls upon the US Administration not to take actions that go against UN resolutions and that reward the anti- peace agenda of the Israeli government, including moving its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

SI Calls for the full implementation of International Humanitarian Law

5. Demands from Israel, the occupying power, the full implementation of its obligations under international law, including the IV Geneva Convention. We also call upon the international

community to take concrete steps in order to protect the civilian population affected by grave violations of international humanitarian law.

- 6. Condemns all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of all the territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including inter alia, the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements, a violation of international law, including the illegal Annexation Wall as well as the Israeli policy of home demolitions of Palestinians, as well as all policies of forcible displacement of civilians. We demand a total cessation of such activities.
- 7. Calls for the implementation of UNSC Resolution 2334, of December 23rd 2016, that reaffirms the illegality of Israeli settlements, by taking concrete measures against Israel's colonial-settlement enterprise in Occupied Palestine, such as banning settlement products, including services, supporting Palestinian communities under threat and supporting the efforts to issue a public list of companies that profit from the Israeli colonial-settlement project in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

SI calls to end the blockade of Gaza and to release political prisoners

8. Demands an end to the illegal blockade against 2 million Palestinians in Gaza. It also calls for the release of all Palestinian political prisoners, including elected members of the Palestinian Parliament such as the member of the Fatah Central Committee Marwan Barghouthi, as well as all administrative detainees and children.

SI supports the role of Israeli, Palestinian and International Human Rights Organizations

- 9. Salutes the efforts of progressive sectors within Israel, including civil society groups such as Btselem and Breaking the Silence, that have been targets of vicious attacks and persecution from the current Israeli government.
- 10. Denounces threats against Palestinian civil society groups, particularly Al Haq, for their involvement with the International Criminal Court. We also condemn the difficulties imposed by Israel against the work of international human rights organizations such as Human Rights Watch.
- 11. Calls upon all SI members to support the work of Palestinian and Israeli Civil Society groups working for a just and lasting peace, including the implementation of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights.

SI Calls upon the Israeli Government to end its discrimination against its non-Jewish population

12. Calls upon the Israeli Parliament to revoke in its entirety dozens of discriminatory laws against its Arab-Palestinian citizens that compose over 20% of Israel's population, particularly the Citizenship Law that has divided thousands of families only because of their Arab, Christian or Muslim origin. We express our concern over the situation of the non-Jewish citizens of Israel, including the threat of demolishing their homes and villages, such as the demolition of Um-Al-Hiran village in the Naqab/Negev area.

SI Calls upon its members to take action: End the Israeli Occupation and Recognize the State of Palestine

- 13. Calls upon all governments that haven't recognized the State of Palestine on the 1967 border, and particularly those led by members of SI, to do so as an investment in peace between Israelis and Palestinians, saving the two-state solution and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.
- 14. SI calls upon all its members to present, help and adopt in their national parliaments, resolutions calling to end the Israeli occupation of Palestine that began in June 1967.

RESOLUTION ON VENEZUELA

Original: Spanish

The World Congress of the Socialist International, meeting in Cartagena on 2-4 March 2017 reiterates once again its deep concern at the serious political, economic and social crisis affecting Venezuela as a consequence of misguided economic and social policies as well as of authoritarian attitudes that violate not only the democratic principles that we share in the Socialist International, but is also a systematic violation of human rights, giving shape to a state policy that we strongly reject.

The Socialist International once more urges President Nicolás Maduro to free all political prisoners, and to respect the National Assembly and the immunity of its parliamentarians. In democracy, the autonomy of powers is a fundamental principle. Making use of one power against another undermines and compromises their principles and values which are based on the respect, the balance, and the autonomy of such powers.

The Socialist International, deeply concerned, demands of the government of Nicolás Maduro to comply with the agreements reached at the negotiating table under the auspices of UNASUR, the Vatican and the ex-Presidents José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, Martín Torrijos and Leonel Fernández, in regard to the opening of an humanitarian corridor, the liberation of political prisoners, the recognition of the autonomy of powers and, above all, the constitutional observance of the celebration of electoral processes established specifically in the Constitution, to which the international community and the Socialist International have contributed, in order to achieve a political and peaceful solution to the serious crisis affecting Venezuela

DECLARATION

Support for the Rassemblement des Forces Démocratiques (RFD) in its fight against changes to the Constitution in Mauritania outside the national consensus

Original: French

We, members of the Socialist International (SI), gathered at the XXV SI Congress in Cartagena, Colombia, on 2, 3 and 4 March 2017, follow with great concern the recent developments that characterize the increasingly tense political scene in Mauritania, due to the intention of the undemocratic regime that has led the country since the 2008 coup to deliberately change the constitution without any national consensus.

After failing to organize a referendum on introducing the changes, faced with the rejection of such a project by the political forces of the Mauritanian opposition, particularly the RFD, a member of the SI and at the forefront of the struggle for democracy in Mauritania, and with the rejection by civil society organizations, opinion leaders and Mauritanian citizens, the government in Mauritania is in the process, yet again, of tampering with the constitution in order to tailor it to its own ends, by bringing together the two illegitimate chambers of parliament, namely a Senate whose term of office has largely expired and a National Assembly elected in non-transparent conditions and boycotted by the majority of the opposition.

These constitutional changes currently being put in place further undermine what remains of the fragile national unity and further delays the implementation of the rule of law that the country so badly needs. There is no explanation for this forcing, other than the will of the country's leaders to maintain themselves in power by any means they can and to avoid any possibility of any eventual prosecution in the future for their misdeeds in the catastrophic political, economic and social governance they are subjecting the Mauritanian people to.

Faced with the obstinate persistence of the ruling regime in Mauritania to lead the country towards uncertain horizons, and considering the major risks posed to the country as a consequence, in particular the disturbances and instability observed in other countries that have gone through similar situations of unresolved political crises, the Socialist International reiterates its unwavering solidarity with the RFD and all the democrats in Mauritania in their struggle to prevent any constitutional amendment in form or content, at a time when the national political scene is experiencing unprecedented tension.

INITIATIVE OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL REGARDING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

After the last Socialist International Congress, the world marked the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide and witnessed a number of new countries, heads of states and international organizations officially recognising this crime against all humanity.

The 2014 December SI Council Meeting in Geneva, recognising the continued worldwide progress on this human rights and genocide prevention issue, appropriately placed the Armenian Genocide on the agenda of its first Council in 2015, held one hundred years after the start of this atrocity.

The July 2015 Council Meeting in New York endorsed an agreement reached earlier by the SI Vice-Presidents from Armenia and Turkey, for the Socialist International to organise a special hearing or round-table discussion around the theme: "How Turkish recognition of the Armenian Genocide can contribute to a genuine reconciliation between Turkey and Armenia?" This meeting was to have included the participation of representatives of SI member parties in both Armenia and Turkey, as well as other interested member parties, and specially invited experts, NGOs, and others.

Consistent with both past decisions on this matter and the SI's longstanding support for a just resolution of the Armenian Genocide, the SI XXV Congress reaffirms its readiness to work with our Armenian and Turkish member parties to facilitate a hearing or round-table discussion regarding the benefits of Turkey's recognition of the Armenian Genocide for reconciliation between Armenians and Turks.

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DECLARATION ON LEGAL RESTRICTIONS ON LATIN AMERICAN POLITICAL LEADERS

Original: Spanish

The SI Congress expresses its concern at the increase in politically motivated court cases in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Congress underlines the central role of the judiciary in the proper functioning of democracy and calls for an end to its instrumentalisation. The Congress reiterates its solidarity with those who have suffered restrictions to their rights for political reasons and condemns the prosecution of representatives of its member parties in Latin America, in particular those in opposition, as in the case in Paraguay with Rafael Filizzola, President of the Progressive Democratic Party (PDP), and in Bolivia with Samuel Doria Medina, President of the National Unity Front (UN). In Bolivia, the legal restrictions that have been imposed, coupled with the decision by President Evo Morales to seek a new presidential term, ignoring the outcome of the referendum of 21 February 2016, are cause for concern to the SI in regard to Bolivian democracy.

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RESOLUTION EMPOWERING THE COUNCIL TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE STATUTES

Our Congress empowers the next Councils to make the necessary changes to the statutes which will allow for the implementation of the principle of having an equal number of men and women at all levels of the organisation, as well as the setting up of a Committee on Equality and its mandate.

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XXV Congress of the Socialist International Cartagena, Colombia, 2-4 March 2017

CHANGE TO THE STATUTES AGREED BY THE CONGRESS

Our objective is to have an equal number of men and women at all levels of our organization. Equality between men and women is an issue of Human Rights for our movement.
To ensure the representation of women within the SI Presidium, as stated by the statutes, in case of difficulties the SIW will be consulted.

To include under Point 5 of the statutes:

Elected by the XXV SI Congress Cartagena, Colombia, 2-4 March 2017

President: Secretary General:

Mr George **Papandreou** Mr Luis **Ayala**

(Greece) (Chile)

Vice-Presidents:

Albania Mr. Edi **Rama**

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Venezuela
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Honorary presidents named by the XXV SI Congress Cartagena, Colombia, 2-4 March 2017

Mustapha Ben Jaafar (Tunisia)

Rubén Berríos Martínez (Puerto Rico)

Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas (Mexico)

Tarja Halonen (Finland)

Mahamdou Issoufou (Niger)

Lionel Jospin (France)

Horacio Serpa (Colombia)

Jalal Talabani (Iraq)

Decisions on membership taken during the inter-Congress period ratified by the XXV Congress

Full membership

Bolivia: National Unity, UN

Burkina Faso: People's Movement for Progress, MPP

India: Indian National Congress, INC Iran: Kurdistan Democratic Party, KDP Venezuela: Voluntad Popular, VP

Change of status to full membership

Azerbaijan: Social Democratic Party of Azerbaijan, SDPA Belarus: Belarusian Social Democratic Party, BSDP

Chad: National Union for Development and Renewal, UNDR

Cyprus: Republican Turkish Party, CTP Cyprus: Social Democratic Party, TDP

Egypt: Egyptian Social Democratic Party, ESDP

Kazakhstan: Nationwide Social Democratic Party, OSDP

Paraguay: Progressive Democratic Party, PDP

Venezuela: A New Era, UNT

Consultative status

Botswana: Botswana Democratic Party, BDP

Belize: People's United Party, PUP Latvia: People's Harmony Party of Latvia

Nigeria: All Progressives Congress, APC Syria: Democratic Union Party, PYD

Change of status to consultative membership

Western Sahara: Polisario

Observer status

DR Congo: Unified Lumumbist Party, PALU Iran: Komala Party of Iranian Kurdistan, KPIK

Iran: Komala Party of Kurdistan, KPK

Lesotho: Lesotho Congress for Democracy, LCD Somaliland: Justice and Welfare Party, JWP Swaziland: Swazi Democratic Party, SWADEPA

Associated Organisation status

Arab Social Democratic Forum, ASDF

Euro-Latin American Forum of Progressive and Socialist Parliamentarians





S.E. Juan Manuel Santos, President of the Republic of Colombia, with SI President George Papandreou, and SI Secretary General, Luis Ayala



XXV SI Congress



XXV SI Congress



S.E. Juan Manuel Santos, President of the Republic of Colombia



Presidium with President Santos



Delegates from the PLC, Colombia



Julião Mateus Paulo, MPLA, Angola, SI Vice-President



Carlos Eduardo Vieira da Cunha, PDT, Brazil



Ouafa Hajji, SIW, and Attila Mesterhazy, MSzP, Hungary, members of the SI Presidium



Congress delegates



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Rubén Berríos Martínez, PIP, Puerto Rico, SI Honorary President



Nabil Shaath, Fatah, Palestine, SI Vice-President



Colette Avital, Meretz, Israel, SI Vice-President



Gal Raij, Labour Party, Israel



Ousseini Hadizatou Yacouba, PNDS-TARAYYA, Niger





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Mario Jiménez, PSOE, Spain



Mikalai Statkevich, BSDP-NH, Belarus



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Araz Alizadeh, SDPA, Azerbaijan



Sandra Torres, UNE, Guatemala, SI Vice-President



Saleh Kebzabo, UNDR, Chad



Elsa Espinosa, PRI, Mexico, SI Vice-President



Mustapha Ben Jaafar, Ettakatol, Tunisia, SI Honorary President



Bernal Jiménez, PLN, Costa Rica, SI Vice-President



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Emmanuel Golou, PSD, Benin



Guo Yezhou, Vice Minister, CCP, China



XXV SI Congress



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Dahan Alnajjar, YSP, Yemen



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Elyzabeth Reyes, UN, Bolivia



Khalid Azizi, KDP, Iran



Limam Ahmed, RFD, Mauritania



Mala Bakhtiar, Head of PUK's executive politburo, Irak



Umut Oran, CHP, Turkey, SI Vice-President



Victor Benoit, Haiti, SI Vice-President



Jorge del Castillo, APRA, Peru



Carlos Lupi, President of the PDT, Brazil, and SI Vice-President, with party delegates



PNDS delegates, Niger



PRD delegates, Dominican Republic



PUK delegates, Iraq



PS delegates, Belgium



UCR delegates, Argentina and PR delegates, Chile





PLC, delegates Colombia PPD delegates, Chile



Svetlina Yolcheva and Georgi Anastasov, PBSD, Bulgaria



Krum Kostadinov Zarkov and Boyana Dimitrova Bozadzhieva, BSP, Bulgaria



Saleh Mohamed Moslem and Ibraehim Muslem, PYD, Syria



Aziz Othman, Syria, Azzadi Party



CHP delegates, Turkey



UNDR delegates, Chad



SDP delegates, Finland



UN delegates, Bolivia



Daniel Hermogène, Haiti



PS delegates, France



Gwede Mantashe, ANC, South Africa



Katarina Nevedalova, SMER-SD, Slovakia



Francisco Rosales, FSLN, Nicaragua



FSLN delegates, Nicaragua



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MPP delegates, Burkina Faso



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Paulina Lampsa and Katarina Papadopoulou, DA, Greece



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KPIK delegates, Iran



Rahmatou Haidara, ADEMA-PASJ, Mali



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Igor Bator, PDM, Moldova, and delegates from the MPP, Mongolia



MPP delegates, Mongolia



Abdeslam Eddebarg, USFP, Morocco



Willem Amutenya, SWAPO, Namibia



PRD delegates, Panama



PRD delegates, Panama



Edgar Gimenez, PDP, Paraguay



Fernando Martín and Hugo Rodríguez, PIP, Puerto Rico



Delegates of the PALU, DR Congo



Gerardo Giovagnoli, PSD, San Marino



Gorgui Ciss, PS, Senegal



Marina Sabitova, OSDP, Kazakhstan



Delegates of the PSOE, Spain



Delegates of the AD, Venezuela



Timoteo Zambrano, UNT, Venezuela



Alredfo Chaparro and Carla Gazzani, Venezuela



Edmund N. Delle, CPP, Ghana



Kamran Balnour, Khalid Azizi, and Mouloud Swara, KDP-Iran



Delegates of the ANC South Africa



Hella Ben Youssef Ouardani, Ettakatol, Tunisia



Miguelina Vecchio, PDT, Brazil



Edna Molewa, ANC, South Africa



Delegates of the MPLA, Angola



XXV SI Congress



Jorge Farfán Gaviria, Jorge del Castillo and Carmen Haas, APRA, Peru

XXV Congress of the Socialist International Cartagena, Colombia, 2-4 March 2017

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

SPECIAL GUEST H.E. Juan Manuel Santos

President of the Republic of

Colombia

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL George Papandreou

(President)

Luis Ayala

(Secretary General)

Full Member Parties

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MPLA Julião Mateus Paulo

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Manuel Pedro Chaves João Salvador dos Santos

Neto Rosario Neto

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Socialist Party, PS Roberto César Birri

ARGENTINA

Radical Civic Union, UCR Jesús Rodríguez

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Lilia Puig

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ARF Armenian Socialist Party Mario Nalpatian

(SI Vice-President)

Vache Thomassian Hagop Agopian **AUSTRIA**

Social Democratic Party of Austria, SPÖ Alfred Gusenbauer

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Samad Alizada Manana Guniya

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Ariane Fontenelle Franco Di Rupo

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National Unity Front, UN Jaime Navarro

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Carlos Eduardo Vieira da Cunha

Manoel Dias André Figueiredo

Miguelina Paiva Vecchio Márcio Ferreira Bins Ely Marli Rosa Mendonça Josbertini Clementino **BULGARIA**

Bulgarian Socialist Party, BSP Krum Kostadinov Zarkov

Boyana Dimitrova Bozadzhieva

BULGARIA

Bulgarian Social Democrats, PBSD Svetlina Yolcheva

Georgi Anastasov

BURKINA FASO

People's Movement for Progress, MPP Mikail Baguian

Basile Laetare Guissou Rakieta Zagre Yameogo

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National Union Party for the Development and

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Jeanne Kebzabo

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CYPRUS

Republican Turkish Party, CTP

Armağan Candan

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Dominican Revolutionary Party, PRD

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Konstantinos Foutzopoulos Katerina Papadopoulou

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Union of Haitian Social Democrats

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(SI Vice-President)

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Hungarian Socialist Party, MSzP Attila Mesterházy

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Alexandra Dobolyi

János Veres

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Mouloud Swara Kamran Balnour

IRAQ

Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK Hikmat Mohammed Kareem

(Mala Bakhtiar)

Sadi Pire

Rangin Abdullah Mohammed

Zana Bestoon Ali

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ISRAEL

Meretz Party Colette Avital

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Nationwide Social Democratic Party, Zharmakhan Tuyakbay

OSDP Marina Sabitova

Adilzhan Tuyakbay

MALI

African Party for Solidarity and Justice,

ADEMA-PASJ

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MAURITANIA

Assembly of Democratic Forces, RFD Limam Ahmed Mohamedou

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Sandinista National Liberation Front,

FSLN

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Party for Democracy and Socialism of

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Diarra Fatimata Ly Falade Affioua Tretou

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Pakistan People's Party, PPP Shazia Marri

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Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD Eyra Ruiz

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PERU

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Jorge Farfán Gaviria

Carmen Haas

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Puerto Rican Independence Party, PIP Rubén Berríos Martínez

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Fernando Martín García Hugo Rodríguez Díaz

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A Just Russia Party Alexander Romanovich

(SI Vice-President)

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Party of Socialists and Democrats, PSD Gerardo Giovagnoli

SENEGAL

Socialist Party, PS Gorgui Ciss

SLOVAKIA

SMER-Social Democracy Katarina Nevedalova

SOUTH AFRICA

African National Congress, ANC Gwede Mantashe

Ebrahim Ebrahim Edna Molewa Khadija Magardie Ajanda Dlodlo Buyelwa Ngam Lovedalia Maake Dumi Mpande

SPAIN

Spanish Socialist Workers Party, PSOE Mario Jiménez Díaz

Ricardo Cortes Lastra Cibran Fernández Silva Laura Seara Sobrado Jimena Sanclemente

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Democratic Forum for Labour and

Freedoms, FDTL-Ettakatol Mustapha Ben Jaafar

(SI Honorary President)

Hella Ben Youssef Ouardani

Aroussia Oukassi

TURKEY

Republican People's Party, CHP Umut Oran

(SI Vice-President)

Mansur Çelik Tayfun Şahin Hilal Dokuzcan

URUGUAY

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(SI Vice-President)

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Democratic Action, AD Henry Ramos

(SI Vice-President)

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Francisco Poleo
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Rafael Poleo
Luis Carlos Padilla

Rafael Martínez Nestares

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A New Era, UNT Timoteo Zambrano

Luis Elías Matta

VENEZUELA

Voluntad Popular, VP Roberto Marrero

YEMEN

Yemeni Socialist Party, YSP Dahan Alnajjar

Consultative member parties

SYRIA

Democratic Union Party, PYD Saleh Mohamed Maslem

Iebrahem Muslem

WESTERN SAHARA

Polisario Front Mohamed Salem Oud Salek

Mohamed Liman Ali Ami

Observer Member Parties

IRAN

Komala Party of Iranian Kurdistan, KPIK Salah Bayaziddi

IRAN

Komala Party of Kurdistan, KPK Reza Kaabi

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Unified Lumumbist Party, PALU Sylvain Ngabu Chumbo

Eugène-Joseph Kwiseka Usiga-Usanga

Gishangu Zubi Armando Suana

SOMALILAND

Justice and Welfare Party, JWP Faisal Farah

Saeed Omer

Fraternal Organisations

Socialist International Women, SIW Ouafa Hajji

(Ex-officio Vice-President of the SI)

Associated Organisations

Euro-Latin American Forum of Progressive and Socialist

Parliamentarians, EUROLAT

David Balsa

Francisco Carvalho Rosemarie Mendoza

SI Secretariat

Latifa Perry Heloise Crowther Gabriela Shepherd Claudio Herrera Carolina Zenteno Steve Lee

* * * *

<u>Invited Parties</u>	
CHINA Communist Party of China, CPC	Guo Yezhou Zhou Rongguo Wang Nan Zhao Hongtao Wang Wei Chen Jian
GHANA People's Convention Party, CPP	Edmund N. Delle
KOSOVO Self-Determination Movement, MSD	Boiken Abazi
SYRIA Azzadi Party	Aziz Othman
Individual Guests Richard Parker	Democratic Party of the USA, Professor at Havard University
Maung Tun Khin	Representative of the Rohingya People of Burma
Daniel Hermogène	Haitian Member of Parliament
Alfredo Chaparro	Venezuela
Carla Gazzani	Venezuela

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