

SI Council meetings in Casablanca and Rome - world governance, peace and security high on the agenda

SI Council meets in Rome 20-21 January

The Council of the Socialist International meets in Rome from 20-21 January. Three main themes are on the agenda - 'For a More Equal Global Society: Governance, Sustainability and Social Justice; For a World More Peaceful and Secure: The Middle East, South-Eastern Europe, Africa, Colombia and 'Our Democratic Commitment Defending Democracy around the World'.

The inaugural session will be addressed by Walter Veltroni, Mayor of Rome, Piero Fassino, National Secretary, Democrats of the Left, DS, of Italy, Enrico Boselli, Chair of the Italian Democratic Socialists, SDI and António Guterres, President of the Socialist International.

Panel discussions will be held on all three themes. "Our message to Davos and Porto Alegre" is the title of the discussion which will be held on the first theme. The initial discussion on the second theme will be "The Middle East: how to put the process back on track" to be followed by another on "Peace and stability in the Balkans". The third theme will be treated in the last panel discussion entitled, "Working for democracy where it is most at risk."

On the second day of the Council meeting the Secretary General will present his report.

Peace, Security, Development - central to the SI Council in Casablanca

Central to debates when the Council of the Socialist International met in Casablanca, Morocco, on 31 May - 1 June 2002, hosted by the Socialist Union of Popular Forces, USFP, were the issues of advancing peace and security

and developmental concerns in the run-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

Welcoming the delegates to "this Arab, African and Mediterranean metropolis that is Casablanca", Abderrahman Youssoufi, Prime Minister of Morocco and First Secretary of the USFP, said it was right that the work of the Council should be based on the theme of peace and security in the world. "Is there a more timely, more urgent, more vital theme today than that of peace?" he asked, continuing: "No-one among us can ignore or remain indifferent to the seriousness of the conflicts which have ignited the planet and the vastness of inequality which threatens, more than the world's equilibrium, humanity's destiny itself".

Turning his attention to the conflict in the Middle East, Prime Minister Youssoufi expressed the concerns shared by his country's people. Indeed a massive peaceful demonstration had taken place only a few weeks previously, and Youssoufi repeated before the Council the conviction that "there is not and cannot be a military solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict".

Referring to the second main theme of the meeting, "From Monterrey to Johannesburg", Youssoufi stated that developmental issues centred around a question that was troubling on many fronts: "How to put an end to a morally unacceptable, politically dangerous and economically absurd situation, that of a world where the unbridled accumulation of wealth is not enough to permit the majority of inhabitants of the planet to drag themselves out of poverty and

deprivation". Following the Monterrey Conference and as they approached the Johannesburg Summit, he remained convinced that solutions for truly global economic security could only be built on "international solidarity which is more active, more consistent and more concrete". The impact of such an approach would be particularly felt on the African continent, he concluded.

Chairing the meeting, SI President António Guterres paid tribute to the exemplary action of the USFP, and its leader, in its work for democracy and now, at the head of the government, in the phase of consolidating democracy in Morocco, indeed the holding of the Council there was a homage to these efforts.

The Council meeting in Casablanca was also a symbol, Guterres declared, "of tolerance, of a meeting of cultures and civilisations which is so necessary today in the world". In an era when the "enemy of socialism and democracy is the irrationality of political behaviour" members of the International should "work together to guarantee that the line of contact between two of the most ancient civilisations in the world - the Muslim and the Christian - should be one of friendship, cooperation, and never a line of confrontation".

Addressing the issue of the conflict in the Middle East, Guterres stated that the great challenge for the Council was to examine how to find a way out from the tragedy, "how to solve a problem which needs to be resolved in order for the world to become more humane". He emphasised the key role of the SI member parties in the region and the



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historic step reached in the resolution before the Council of their agreeing that the mutual recognition of Israeli and Palestinian states was not "a point of arrival but one of departure for negotiations to definitively resolve the issue".

Guterres continued that it was the responsibility of social democrats to have a global approach to the problems of insecurity, in all its senses: physical, economical, social, environmental, and of food. The Johannesburg Summit, he declared, was "the moment to reaffirm our commitment to a global agenda of reforms" and to ensure that it was a successful meeting and not one of frustration again, above all for developing countries. The international community must, he concluded, be as committed in a world coalition against poverty and improving world governance, as it was against terrorism.

Presenting the historic resolution on the Middle East, which was unanimously adopted by the Council subsequently, Thorbjørn Jagland, Chair of the SI Middle East Committee, of the Norwegian Labour Party, DNA, explained that it had been formed on the basis of a consensus between SI Israeli members, the Israel Labour Party and Meretz, on the one hand, and the SI Palestinian member organisation, Fatah, on

the other. "This paper contains a fresh and new approach which is indeed needed in order to get out of the present crisis", Jagland observed, noting that in drafting the current document participants had taken stock of what had been achieved in the last ten years and the lessons learnt from the Oslo process.

These lessons were threefold. Firstly, that the goal had to be clear from the beginning, that is the realisation of a Palestinian State, which had not been mentioned in the Oslo Accords and had not appeared as a result of a step-by-step process as had been hoped. Secondly, the step-by-step process had taken too long, with interim agreements not being honoured and frustration levels rising: negotiations now had to be opened to handle all outstanding issues. Thirdly, international involvement in the conflict had to be "stronger, more committed and more coordinated", with an international mechanism for monitoring the implementation of future agreements, a robust international peace-keeping force to guarantee future borders, and a clear commitment to help finance the solution to the refugee problem - the most difficult issue, Jagland made clear, without a solution to which there could be no lasting peace.

Yossi Sarid, Chair of Meretz,

Israel, affirmed his party's support for an international conference in the region but also expressed his doubts that it would convene due to the preconditions imposed by governments on both sides, "and this could be the beginning of a disaster". Such a conference might well be, he argued, "the last hope to break the cycle of violence" and should "establish an international mandate in the occupied territories for a set time period, maybe two years. The international mandate would replace immediately the Israeli occupation and would be responsible for the rehabilitation of both security and civilian infrastructure in the Palestinian territories", such as had recently been seen in East Timor. "After two years, when conditions will be more stable and calm, the independent Palestinian state will emerge from the womb of this international mandate". He ended by once again calling on the Israeli Labour Party to leave the government led by Sharon.

Ilan Halevi, speaking on behalf of the Palestinian organisation Fatah, underlined the importance of the agreement reached by the SI member parties in the region: the fact that there could be no solution other than the co-existence of two states, Israeli and Palestinian, side by side;



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that both states should have their capital in Jerusalem; and a just solution to the issue of Palestinian refugees, "which is at the heart of the conflict", had to be found.

He also emphasised the importance of the role of the international community through "stronger and more decisive action", through the agreed need for an international conference and that "any mutually accepted solution must conform with a spirit of international law and international resolutions".

Welcoming that the SI resolution stated that pre-conditions should not delay a return to the negotiating table, Halevi reminded the members of the Council of the dramatic nature of the situation on the ground in the region, marked as it was by the great suffering of the civilian populations on both sides. Furthermore, he declared, the distinction between legitimate resistance and acts of terrorism was becoming blurred in Palestinian public opinion and it was the duty of his party to see that this distinction remained clearly defined, so furthering the way to ending such activity, "by isolating the philosophy, practices and structures which breed terrorism".

Colette Avital, Israel Labour Party, welcomed the breakthrough in the Council resolution and highlighted the urgency of the current situation.

"We have long known that there is no military solution to this conflict", she declared: "We have long known what a just solution to our conflict is going to be: two states for two peoples, living side by side". The commitment of the Labour party in finding "a road map" towards this lasting solution was evident in the many peace plans it continued to publish: "We in the Labour Party are committed to Palestinian statehood. We know there will be no peace without it. But our Palestinian neighbours must know that there can be no peace without security for Israel. Justice, like peace, is indivisible. It applies to both sides. And we must know that we do have a partner in this endeavour".

Avital concluded by stating that the majority of the Israeli public supported a Palestinian state: "The basis is there, the will is there, but we must work hard to turn this again into a real political option".

The debate was opened to the floor. José Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, General Secretary of

the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, PSOE, and a member of the SI Executive, expressed his wish that "this text will be a path which opens up hopes". In a time of such incertitude, it was necessary to focus on the socialist message to the world and the "forces which we are prepared to put on the table".

Mohammed Abdellah, National Democratic Party, NDP, Egypt, underlined the limitless nature of the Middle East conflict: "It is a problem which threatens peace and security in the entire region, even beyond, in Europe and worldwide", he said.

Reiterating the responsibility of members of the International in the face of threats to peace, security and democracy, as socialist activists and as politicians, Henri Nallet, National Secretary for International Relations of the Socialist Party, PS, France, greeted the "forging of a political will" to be found in the resolution before them.

Ali Chaouch, General Secretary of the Constitutional Democratic Assembly, RCD, Tunisia, considered the contradictory nature of globalisation which "aggravates already difficult situations in countries" and called on the world's conscience in the face

of such instability, aggression and repression.

Enrique Barón Crespo, Chair of the Parliamentary Group of the Party of European Socialists, asserted that the global and inclusive nature of the Socialist International meant "We are the universal expression that the thesis of the "clash of civilisations", which seems to be in vogue again, is not only false but is harmful for all for the future of humanity". A Europe which continued to be in peace for fifty years bore witness "that peace is also possible between secular enemies", he declared.

Margaret Wall, a member of the National Executive of the British Labour Party, found the resolution on the Middle East to be "a good basis for moving forward together in the challenge to achieve peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians". The themes of the Council were indeed interconnected, she stressed: "Development is key to helping build a more equitable and sustainable world, and this in turn is the key to the future security of our planet".

Declaring the resolution to be "excellent, concrete and strong", Elio Di Rupo, Chair of the Socialist Party, PS, Belgium, and a member of the SI Executive, expressed the wish of many when he said: "I hope that the spirit of Casablanca can blow in that part of the world". (For full text of the resolution on the Middle East, please see page 36.)

The Council's discussions turned to other areas of concern for peace and security in the world. Prime Minister Milos Zeman, of the Czech Social Democratic Party, CSSD, addressing the Council for the last time, as he had decided to leave political life, outlined the work of the SI Committee on Peace, Democracy and Human

Rights which he had chaired. The members of the Committee felt, he summarised, that most impact could be had in working to solve "hidden, tacit or potential conflicts". They had decided to move forward in a number of ways, Zeman explained. Firstly, by drawing up a map of hidden conflicts in the world; secondly, by formulating some case studies; thirdly, by working to send missions to certain areas and fourthly, by proposing solutions to these very complicated problems.

Within this framework of activity, a mission had visited Belarus in April 2002. (For a report on this mission, please refer to Issue 4, Volume 49, page 53.) Mikalai Statkevich, Chair of the Belarusian Social Democratic Party (Narodnaya Hramada), addressed the delegates on the uncertain and dangerous situation in his country and emphasised the deep rooted need for the support of the International there.

Urban Ahlin, Swedish Social Democratic Party, SAP, who had taken part in the mission, reflected that in an ever interdependent world, it was harder than ever for authoritarian regimes "to hide away from their responsibilities" and he called for more proactive behaviour from social democrats rather than "only reacting when conflict erupts". A resolution was adopted by the Council on Belarus. (See page 38)

The Prime Minister of the Côte d'Ivoire, Pascal Affi N'Guessan, of the Ivorian Popular Front, FPI, spoke of conflicts as "a tragedy for our world and particularly for our African continent", where bad governance, poverty, corruption, frustration, revolt, and popular

uprising sadly constituted daily dramas. The SI, he asserted, should form the base for trust and dialogue where it does not exist: "Where hope seems definitively gone, despair takes root, fear reigns, the SI can offer a way out, offer parties' help".

The Council adopted a resolution on the efforts for peace in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. (See page 37.)

Marina Seregni, Democrats of the Left, DS, Italy, reiterated that initiatives for peace and justice should be accompanied by efforts against poverty and underdevelopment.

Setting out the situation in her country, Benazir Bhutto, leader of the Pakistan People's Party, PPP, and a former prime minister, addressed the delegates about the tensions in the region, where dialogue was now crucial. Further, she maintained, building moderate, stable and democratic political structures was essential: "The extremists' greatest fear is the spread of information, social equality and democracy - the principles that make up the Socialist International", adding "Democracies don't start wars just as they don't promote international terrorism".

A resolution on the situation in Kashmir was unanimously adopted by the Council, as one in support of the struggle for democracy in Pakistan.

Elizabeth Angsioco, Head of the Foreign Affairs Commission, Philippines Democratic Socialist Party, PDSP, described how the events of 11 September had highlighted the new forms that terrorism had taken. She argued for "the need for an Asian response in the global struggle against terrorism anchored on the cultural nuances of individual nations", together with a careful

calibration of actions in the region, by the US, with a more accurate reading of the situation.

Hocine Ait-Ahmed, President of the Socialist Forces Front, FFS, Algeria, gave an account of latest developments in his country, another in the Maghreb which, he remarked, did not enjoy the same human rights, consolidation of democracy and forms of pluralism as Morocco. A resolution in support of the social democratic forces in Algeria was adopted by the Council.

Steen Christensen, Social Democratic Party, Denmark, gave an overview of the SI mission to the Great Lakes Region in Africa, which took place in February 2002. The background to the trip was sombre, he stated, the conflicts there had claimed four million lives. The responsibility for breaking the deadlock in the dialogue lay with neighbouring states, the rest of Africa and the international community. (For a report on the visit, please see issue 4, Volume 49, page 47.)

Jacques Baudin, International Secretary of the Socialist Party of Senegal, PS, spoke of an African continent which is of "diverse fortunes". The International, he warned, should "resist the temptation of falling into easy answers". At the level of the African parties, he observed, their presence needed to be felt, their actions supported and their ideals communicated to the international community.

Paulo Jorge, International Secretary of the MPLA, Angola, reported on the progress made, following the ceasefire in April, in reconstructing his country where almost five million people had been internally displaced.

Santiago Obama Ndong, President of the Convergence for Social Democracy, CPDS, described the current political climate in Equatorial Guinea, where the support and solidarity of the International and its member parties were key. The Council issued a resolution condemning the latest wave of repression there. (See page 43.)

Aminata M'Bengue N'Diaye, PS, Senegal, highlighted the plight of women in conflicts and called for women to be involved in negotiations for peace and the aftermath.

Turning to Latin America, Gustavo Carvajal, Institutional Revolutionary Party, PRI, Mexico, spoke on the armed conflict in Colombia. The SI had an important role, he said, as it did not have the undertakings of governments and could seek solutions differently.

Rafael Marín, Secretary General of Democratic Action, AD, Venezuela, reported on the situation in his country where the extent of the militarisation of the regime had reached the judiciary, national executive and public administration. The Council agreed a resolution on Venezuela, fully supporting the civic and pacific protests led by opposition forces. (On page 44.)

Rubén Giustiniani, General Secretary of the Popular Socialist Party, PSP, Argentina, focused on the insecurity which had had such a "deep, profound impact on the region". He claimed the crisis was "fundamentally our responsibility", as they had not been able, or did not know how, to consolidate a model of growth with equality.

Hatuey De Camps, President of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, PRD, spoke on behalf of the previous

hosts of the Council, hailing the success of his party in recent elections, a victory which should be made in memory of José Francisco Peña Gómez, he said.

Other resolutions adopted on the theme of advancing peace and security referred to the situation in Afghanistan, Armenia and the struggle against international terrorism.

The Council's second main theme "From Monterrey to Johannesburg" addressed the position of world social democracy on issues such as the improvement of global governance; ensuring sustainable development; promoting economic growth and supporting the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Christoph Zöpel of the Social Democratic Party of Germany, SPD, and Chair of the SI Committee on the Economy, Social Cohesion and the Environment, opened the debate by underlining the two concepts social democrats had contributed to shaping fair economic and social development in the world: global governance and global sustainability. He appealed to social democratic leaders to form a new global partnership to advance global social democracy.

The key role of the International in questions of development, Zöpel expanded, was that its member parties were both in developed and developing countries. Therefore the organisation could be "a forerunner and bridge-builder, bridging the gap between rich and poor societies".

The Johannesburg Summit, he reaffirmed, was the beginning of a process to shape global policy, in which social democrats had to participate

permanently, and he gave particular encouragement to parliamentarians to actively join in with the work of international institutions.

Maria João Rodrigues, Socialist Party, PS, of Portugal, and a Vice-Chair of the SI Committee on the Economy, Social Cohesion and the Environment, emphasised the need for a coalition against poverty and for reshaping world governance. This involved, she contended, three issues: A new long term goal - Rio + 10 was simply no longer enough; a new approach - globalisation had to work for all; and a new political method - clear commitments had to be made in Johannesburg.

Anneli Hulthén, Swedish Social Democratic Party, SAP, supported this approach. Johannesburg had to try to turn the message of Rio into reality, she said. It should be emphasised, she went on, that sustainability was not a new political subject and economic, ecological and social concerns were not three separate items: "Sustainability has to be in every political decision we make". She added that for success, participation and understanding at the local level were essential.

Susan Shabangu, Deputy Minister of Minerals and Energy, African National Congress, ANC, South Africa, claimed 2002 to be "one of the most important, defining moments in African history". She referred to the formation of the African Union, AU, the promotion of NEPAD, and the holding of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. "Across the continent, Africans declare that we will no longer allow ourselves to be conditioned by circumstance. We will determine

our destiny and call on the rest of the world to compliment our efforts", she concluded.

Bernard Soulage, National Secretary for Economic Issues, PS, France, argued for the need for the SI to be present at the Summit with "clear, precise and credible proposals" on how to make the world a better place.

Representing the Panhellenic Socialist Movement, PASOK, Greece, Theodoros Pangalos welcomed the opportunity the Council meeting afforded to exchange experiences on global issues and highlighted the serious political consequences of inequality in the world.

Rolando Araya, National Liberation Party, PLN, Costa Rica, and an SI Vice-President, emphasised the role of social democrats in putting forward proposals more imaginatively based on shared values. The difference between an economist from the left and one from the right, he quipped, was that the latter recommended aspirin, while the former suggested vitamins.

Pia Locatelli, Italian Democratic Socialists, SDI, argued that as the demands of the South had not been recognised and equity denied, Johannesburg risked becoming a "development summit", rather than a sustainable development summit.

Prime Minister Pascal Affi N'Guessan, FPI, Côte d'Ivoire, spoke on the four main characteristics of NEPAD. It was a truly African initiative, based not on aid but on partnership, with a sub-regional approach in its formulation and putting projects into practice, and priority for inclusive projects.

Folke Sundman, of the Finnish Social Democratic Party, SDP, gave a brief report

on the Working Group on the World Trade Organisation on behalf of its chair.

Luis Alberto Caceres, Radical Civic Union, UCR, Argentina, insisted on the need to generate fresh ideas. A globalised world meant globalised problems and they were the same problems being repeated.

The Council adopted a declaration on the World Summit in Johannesburg. (See page 39 for full text.)

Other matters on which the Council made statements were the Hadeep party in Turkey and Puerto Rico.

Rubén Berríos, President of the Puerto Rican Independence Party, PIP, thanked those in the International for their solidarity, both historically and currently.

The Council received a report by the Secretary General, Luis Ayala, on the activities of the organisation since the previous Council held in November 2001. Addressing the delegates, he said, they gathered with hopes and promises for peace just as, in the past, they had met in solidarity in support of democracy. The Council meeting in Morocco was, he continued, "a symbol of closeness, of the common identity of this political family, in the challenges which lie before us".

Finally, the issue of the participation of political parties and parliamentarians in the United Nations system were also the subject of a special declaration. The International adopted as its own the Declaration of the SIW entitled 'Towards a greater participation of women in politics: strategies and realities'.

Declarations and resolutions

RESOLUTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST

The Socialist International hereby announces that its member parties - the Israeli Labour Party, Meretz and Fatah - agree that the mutual recognition of the State of Israel and the State of Palestine, as two states to live side by side, should be the initial commitment before negotiations start between the two peoples.

The main elements of a final settlement have long been clear to most involved parties: implementation of Security Council resolution 242; establishment of a Palestinian state living side by side with Israel under irreversible security guarantees for both sides; borders ensuring that the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are part of the Palestinian state, but opening the possibility of negotiated land swaps; both states to have their capital in Jerusalem, and a just solution to the refugee issue.

The Socialist International and its above-mentioned member parties stress that negotiations have to be opened immediately and handle all outstanding issues. A cease-fire cannot be a condition to the start of negotiations. Extremists cannot be given the upper hand. The above parties renounce violence and will refrain from participating in any violent activity that harms civilian lives. Firm measures must be taken against such acts. We ask the parties to pay particular attention to the protection of the civilian population.

The Israeli Labour Party, Meretz and Fatah will immediately engage in confidence-building activities together, with the help and support of the Socialist International and member parties. Joint groups will be established to discuss and prepare specific issues that will come up within the framework of final status negotiations.

The Socialist International will work with the aim of encouraging the United States, Russia and the European Union to find a common stand on final status issues. This stand must be consistent with international legality, and enjoy the support of the UN Security Council.

It must also allow concerned Arab states to adhere to it. Particularly, it must take into consideration the parameters included in the recent Saudi initiative.

This basic common position should be elaborated before an international peace conference with the participation of Israel, the Palestinian Authority, relevant Arab countries, the US, EU, Russia and the UN.

The parties to the conflict should be invited to the Conference on the basis of basic principles: land for peace, 242, and an agreement on the establishment of two states and security for both. The Conference should set a timetable for final status negotiations.

The Socialist International also encourages our member parties who are parties in the conflict to prepare their respective public opinions for a compromise. Israel may not have peace and at the same time keep settlements, while Palestinians may have to accept an internationally supported compromise on the refugee issue.

The Socialist International supports the idea of building an international Fund for the Palestinian refugees, which the UN could administer once a permanent political settlement has been achieved on this issue. The Fund should ensure compensation for the losses and the suffering of the refugees, and provide them with the opportunity to start a new life on the basis of the conclusion of a final peace agreement. The better we can show that solutions are within reach, the more likely people will start working for a political settlement rather than a military one.

Urgent recovery and reconstruction programmes for the Palestinian Authority are needed, including the recovery of taxes, customs and other fees still withheld. Development and security are dependent upon developing democratic institutions and establishing a centralised security authority.

The Socialist International insists on the need for international guarantees, international monitoring of implementation of any agreements,

international political follow-up of negotiations, and the presence on the ground of a multinational peace-keeping force patrolling borders.

RESOLUTION ON KASHMIR

The Socialist International expresses its deepest concern regarding the situation in Kashmir, especially given the alarming prospect of war between India and Pakistan and the horrible possibility of the use of nuclear weapons by one or both sides.

The International is also disturbed by and condemns the series of violent attacks that have left dozens of people dead, including at an Indian army camp earlier this month and, only days ago, against an Indian police base in Kashmir. Those carrying out these violent acts appear to have as their principle goal the worsening of the already dangerous level of tension between India and Pakistan.

We also believe that the recent test firing of missiles by Pakistan is ill-timed and provocative in light of recent events and increases the potential for nuclear escalation that would put millions of lives at risk.

The roots of the dispute between India and Pakistan over Kashmir reach far back into the past and relations between the two countries are both intricate as well as volatile. To help the two countries step back from the brink of war therefore requires a tremendous effort by the international community, including balanced and determined diplomacy by individual nations to reduce tensions and promote dialogue.

We therefore view as positive the recent and ongoing initiatives by Great Britain, the United States and Russia.

However, we also believe that a more concerted international effort is needed to impress upon the two countries the clear necessity and absolute urgency of preventing greater hostilities that could lead to nuclear conflagration.

At the same time, the International must emphasise the primary

responsibility of both India and Pakistan themselves to do everything possible to lower the level of tension, beginning with greater efforts to find the common ground necessary to get a peace process for Kashmir on track. In this regard, we also recognise and value the efforts of civil society organisations working for democracy and peace in Kashmir.

Finally, the International advocates that in the future, as soon as is feasible, both countries, with the support and assistance of other nuclear powers, develop and put into place all necessary and available safeguards such as direct hotline communications and test monitoring programmes and agreements to reduce as much as possible the potential of nuclear catastrophe.

RESOLUTION ON AFGHANISTAN

Original: French

The commitment of the international community to ending terrorism in Afghanistan has led to the overthrow of the Taliban regime and the dismantling of Al Qaeda in that country. The Socialist International welcomes this development, which has established the basic conditions for the Afghan people to finally find peace again. However, after more than 20 years of war, suffering and destruction, the Afghan people will be unable to confront alone the immense task of reconstructing their country and consolidating peace. Faced with the uncertainty which still dominates the future of this country, the SI:

- hopes that the struggle against terrorist networks will be carried through to the end with determination by the whole international community;
- urges the international community to fully assume its financial commitments, particularly with regard to the reconstruction of the political structures and the economic, social and cultural infrastructures which have become practically non-existent, but which are indispensable for the consolidation of peace and stability in Afghanistan.
- hopes that the Afghan leaders will commit themselves to putting in place real political democracy which is equally indispensable if peace,

security and economic reconstruction in Afghanistan are to be guaranteed. This implies the establishment of truly representative institutions with respect for human rights, rights for women, for public freedoms and a multi-party system, and especially respect for the rights of civil society and opposition parties.

- urges that Afghan women have their own voice and that they have an important role to play in building peace and in shaping a democratic Afghanistan.

- reaffirms that aid from the international community for the reconstruction of Afghanistan must be linked necessarily to the respect for democratic values in that country.

RESOLUTION ON ALGERIA

Original: French

In response to the call of the Algerians who demand a political solution, which alone is capable of putting an end to a decade of bloody conflict, the Algerian government has merely organised a new electoral operation. This has suffered a massive boycott.

In practical terms, the principal aim of this election was to fill a political vacuum caused by an illegal state of emergency which suppresses all freedoms and to decorate once more the democratic façade of a regime that is protected by its absolute power, freedom from any control and lack of accountability.

In the light of the resolution it adopted in Lisbon, the Council of the Socialist International:

- calls on the Mediterranean Committee to implement this resolution and to follow the situation closely;
- decides to send a delegation to assist in the search for a political solution;
- calls on the Secretary-General of the United Nations to bring to the attention of the Security Council the massive and systematic violations of human rights in Algeria, and
- assures the Algerian people and its democratic forces, notably the Front of Socialist Forces, FFS, of its active solidarity.

RESOLUTION ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION OF AFRICA

The Socialist International reaffirms its complete support for the peace efforts in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and reiterates its call for the full implementation of the Lusaka Agreement, which provides for dialogue among Congolese groups, the establishment of a ceasefire, the withdrawal of all foreign forces, the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force and the writing of a new constitution in preparation for holding fully democratic elections.

The International, following our SI mission to the Great Lakes this past February, is pleased that some significant progress has been made along these lines. But we recognise that much work is still required by all concerned to ensure that the foundation for a lasting peace is properly set.

We further recognise that the achievements thus far have been the result of a willingness to negotiate: this, the International hopes, will be sustained. In this regard, we fully support the Inter-Congolese Dialogue, a key component of the peace process, and appreciate the important role of the President of South Africa in helping to facilitate it.

These talks, as expected, have not been easy, and the lack of a firm ceasefire remains a critical concern, particularly in eastern areas of the country where there has been a renewed surge of violence.

But the International believes, based on long experience promoting peace in the different regions of the world, that only a political rather than a military solution is viable. We therefore strongly urge all sides to make every effort to keep the dialogue on track and move forward, and call as well for greater recognition and support for social and civic forces working in the country for peace and democracy.

The International also fully supports the efforts of the United Nations, including through the United Nations Organisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, MONUC, to promote the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement, and its readiness to

provide peacekeepers when the Inter-Congolese Dialogue develops further.

With regard to neighbouring Burundi, the International is pleased, following our mission to that country in February as well, by the achievements of the transitional democratic institutions established last year.

However, as in the case of the Democratic Republic of Congo, we remain very concerned by the lack of a ceasefire and the continuing violence in Burundi. We again recognise and appreciate the role of South Africa, this time in deploying its forces to help secure and advance the peace process in Burundi, and we encourage other countries in the region to help in whatever ways possible to persuade the armed groups to enter into dialogue as the crucial first step toward a cessation of hostilities.

With regard to Angola, the International welcomes the end of the civil war and expresses its solidarity and support to Angola and to our member party, MPLA, in its efforts to ensure a lasting peace, economic development and social welfare.

RESOLUTION ON BELARUS

1. Regarding the fact that Belarus finds itself in a situation of incomplete transformation of the social and economic spheres, the SI supports all reforming forces in the country, which stay prepared to modernise different areas of Belarusian life. Tardy transformation is hampering the sound development of the country's potential, and it constitutes a chance to avoid the fatal mistakes of ultra-liberalism leading economy from one extreme to another. The Belarusian Social Democratic Party is herewith required to develop transformation concepts based on the experience of other countries and to communicate them properly to the public.

2. Referring to the conclusions of the SI Congress in Paris in 1999, ever-increasing interdependence and globalisation are unstoppable. The SI will continue to employ all means to turn this process from a savage destruction of economic potential of some less developed regions into

sensible regulation. The realisation of this aim is, in a situation where some countries stay closed, as in Belarus today, almost unthinkable.

3. Modern society can work only when civil society and a pluralistic political culture are in full operation. The SI and its partner organisations are urged to mobilise their capabilities in a co-ordinated manner in order to find ways of bringing Belarus out of its self-isolation. This strategic task is to be achieved through open public debate both in the international community and above all in Belarus itself. The SI urges member parties to support all reforming forces and highlight the need for more contacts between European and Belarusian youth. The human rights rating of the country is one of the most critical parameters. The SI will establish all possible ways in order to prevent a spilling over from hidden conflict into an open one.

4. The SI is aware that security in the region of Eastern Europe, especially after the events of 11 September 2001, is unimaginable without the active participation of Belarus.

5. In order to put in motion the above mentioned process of democratisation, transformation and international inclusion of Belarus, the Socialist International will hold in Minsk, in due course, a conference on Belarus.

RESOLUTION ON ARMENIA

The Council of the Socialist International, meeting in Casablanca on 31 May - 1 June 2002,

considering the positive influence the SI can have in the search for just and lasting resolutions of regional conflicts;

considering the increasing geopolitical, strategic and economic importance of the South Caucasus in world affairs;

considering that the unresolved conflicts of the South Caucasus threaten the stability and peace in the region;

considering that the rule of law, democracy and respect of human rights are prerequisites for and can best flourish in times of peace and stability,

- the Socialist International will

closely monitor the developments in the South Caucasus, through its Committee for Central and Eastern Europe and the SI Committee on Peace, Democracy and Human Rights, in order to assist in the search for peaceful resolutions to the conflicts in the region, and specifically to the Nagorny-Karabakh conflict, based on justice and international law.

- Furthermore, the Socialist International will utilise its positive influence towards preventing current problems from escalating into full-scale conflicts. In this regard, the SI will assist the international community, the Georgian government and the local NGOs in resolving the socio-economic, cultural and political problems facing the Armenian population in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region of Georgia.

RESOLUTION ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

1. The Socialist International reiterates its condemnation of all acts of terrorism, including state terrorism, defined as an attack against civilians for the sake of carrying out political aims.

2. The Socialist International does not consider social and economic conditions in any country as a decisive cause of international terrorism. On the contrary, international terrorism abuses these conditions to legitimise its condemnable acts.

3. The Socialist International will not allow any organisation which supports international terrorism, or which advocates it, to have any link whatsoever or cooperate with the SI.

4. The Socialist International considers that the fight against international terrorism should be carried out within the framework of international law, respect for human rights and in line with the Geneva Conventions.

5. The Socialist International calls on its Committee on Peace, Democracy and Human Rights to prepare a programme for action of social democratic and socialist parties against international terrorism, including necessary preventive activities, and to submit this programme at the next meeting of this Committee.

DECLARATION ON THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(Johannesburg, 26 August - 4 September 2002)

Global Governance and Global Sustainability – The Goals of the Global Social Democracy

- The Socialist International supports the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held from 26 August until 4 September 2002 in Johannesburg as it supported the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, which provided the fundamental principles and the programme of action for achieving sustainable development. It appeals to political leaders to establish in Johannesburg a new global partnership encompassing economic, social and environmental considerations.

The Socialist International, as a non-governmental organisation with Category I consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, invites its member parties to nominate members to its delegation at the Summit.

- The Socialist International strongly reaffirms its commitment to the Rio principles and the full implementation of Agenda 21.

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainability hence does not only mean national and international environmental and development policies, but becomes the guiding principle of global governance and a new domestic world policy oriented towards lasting peace, justice, security, welfare, democracy and the promotion of cultural diversity. Commitments to implementing the three components – economic growth, social development and environmental protection – as mutually reinforcing pillars are imperative for meeting the goal of sustainable development.

The findings of the Brandt, Palme, Carlsson/Ramphal and Brundtland Commissions paved the way for the global political consensus that resulted in the concepts of global sustainability and global governance: all these were crucial contributions of

social democracy for tackling the global challenges facing the world. UNCED 1992 in Rio set the stage for a new global agenda through a round of global conferences focusing on various aspects of global sustainability, the Population Conference (Cairo, 1994), the Social Summit (Copenhagen, 1995), the Women's Conference (Beijing, 1995), the Conference on Human Settlements (Istanbul, 1996), most recently followed by the Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, 2002). These processes can be characterised by a common desire to achieve equality, solidarity, respect for nature and shared responsibility in managing worldwide economic, social and environmental development.

- The Socialist International commits itself to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, the outcomes of the major UN Conferences and international agreements since 1992 and the results of the UN Millennium Assembly.

- The Socialist International adopted at its Council meeting in Maputo in November 2000 the "Platform for Global Progress" which emphasised the connection between the environment and development as the fundamental component in the process towards sustainable development. It also emphasised the need to create societies that could eradicate poverty and prosper within the limits that nature sets. Poverty eradication and changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption are overarching objectives of sustainable development and an essential requirement for promoting environmental protection. Good governance within each country without exception and global governance at international level are essential for sustainable development. At domestic level, sound environmental, social and economic policies, democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people, rule of law, anti-corruption measures, fighting against terrorism, gender equity and an enabling environment for investment are the basis for sustainable development. The gap between developed and developing countries point to the continued need for a dynamic and enabling

international economic environment supportive of international cooperation, particularly in the field of finance, technology transfer, debt and trade, full and effective participation of developing countries in global decision-making, if the momentum for global progress towards sustainable development is to be maintained and increased. Peace, security, and stability are essential for achieving sustainable development and ensuring that sustainable development benefits all.

- The Socialist International reaffirms the conclusions of the SI Council in Lisbon, 29-30 June 2001, and of the meeting of Committee on the Economy, Social Cohesion and the Environment in New York, 15-16 February 2002. The Socialist International supports the propositions of the PES Working Group on Sustainable Development.

- The Socialist International wants to make its contribution to the successful outcome of the Johannesburg Summit. It is aware of, and welcomes, the work done by its member parties and organisations on sustainable development. The Socialist International calls on all its parties and its members in parliament and government to cooperate and move towards firm and innovative initiatives in order to promote sustainable development. The Socialist International expects from them concrete commitments to funding and implementing these initiatives.

A Social Democratic Vision for Sustainable Development

- The Socialist International underlines that the world continues to experience a widening of the gap between rich and poor, both within nations and throughout the different regions of the world; the emergence of new forms of social exclusion connected with technological evolution; a growing concentration of financial and economic power combined with vulnerability to fiscal crises; a crucial challenge to representative democratic values in the context of globalisation; continuing conflict, within as well as between nations; increasing degradation and depletion of

natural resources. The greatest environmental challenges include: the climate changes caused by global warming; the hole in the ozone layer; the diminishing variety of species; the degradation of agricultural land and ground water; toxic pollution and excessive consumption, all of which threaten the very basis of life. That is the reason why there is a need to shape the globalisation process to be inclusive and create a world domestic policy with the aim of achieving sustainable development.

- As the Socialist International, we are the bearers of a social vision for sustainable development through the recognition of fundamental individual and collective rights. We are able to integrate the environmental and development agendas, that is, an agenda able to respond to the desire for justice without upsetting the biosphere, since equity can no longer be separated from ecology. Our vision is based on a social democratic model characterised by the goals of welfare for all, full and fair employment, international solidarity and a good living environment. In the new vision of the future, the environmental perspective, along with the economic and social angle, is fundamental to a society based on democracy, solidarity and justice.

- The Socialist International consists of political parties both in developed and developing countries, many of them presently in government. This makes it possible for the SI to play a key role as a forerunner and bridge builder in political processes. Bridging the gap between poor and richer societies is crucial in order to reach solutions to achieve progress towards sustainable development.

Meeting the Needs of Developing Countries

- The Socialist International emphasises that the commitments which resulted from the Rio Summit have not been sufficiently carried out, while efforts to do so have exacerbated the deep divisions between the developed countries and developing countries which fear that environmental restraints will only leave them further behind in the global race for economic development.

- The Socialist International understands that developing countries can enter the Rio+10 process with the view that developed countries have not delivered what they promised back in 1992. There has been an overall steady decline in developing aid over the past 10 years. Only a few countries - Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden - are fulfilling the target of 0.7 percent of GDP. Development aid must be organised in a less bureaucratic way and must be focused on education, health and social programmes. On the other hand, FDI (foreign direct investment) has increased and is still not sufficient, and the overall majority of developing countries has not benefited. Africa, in particular, is lagging behind. The Socialist International considers this a significant political challenge.

- The Socialist International stresses the need for providing adequate means of implementation to developing countries in order for them to achieve the goals of sustainable development. The Johannesburg Summit should clearly identify the sources of finance and technology required and agree on time-bound targets in providing the means of implementation.

Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development

- The Socialist International emphasises that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today, the highest priority for developing countries and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. As Indira Gandhi stated thirty years ago: "Poverty is the greatest polluter and the struggle against poverty is also a struggle for a better environment". Environmental degradation is an obstacle to sustainable livelihoods and has the greatest impact on the poor. It is therefore essential to integrate environmental issues into national poverty reduction strategies and processes.

- The Socialist International judges that poverty derives not only from deprivation of resources but also from a deficit of power. Strategies to eradicate poverty will have to be centred on the reinforcement of rights and opportunities. This is

particularly true for women who, together with children, often bear the greatest burden of extreme poverty. The empowerment of women therefore constitutes a central element of strategies for the eradication of poverty. Women often do not have access to education and training and are the least qualified and skilled as a workforce, have the least opportunity for ownership of property and are often subjected to cultural customs and rules which expose them to exploitation. Therefore equality between the genders and a gender perspective is important for the Socialist International, which must also be reflected in the Rio+10 process.

- The Socialist International underlines that the realisation of the poverty - and hunger - related goals contained in the UN Millennium Declaration to halve by the year 2015 the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water will require actions at all levels to:

- establish with new resources a World Solidarity Fund for Poverty Eradication and the Promotion of Human Development in the poorest regions of the World, in order to reach the UN Millennium Declaration goals and more fairly distribute Global Public Goods;

- ensure that development aid is focused on the least developed countries and the people most in need;

- decrease the debt of the less developed countries and write off that of the poorest;

- incorporate good governance policies such as respect for human rights, democracy, and the rule of law, as cornerstones of poverty reduction policies aimed at promoting empowerment of poor people;

- deliver basic health services for all and reduce environmental health threats with particular reference to the alarming spread of HIV/AIDS and other contagious diseases, taking into account the linkages between poverty, health and environment;

- ensure children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to

complete a full course of primary schooling and will have equal access to all levels of education;

- promote sustainable agriculture and rural development to eradicate poverty and achieve food security, diversification of rural economies and improved access to markets and market information for agricultural products, including reduction of subsidies which distort trade and the environment and other barriers to trade in developed countries, while respecting environmental and socio-economic concerns;

- stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing transparent, decentralised and democratically controlled water management strategies at local, regional and national levels and safeguarding its quality;

- devise an action programme for the promotion of renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency. This should be predominantly focused on developing countries, but not neglect the need for the developed countries to change their patterns of production and consumption;

- promote the integration into poverty eradication policies and programmes of measures to combat desertification, drought and floods;

- support developing countries to develop, adopt and implement policies, strategies and programmes on sustainable urbanisation and urban management as a means to eradicate both urban and rural poverty;

- the design of housing and buildings is closely connected with energy consumption. It is important to introduce environmentally friendly building material and the best available technology.

- The Socialist International strongly advocates the need to achieve the commitments of the 20/20 Initiative from the World Social Summit in Copenhagen in 1995 for developing and developed states to mutually engage themselves to spend an average of 20 per cent of their national budget and 20 per cent of their official development assistance, including their contributions to multilateral organisations and NGOs, for basic social services. These include basic health services including reproductive health, food security programmes, supply of drinking

water and sewerage systems.

Changing Unsustainable Patterns of Consumption and Production

- The Socialist International underlines that the prosperity of the industrialised countries is largely based on an over-consumption of the world's finite natural resources. Fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development. The richest five per cent of the world's population is responsible for 86 per cent of the world's total consumption whereas the poorest 20 per cent is responsible for just 1.3 per cent. Global threats, such as climate change or extreme poverty, point to the need for change and the fact that the industrialised countries have a moral responsibility to play a leading role in driving through such change.

- Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production in particular requires:

- the development of a programme for improving resource efficiency in order to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems, while reducing resource degradation;

- increasing investment in cleaner production and eco-efficiency in all countries through incentives and support schemes;

- the implementation of the recommendations and conclusions of the ninth session of the Commission for Sustainable Development on energy relevant to the respective domestic situations;

- the promotion of an integrated approach to policy making at national and regional levels for transport services and systems to promote sustainable development, including policies and planning for land use, infrastructure, public transport systems and goods delivery networks;

- preventing and minimising waste and maximising re-use and recycling, with participation of government, and all stakeholders, in order to improve resource-efficiency;

- a new commitment to sound management on the precautionary principle of chemicals throughout their life cycle for the protection of

human health and the environment.

Protecting and Managing the Natural Resource Base of Economic and Social Development

- The Socialist International emphasises that environmental policies are not a burden, but a necessity for ensuring that economic and social development are sustainable. Nature and environmental resources are an indispensable basis for human welfare and advancement. Human activities are having an increasing impact on the integrity of ecosystems. Managing the natural resources base in a precautionary and integrated manner is essential for sustainable development. In this regard, it is necessary to implement strategies to protect all ecosystems and to achieve integrated management of land, water and living resources, while strengthening regional, national and local capacities. Natural resources must not be over consumed in order to create economic growth, and "eco-efficiency" must be an integrated part of every country's policy.

- The Socialist International firmly believes that in the long run a "green knowledge-based economy" and new technology can contribute to fairer and more environmentally friendly development.

- The Socialist International urges the mobilisation and financing of global public goods, which in general constitutes a tremendous challenge for the community of states that is growing ever closer together. It is therefore urgently required, for the promotion of development policies, to analyse all the proposals that have been submitted on how the maintenance and provision of GPGs can be financed in great detail. The Socialist International underlines the need for global taxation on international currency transactions, on the sources of global pollution and on the arms trade.

- The Socialist International emphasises that global warming is the greatest threat to life on the planet. Scientists are now more explicit than ever before; the climate is affected by human activities and results in changes in the climate. Poor countries suffer the most from

global warming due to the fact that the consequences hit them the hardest and because they lack both the technology and the financial resources to meet the challenge. Industrialised countries have a particular responsibility to reduce emissions, but less developed and poorer countries must contribute to the effort as well. The commitments that countries have made today concerning emissions simply are not enough.

- The Socialist International advocates cooperation between both developed and developing countries on reducing emissions, with the wealthier countries contributing the necessary transfer of knowledge, technology and financial resources.

- The Socialist International advocates the rapid ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. All parties to the protocol have to complete their national ratification procedures in order to enable the protocol to enter into force before the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Socialist International calls on the United States to join the fight against global warming.

Sustainable Development in a Globalising World

- The Socialist International emphasises the need to lay down good governance at national as well as international level as an underlying concept in Johannesburg. It requires precise agreements in order to be able to reach this objective. This holds true for environmental issues as such, as well as for the broader concept of governance for sustainable development. This entails that the existing international structures and institutions for governance be put to the test. Johannesburg should be used to also reach this stage. The establishment of a "World Commission for Sustainability and Globalisation" is an important proposal.

- The Socialist International underlines that globalisation has to work for sustainable development. This will mean modification to trade and development assistance policies that should be assessed based on their effects on sustainable development. Combating poverty

and providing greater access to markets for the poorest countries are important components of a programme for sustainable development. Concrete steps are crucial regarding financing issues, the transfer of technology, the dismantling of subsidies that constitute a barrier to trade and the status of the environmental dimension in relation to trade policy. Regarding the financing issue, some progress – including the development of a bigger role for multinational companies in the financing of development – was made at the World Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey (Mexico, 2002) but much more needs to be achieved.

- The Socialist International stresses that globalisation has been up to now limited to some sectors of the world economy, mainly in the spheres of transport, communication and finance, but has left out the majority of developing countries. There is a need to have, after Doha, a round of trade negotiations allowing better market access for developing countries, and especially for the least developed countries. The EU "Everything but Arms" initiative could serve as an example for the abolition of quotas and tariffs for the least developed nations. There is also a need for additional regional free-trade organisations. Developing countries would gain much from better access to each other's markets. Most international trade is regional and not global.

- The Socialist International urges that all global and regional institutions, each responsible for particular aspects of economic and social life, have to improve their role in contributing to sustainable global development. Stronger political accountability, not least in securing consistent and coherent policies, is fundamental for change. The world needs an institutional framework for sustainable development that will provide for policy integration, knowledge-based decisions and participation.

- The Socialist International stresses that an important prerequisite of sustainable development is that the financial markets are based on economic, social and ecological concerns. International social and environmental agreements and the

WTO must be accorded equal importance and must operate in a mutually supportive way. The social and environmental perspective must be strengthened during the forthcoming round of trade negotiations and the WTO should play its part in that process, as must the trade unions. All countries have to commit themselves to the Doha development agenda. World trade is growing continuously fast. For many parts of the world, this brings economic growth and prosperity. But at the same time new challenges are emerging. The rapid increase in movement of people, goods and finance, however, can also lead to new and serious problems. These need to be tackled effectively through appropriate regulations and controls which are properly implemented. Free trade means the increased transport of goods, which in itself is a challenge to the environment. The Socialist International will actively contribute to making real progress in the field of environmental globalisation. Trade has brought great benefits, but one important challenge now is to bring in consumer protection, safeguards to make globalisation safe and ensure producer protection so that citizens of poor countries and the poorest citizens in all countries do not suffer from exploitation. The key to sustainable development is that all countries, and in particular the richer countries, should be willing to participate in international governance, and to control the growing financial markets.

- The Socialist International urges all countries to participate in the process of creating sustainable development and a global partnership, built upon solidarity and equality between countries and continents.

Priorities for the World Summit on Sustainable Development:

- The Johannesburg Summit agreement should include an action plan in order to implement Agenda 21 and the UN Millennium Declaration. It needs to focus on deliverables and the need for resources such as public and private financing, capacity building and transfer of technology;

- the promotion of responsible

usage of natural resources and thus making a clear separation between economic growth and consumption of the environment;

- the strengthening and further development of structures for sustainable global development;

- the global environmental platform has to be strengthened by developing UNEP financially and institutionally, with a long-term aim of creating a World Environment Organisation;

- a World Commission on Sustainability and Globalisation must be set up;

- to achieve a "global new deal" the Socialist International urges the creation of a UN Economic Security Council. This Economic Security Council would provide permanent leadership on global economic, social and environmental issues. The Council would monitor and coordinate the action of the various UN agencies such as the World Bank, the WTO, the ILO, the IMF and the regional development banks. It could also propose new resources for development and social and environmental protection;

- the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women must be included in the Rio+10 process; it must be given special attention in relation to strategies for poverty reduction;

- full participation of women must be ensured in the process of taking of decisions on sustainable development in gender-sensitive environmental management;

- the fulfilment of the UN's development assistance objective of 0.7 per cent of GDP by the developed countries based on concrete time schedules;

- the need for additional sources of funding for global welfare - apart from ODAs - which could include international tax resources, such as a tax on the weapons trade and on currency speculation;

- education, vocational training, development of clean technologies and technological transfer as keys to global sustainability;

- the issue of world nutrition and agricultural production;

- the problem of scarce fresh water resources. Specific measures have to

be taken in Johannesburg for the implementation of the findings of the International Fresh Water Conference (Bonn, December 2001);

- an action programme for the promotion of renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency;

- developed countries' policies towards the world's poorest countries should give them greater access to the market and allow their debt to be written off, especially those who are pursuing internal poverty alleviation policies;

- an open and fair trade regime has to be developed where trade agreements should be assessed based on how they affect sustainable development;

- agricultural and fishery subsidies that can both be seen as ecologically unsustainable and as trade barriers should be modified and ultimately phased out in a socially acceptable manner;

- international conventions, especially those of the ILO, relating to health, labour rights and the environment must be respected in the WTO's regulatory framework;

- access for developing countries to medicines at fair price levels in order to combat diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

• The Socialist International calls for the strengthening of the global parliamentary dimension to the international decision-making process in the 21st century. International organisations of parties should have a special status in the United Nations System, different from that of the NGOs.

• The Socialist International recognises the importance of the local level and local authorities in promoting sustainability. For success we need innovative local solutions and supportive partnership of local people. The success of Agenda 21 was mainly due to the fact that the proposals and their implementation were based in the local community.

• The Socialist International is of the opinion that the Johannesburg Summit must be founded on the achievements and the experience of organisations of civil society.

• This Summit must create spaces

for regular dialogue among international institutions, governments, local authorities, NGOs and representatives of civil society.

• The Socialist International calls on the international community in all its forms - public, private and civic - to work towards a Rio+10 anniversary that culminates in a major global gathering, to ensure that the momentum of the international environmental effort can be maintained. The Johannesburg Summit must prove the "global partnership" between developed and developing countries. The developed countries must take on a stronger environmental and social responsibility. The developing countries must be prepared to work in new sustainable ways and to take on more responsibility to overcome global problems.

RESOLUTION ON EQUATORIAL GUINEA

The Socialist International is greatly disturbed by the latest wave of repression carried out by the government of Equatorial Guinea against opposition groups, including the SI member Convergence for Social Democracy, CPDS.

The clampdown, which began in April with more than one hundred arrests, seems designed to undermine the efforts of the CPDS and other opposition parties still operating in the face of government harassment, as they prepare for forthcoming elections.

Questionable charges, including sedition, have been brought against at least 140 people, among them Plácido Micó, CPDS Secretary General, a long time leader in the struggle for democracy in Equatorial Guinea. The trial against Micó and the others began last week amidst allegations that many of the accused had been tortured.

The Socialist International strongly urges the government of Equatorial Guinea to fully abide by due processes and all other internationally recognised judicial norms, to thoroughly investigate all allegations of torture, to fully respect the political rights and civil liberties

of every citizen and to ensure conditions that will allow for free and fair elections.

The International also calls upon the international community to renew its focus on Equatorial Guinea and redouble its efforts to ensure that human rights are fully respected there.

RESOLUTION ON PAKISTAN

1. The Council of the Socialist International takes note of the report of the Pakistan Human Rights Commission pointing to malpractices in the recent presidential referendum. It notes that the opposition call for a boycott was successful in that the public participation in the referendum was very low.

The Council of the Socialist International reiterates to Pakistan's military regime the need to immediately take steps to end military rule and hold free, fair and impartial general elections open to all parties and candidates, the release of political prisoners and the lifting of the ban on political activities.

The Socialist International stresses the need for the appointment of impartial international observers to monitor the coming October general elections, so that rigging the elections becomes impossible and any forgery will be duly exposed to the press and government officials.

2. The Socialist International voices concern about the continued imprisonment of Senator Asif Ali Zardari who is in his sixth year of prison without a conviction and who is in need of medical treatment for a life threatening spinal ailment. It is ironic that every time the Senator is granted bail by the courts, another criminal case is filed against him to prevent his release.

The Socialist International views with anxiety the maltreatment of PPP officials, namely Vice-Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, Secretary General Jahangir Bader and Mushtaq Ahmed Awan, who have been put behind bars without conviction, whereas those convicted by the courts on corruption charges have been released on "humanitarian grounds".

3. The Socialist International extends its deepest sympathy to the families of all the victims. It also stresses its active solidarity with the people of Pakistan in their struggle for the restoration of democracy.

RESOLUTION ON VENEZUELA

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International condemns the closing of parliament and the attempted coup in Venezuela and agrees to attentively follow the political developments in that country. It urges the Venezuelan government to respect the principle of separation of powers inherent to democracy and the full respect of human rights and political pluralism. It fully supports the civic and pacific struggle maintained by our member party Democratic Action, AD, and by other democratic political forces, trade unions and other non-governmental organisations.

RESOLUTION ON HADEP

The Socialist International has learned that HADEP, a party that often participates in its activities and is recommended by this Council for observer membership, is on trial in Turkey, accused of unlawful activities. The International regards HADEP as a democratic party working in parliament and fully supports it in its work for a pluralistic democracy. The International expresses its deep concern over the ongoing legal proceedings against HADEP and urges the Turkish government to guarantee free and fair working conditions for all Turkish democratic parties.

RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO

Original: Spanish

The SI Council reaffirms its support for the complete decolonisation of Puerto Rico through recognition of its national sovereignty and notes with satisfaction the measures recently approved by the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico, calling for the convening of a People's Assembly on the status of the territory so that the Puerto Rican people can exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and

independence.

At the same time, it reiterates its solidarity with the demand of the majority of the Puerto Rican people for the military exercises on Vieques Island to be immediately halted and for President Bush to fulfil his promise that the US Navy would permanently close down its firing range in Vieques by or before May 2003.

RESOLUTION ON PARTICIPATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND PARLIAMENTARIANS

Shaping globalisation also means influencing global developments more politically and democratically.

The participation of political parties and parliamentarians is essential in global political decision-making processes.

This requires concrete actions and measures:

1. Participation of parliamentarians

1.1 On a global level today, parliamentarians cooperate in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The IPU has to have more institutionalised authority within the United Nations system. The Socialist International considers the strengthening of a global parliamentary dimension essential to the international decision-making processes in the 21st century and invites the IPU and the UN to advance with concrete initiatives in this sense.

1.2 Parliamentarians should participate in delegations of UN member states to UN Conferences.

2. Participation of political parties

International organisations of parties should have a special status in the United Nations system, different from NGO status.

3. The Socialist International:

- will hold meetings in connection with the UN General Assembly and other Global Conferences;

- will establish a Committee on the UN.

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL WOMEN

*Bureau Meeting, Casablanca,
Morocco, 28-29 May 2002*

TOWARDS A GREATER PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN POLITICS: STRATEGIES AND REALITIES

RESOLUTION

The empowerment and autonomy of women are essential for achieving a society in which women and men are equal. Such empowerment must permeate political structures at all levels. Women make up at least half of the electorate, have obtained the right to vote in almost every country in the world, and have proven their capabilities as decision-makers in public life. However, they continue to be under-represented in most levels of governments and in legislative bodies. Some countries have even seen an alarming and significant decrease in the number of women in legislative bodies.

Women's equal participation in political life is instrumental in enhancing the position of women in society as a whole. It is a precondition not only to ensuring that women's interests are taken into account by governments and society but also to strengthening and making democracy work effectively for the common good.

The traditional working patterns, mechanisms and practices of most political parties and parliamentary structures, as well as the political culture and electoral systems that relegate women to the margins continue to be barriers to women's proportionate and effective participation in political life.

Socialisation, particularly the stereotyping of women and men reinforce the notion that political decision-making is the domain of men.

While Socialist International Women welcomes the steps that have been taken by some political parties and governments to increase the participation of women in politics, it also recognises that much more needs to be done and reiterates that an equal opportunity policy requires a strategy for long-term change which involves a thorough review of the conception and implementation of political policy, as well as the adoption of

affirmative action measures.

SIW, therefore, encourages its member organisations to:

encourage and actively promote alliances among women's organisations in order to coordinate activities and to give support to women in political and elected positions;

offer mentoring programmes for young women, making use of the experiences and examples of women in political positions which will assist young women to acquire the knowledge needed for public office;

strengthen networking and co-ordination between the women politicians in both developed and developing countries;

share experiences and develop co-operation through common activities and projects.

Moreover, SIW calls on Socialist International member parties to:

examine party structures, mechanisms and practices that discriminate against the participation of women and replace these with alternatives that will enhance women's interests, potential and capabilities in politics and in governance;

develop and implement policies and adequately resourced programmes to integrate, train and encourage women to participate in political activities and elections. These policies would aim to implement organisational measures (establishment of a women's section within a political party), educational measures (organisation of courses aimed particularly at preparing women for the role of candidate or elected office holder) and logistical ones (provision of child-care services and holding political meetings at times compatible with family responsibilities);

promote, when non existent, the public financing of electoral campaigns, to ensure that expenditures are transparent and increase the participation of women;

ensure that party programmes and platforms adequately address issues and concerns affecting women in specific ways to facilitate a higher level of women's appreciation of the relevance of political parties and

governance in their lives;

introduce strategies for achieving equality between women and men, which include positive actions such as quota and targets based on gender-segregated data within a specific timeframe and establish indicators and benchmarks to allow regular evaluation;

implement equal opportunity programmes which guarantee gender balanced democratic representation in the composition of all decision-making bodies and which incorporate gender-mainstreaming as a tool designed for equality between women and men as a general aim of the parties of the Socialist International; which help their members towards a better work-life balance; and which definitively strengthen the commitment to equality of the Socialist International and its member parties.

Finally, Socialist International Women urges governments to:

ratify the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) and sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to CEDAW where they have not done so;

implement the Beijing+5 Programme of Action adopted in June 2000 in New York;

review the impact of electoral systems and political cultures on the political representation of women and make progress towards gender parity, a condition for granting subsidies;

implement the dual approach of gender-mainstreaming and positive action in all policies, programmes and budgets, in order to clearly identify their effects on women and men;

review the criteria for recruiting and appointing candidates to decision-making bodies to ensure that such criteria do not discriminate against women but promote their full and effective participation.

Report of the Secretary General

INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to present my report to the Council in Casablanca, and would like to thank our host, the Socialist Union of Popular Forces, USFP, and its First Secretary, Prime Minister Abderrahman Yousoufi.

This is the first time that Morocco will be the venue for our Council, but a number of other important SI gatherings have been held here, hosted by the USFP, a very active member of our International. We remember fondly the meeting of the SI Mediterranean Committee in Tangier in 1997, while in 1998 over two hundred and fifty mayors, members of municipal governments and organisations, and experts gathered in the city of Fez to take part in our Second World Conference of Mayors. Then, in 2000, the SI Middle East Committee, SIMEC, convened in Casablanca. Finally, we organised a meeting of the SI Committee on the Economy, Social Cohesion and the Environment also here in Casablanca in May of last year.

Our Council takes place during a period in which responding to violence in the post 11 September world and promoting peace and security are enormous and pressing challenges. Under the first main theme of the Council we are therefore focusing on how the International can best continue and strengthen its efforts to promote negotiated solutions to conflicts in the Middle East, the Great Lakes Region of Africa, Central and South Asia and Colombia.

For our second principal, theme, under the heading 'From Monterrey to Johannesburg', we will be considering the critical tasks of improving world governance, ensuring sustainable development, promoting economic growth and supporting the New Partnership for Africa's Development, NEPAD.

Pursuing peace, security and sustainable development requires a truly determined North-South effort, an approach that is part of the history of the International that now, with member parties working on every continent, makes us better able to ensure progress toward a better future than anyone else. Much of our

effort uniquely involves the bridging of people and regions based on solidarity and shared social democratic values. So it is fitting that the work of our Council takes place in Morocco, which - as a Mediterranean nation, an African nation and an Atlantic nation - is itself a bridge, spanning culture, geography and people and moving forward with our comrades of the USFP.

OUR ACTIVITIES AROUND THE WORLD

The Middle East

Since our last Council in Santo Domingo, the Socialist International has continued to play an active part in efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region. When circumstances have taken turns for the worse, we have responded in a number of concrete ways to ensure that the hopes of the people of the Middle East for an end to the violence and for peaceful coexistence are kept alive.

On 5 December, in response to the mounting toll against innocent civilians, the International condemned the surge in violence, stated that every effort had to be made 'to return to the path of dialogue' and reiterated that 'a lasting peace cannot be achieved without the establishment of a Palestinian state and security for Israel'.

As part of our continuing work to provide a forum in the region, especially during the most difficult periods when maintaining dialogue is crucial, the SI Middle East Committee held discussions in the region on 14-15 March. The Committee opened the two-day gathering in Ramallah, with the participation of Yasser Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority and leader of Fatah. The meeting resumed the next day in Tel Aviv where Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, leader of the Israel Labour Party and Israel's Minister of Defence; Yossi Sarid, leader of Meretz; and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres addressed Committee members.

Thorbjørn Jagland, leader of the Norwegian Labour Party and Chair of the Committee, described as a victory that the Committee had been able to convene in Ramallah, and reiterated that from the 1970s, with the efforts of Willy Brandt and Bruno Kreisky, the work of the International has remained based on two principles: that security for Israel can be achieved only with independence and freedom for the Palestinians, while freedom for the Palestinians could not be attained without security for Israel.

On 2 April, following a sharp escalation of hostilities and civilian deaths, the International issued an 'Urgent Appeal for Peace in the Middle East' in which we stated that the situation had become 'untenable', that there was 'no alternative but for all sides to bring an immediate end' to what had become the worst outbreak of violence in the region for many years and called for 'the immediate withdrawal of Israeli Defence Forces from the occupied Palestinian cities'. In the Appeal we reiterated our profound belief that the future of the two peoples 'can be based only on their peaceful coexistence, side by side, which makes it imperative for them both to take every step to end the conflict now, before more Israeli and Palestinian lives are needlessly lost'.

With the situation still critical, a special meeting of the SI Executive was held in Madrid on 23 April, hosted by the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, PSOE. SI President António Guterres chaired the gathering, which included the participation of, along with members of the Executive, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Hanni Al-Hassan, who represented Yasser Arafat. The meeting, closely followed by the media, concluded with five main points of agreement, including the holding of a regional peace conference with wide participation and the continued close cooperation between the Chair of SIMEC and the SI Israeli and Palestinian member parties to prepare a common plan for peace to be presented at our Council.

The Kurdish Question

The International has also continued its work on matters affecting the Kurds. The SIMEC Working Group on the Kurdish Question met in Brussels on 22 February, hosted by the Belgian Socialist Party, PS, and chaired by Conny Fredriksson of the Swedish Social Democratic Party, SAP, and Chair of the Working Group. Participants discussed recent developments regarding the Kurdish people in Iran, Iraq and Turkey and reviewed a report from the SI mission to Northern Iraq, which took place last year and included members of the Working Group.

Asia and the Pacific

The SI Asia-Pacific Committee met on 11-12 April in Manila to further the work of our International on peace and security in this complex and vital region, in line with the agenda of the Council. The second theme of the gathering, hosted by the Philippines Democratic Socialist Party, PDSP, was strengthening democratic development. In a statement agreed, following detailed discussions, the Committee reiterated the International's longstanding belief that peace and security 'can be maintained only through democratic rule and good governance'.

The PDSP, a member of the government of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and led by government secretary Norberto Gonzales, is playing a key role in promoting negotiated solutions to internal conflicts in the Philippines and in the inclusion of all elements of society into the country's democratic system. In her address to the meeting, President Macapagal Arroyo emphasised the long and sustained support of the Socialist International for democracy in the Philippines and the efforts of social democrats for peace that is necessary 'to uplift the Filipino people and empower the communities'.

With regard to the pursuit of peace and security, the Committee underlined the importance of seeking greater dialogue and common ground between our social democratic parties and moderate Muslim groups in Asia

and the Pacific. Our International will therefore be organising an SI delegation to Indonesia, where we have been carefully following the difficult period of transition, to strengthen ties with social democrats and other likeminded movements.

Delegates from throughout the region and beyond made presentations and provided insights into achieving peace in a number of places, including Central and South Asia, a critical area that is a focus of our Council. In its statement, the Committee urged increased solidarity with the elected government of our member Nepali Congress Party against the Maoist insurgency, and noted that the International would be sending an SI mission to the country as a concrete expression of support.

The Committee also expressed concern about the increasing violence in Kashmir and 'the potential negative effects in a region already experiencing heightened tension'. Following the meeting, the International has continued to monitor the situation and in a statement on 15 May condemned the devastating attack at an Indian army camp in Kashmir. The International said in the statement that those responsible seemed intent on worsening relations between India and Pakistan and urged both countries 'to find the common ground necessary to get a peace process for Kashmir on track'.

The Committee noted that there was renewed hope in Sri Lanka, where a ceasefire between the government and Tamil separatists was still in effect as the peace process mediated by Norway continued.

With regard to East Timor, the Committee expressed great satisfaction that it would soon be achieving independence as a democratic nation, as it did on 20 May. The extensive efforts of the International for peace and democracy in East Timor are well known, and our solidarity with the people of East Timor will continue as they now undertake the great challenges of institution building and economic revitalisation.

The Committee reiterated the longstanding support of our International for democracy and

human rights in Burma. When Aung San Suu Kyi was subsequently freed from house arrest on 6 May, the International welcomed it in a press release as a positive step and called on the military regime to move ahead 'to a more significant phase', in the words of Aung San Suu Kyi herself, including the release of all political prisoners and the full restoration of political freedom for all Burmese people.

Prior to the meeting in Manila, I had the opportunity to be in Sydney to participate in meetings of the national executive of the Australian Labor Party, ALP, with the new ALP leader, Simon Crean, and with ALP members of parliament. The discussions centred on the efforts and initiatives being carried out by the ALP and its contributions to the work of the International.

Latin America and the Caribbean

The work of the International for peace and democracy remains at the top of our agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, where we continue to focus on a number of countries in the region, including Colombia, which is one of the points for discussion at our Council.

As part of our response to the difficult situation in Colombia, on 20 May the International held a special regional meeting in Bogotá to support the efforts of our SI member Liberal Party of Colombia, PLC, for a peaceful resolution to Colombia's internal conflict, and as a concrete expression of solidarity for the PLC on the eve of the 26 May presidential election. Horacio Serpa, leader of the PLC, which hosted the gathering, and the party's presidential candidate, welcomed representatives of SI member parties from South America, Central America and the Caribbean, and emphasised in his presentation that peace and democratic governance work to reinforce each other.

The meeting also counted on an opening address by Raúl Alfonsín, former President of Argentina and an SI Vice-President, who underlined our firm belief in the preservation of liberty in the pursuit of equality. During the discussions

that followed, participants reaffirmed that dialogue and negotiations are the only roads that can lead to peace, and addressed issues such as poverty and social degradation that are at the root of conflicts and require a multidimensional response. In this sense, the meeting concluded with a call for democratic forces of the left to work closer together in developing answers to the social and economic challenges of globalisation.

We also remain very concerned about conditions in Venezuela, especially following the events of April which showed the weakness of the country's democratic institutions. In early May I had the opportunity to travel to Caracas to reiterate the support of the International for SI member Democratic Action, AD, and Venezuelan civil society in their struggle in defence of democratic institutions and respect for human rights. I met with leaders of AD and representatives of other pro-democracy parties, as well as trade union leaders, non-governmental organisations and the media, and reiterated the position of our International that the 'deficit of democracy' in Venezuela must be overcome through inclusive dialogue.

I was able to be in Costa Rica on 3 February, to show the support of our International for the candidacy of Rolando Araya Monge, an SI Vice-President and leader of SI-member National Liberation Party, PLN, who received sufficient votes in the presidential election to advance to the runoff in April that was won by the candidate of the incumbent party. Following the runoff we were outraged to hear that Araya Monge and members of his family were brutally assaulted by a group of attackers. The International issued a declaration that condemned this cowardly act and expressed hope that those responsible would be brought to justice and 'that Costa Rica, with the example of leaders such as Rolando Araya Monge, remain a model of democracy and of full respect for the fundamental rights of its citizens'.

With regard to Haiti, the International in a statement on 12 December condemned the armed assault on the National Palace and the subsequent attacks by government supporters against opposition parties, journalists and leading members of the Democratic Convergence. In line with the resolution of our Council in Santo

Domingo, the statement reiterated the full support of the International for the democratic struggle being carried out by the SI member parties in Haiti - the Party of the National Congress of Democratic Movements, KONAKOM, the Revolutionary Progressive Nationalist Party of Haiti, PANPRA, and the Organisation of the People in Struggle, OPL.

Continued monitoring of the situations in Haiti, Venezuela and Colombia, and the overall work of the International throughout the region to preserve and strengthen democracy and respect for human rights, will be part of our work at the next meeting of the SI Latin America and Caribbean Committee, SICLAC, which we are organising for July in Caracas.

Africa

As part of our expanding support for peace efforts in Africa, we carried out an extensive mission to the Great Lakes Region. Ousmane Tanor Dieng, Socialist Party of Senegal, PS, and Chair of the SI Africa Committee; Nanié-Coulibaly Safiatou, a member of the leadership of the Ivorian Popular Front, FPI; Steen Christensen, Social Democratic Party of Denmark, and I traveled to four different countries from 18 to 23 February.

We began with preliminary discussions in Abidjan with President Laurent Gbagbo of Côte d'Ivoire, then moved on to the Democratic Republic of Congo for meetings in Kinshasa with members of the political opposition, civic organisations and representatives of the Congolese government. Among opposition leaders, Adrien Phongo Kunda, the Secretary General of the Union for Democracy and Social Progress, UDPS, said that the visit was well appreciated as it came during his country's worst crisis ever. Members of the mission and the political leaders we met agreed that resolving the crisis in the region required continued support for the Inter-Congolese Dialogue and for the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement.

The next stop was the Burundian capital of Bujumbura where, in discussions with national leaders, the mission reiterated the International's support for the peace based on the August 2000 agreement signed in Arusha, Tanzania. Among others, the mission met with Jean Minani, the

recently elected President of the transitional National Assembly established to bridge the country's ethnic divisions. Minani is the leader, with other senior members, of FRODEBU, one of Burundi's principal parties which has been sharing governmental responsibilities since November 2001 following the implementation of the agreement on a three-year transitional administration.

On the last leg of the mission we held meetings in Luanda with leaders of the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, MPLA, an observer member of the SI, including João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, Secretary General, and Paulo Teixeira Jorge, International Secretary. The mission reiterated the backing of our International for dialogue and national reconciliation, for the alleviation of the suffering of those affected by the conflict and for the preparations for national elections.

The situation in Angola and the International's work throughout the continent on issues including peace and poverty alleviation will be on the agenda when the SI Africa Committee holds its next meeting in late July in Luanda, hosted by the MPLA.

We have also been closely following the situation in Equatorial Guinea. The latest wave of repression against opposition groups, including SI member Convergence for Social Democracy, CPDS, has led to questionable charges, including sedition, against more than 140 individuals, among them Plácido Micó, CPDS Secretary General, who was placed under house arrest. Amid denunciations that many of the accused have been tortured and as the trials began last week, we have been in contact with the CPDS, including Celestino-Bonifacio Bacalé Obiang, who was recently elected as the party's presidential candidate for the forthcoming elections. We are particularly concerned that the government in Equatorial Guinea is using the clampdown to target the CPDS as one of the few opposition parties still operating in spite of the authorities' harassment, and are sending legal counsel to monitor the trials as an expression of our solidarity.

Prior to the Great Lakes mission, I had the honour of being in South Africa for the 90th anniversary of our SI member African National Congress, ANC, on 8 January. The main celebration was held at the

Absa Stadium in Durban, where South African President Thabo Mbeki and other ANC figures joined tens of thousands of people in celebrating the continuing growth of a movement that for so long has stood for the liberation of South Africa and for the freedom and human dignity of all Africans. In his address President Mbeki, leader of the ANC, stated that, 'From its birth, the ANC has been internationalist in character' and emphasised the importance of NEPAD for the future of Africa and the Johannesburg Summit for the future of the world, two of the key points on the agenda of our Council.

Central and Eastern Europe

On 21 April I had the honour of being in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for the Unification Congress in which the Social Democratic Union, SDU, and the Social Democracy Party joined together to form the Social Democratic Party, SDP. SDU leader Zarko Korac stated at the Congress, held in Belgrade, that the unification 'is an expression of the wish for social democracy to become a strong factor on the Serbian political scene'.

The combining of the two parties, both members of the ruling coalition, meant that the SDP then became the third largest party in the Serbian parliament. During the event, both Korac and Social Democracy Party leader Slobodan Orlic emphasised that the parties had been in the forefront of the struggle for democracy and human rights throughout the previous decade. Both parties have participated as guests at a number of SI gatherings and Korac and Orlic headed their party delegations to the meeting of the SI Committee on Central and Eastern Europe, SICEE, held in Belgrade in September 2001.

We are currently planning the next meeting of SICEE, which will be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 12-13 July. We are also organising a special SI meeting with Central and Eastern European and Central Asian parties to address security issues in the post 11 September era that will be held in Moscow on 26-27 September, chaired by SI Vice-President Gyula Horn as agreed by the SI Presidium.

In Hungary on 21 April, the same day as the Unification Congress in Belgrade, the Hungarian Socialist Party, MSzP, returned to power by winning, in coalition with the smaller Alliance of Free Democrats, the second round of voting following the 7 April election in which the MSzP came first.

I had the opportunity to be in Budapest for the opening of the MSzP's very successful campaign. The new government, headed by Prime Minister Peter Medgyessy, took office this week ready to implement a new social and economic programme to reduce poverty and stimulate job creation.

THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL ON GLOBAL ISSUES

Peace, Democracy and Human Rights

The Committee on Peace, Democracy and Human Rights continued its work at the meeting we organised on 24-25 January in Geneva, at the Palais des Nations, United Nations, under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Milos Zeman of the Czech Social Democratic Party, CSSD. The main theme of the gathering was 'Conflict prevention and conflict resolution' and participants assessed the current status of regional conflicts around the world and considered the complex causes and the nature of conflicts in today's changing world.

The Committee agreed criteria to recommend initiatives for the further work of our International in support of peace and emphasised the importance of strengthening the mechanisms for preventive diplomacy. It focused in particular on the need for enhanced efforts on behalf of social democratic forces confronting conflict, political violence and other threats to democracy.

In this regard, a number of concrete initiatives were decided by the Committee to deepen the International's work on conflict resolution and our solidarity with member parties in difficult situations, specifically the sending of SI missions to Belarus, Nepal and Indonesia.

The first of these was carried out on 17-19 April when an SI mission traveled to Minsk. The members of the mission were Prime Minister Zeman, Urban Ahlin, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Swedish Parliament (Social Democratic Party, SAP) and myself.

The mission strengthened ties with social democratic and other pro-democracy forces in Belarus, underlined the support of the International for their efforts and was able to learn of recent

developments and prospects for change under the current authoritarian rule. Meetings were held with leaders of the SI-member Belarusian Social Democratic Party (Narodnaya Hramada), BSDP (NH), the Consultative Council of opposition political parties, leaders of trade union organisations, members of analytical and research centres, representatives of non-governmental organisations, editors-in-chief of Belarusian media and journalists.

Economy, Social Cohesion and the Environment

Continuing with the efforts of our International to promote sustainable development and social justice in this time of globalisation, the SI Committee on the Economy, Social Cohesion and the Environment gathered at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York on 15-16 February 2002. Christoph Zöpel of the Social Democratic Party, SPD, of Germany and Chair of the Committee chaired the meeting.

Committee members discussed the position of the Socialist International regarding the International Conference on Financing for Development that was held in March in Monterrey, Mexico, and on the upcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. In line with our long held views, the Committee issued a statement on the Monterrey Conference in which it advocated, among other points, a greater and leading role for international organisations, particularly the United Nations, in ensuring more equitable development, and stronger participation of the developing countries in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and international financial institutions.

With regard to the Johannesburg Summit, the Committee agreed a number of 'points for discussion', including the fundamental relationship between peace, security, social justice and solidarity. Also emphasised was the link between sustainable development and good governance based on the greater involvement of parliaments, trade unions, industry and civic society overall in the policy process. The Committee will convene again on the eve of our Council to prepare a draft resolution based on these points for our consideration.

The Socialist International has

always been actively involved in working to move the world forward on development issues, and our efforts and ideas, many developed under the guidance of Willy Brandt and Michael Manley, were at the fore during the Rio Conference in 1992 and subsequent global gatherings on various aspects of global sustainability including the Population Conference in Cairo in 1994, the Social Summit in Copenhagen in 1995, the Women's Conference in Beijing 1996, the Human Settlements Conference in Istanbul 1996, the UN Millennium Assembly in 2000 and the Monterrey Conference earlier this year. Many gains have been made along the way and social democracy has played a substantial role in achieving them. Nonetheless, and as the Johannesburg Summit approaches, much more needs to be done, as will be discussed in our Council.

Local Authorities

The III Socialist International World Conference of Mayors held on 7-9 December in Athens unanimously adopted the 'Charter for Cities Governed by Socialists', the culmination of years of effort and coordinated SI activities involving mayors and local authority representatives from social democratic, socialist and labour parties around the globe. Much of the previous work toward the preparation of the Charter, in fact, was carried out at our II World Conference of Mayors held here in Morocco, in the city of Fez, in 1998.

The Conference in Athens was hosted by the Panhellenic Socialist Movement, PASOK, and was chaired by Hermes Binner, Chair of the SI Committee on Local Authorities and Mayor of Rosario (PSP, Argentina). Among those who made opening addresses were Prime Minister Costas Simitis, Leader of PASOK and a Vice-President of the International, Pierre Mauroy, President of the Communauté urbaine of Lille and an SI Honorary President, and Paraskevas Avgerinos, International Secretary of PASOK.

The gathering began with a plenary session on the first day,

which included contributions from mayors of cities from around the world. Working groups were formed on the second day to review the main elements of the final draft of the Charter, which was then approved on the third and final day following reports from the working groups and a last round of discussion.

Also on the final day, delegates were addressed by Dimitris Avramopoulos, the Mayor of Athens, while special messages were conveyed by the President of the Municipal Council of Quelimane, Pio Augusto Matos (Frelimo, Mozambique); the Mayor of Mégrine, Néziha Mezhou, (RCD, Tunisia); and, the Mayor of Bunepa, Surendra Bahadur Bade Shrestha (NCP, Nepal).

The Charter is a profoundly social democratic document that underlines the increasing importance of the world's cities and towns in 'rebuilding a sense of citizenship and planting the seeds of a fairer society characterised by greater solidarity'. In addition to identifying the city as the 'leading actor and decision-making centre in the 21st century', the Charter provides detailed assessments of local government as a promoter of inclusion and integration, and as a critical force for sustainable development and resource management. In this way, the Charter is also part of our International's overall contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

Following approval of the Charter, the mayors participating in the Conference issued a declaration welcoming the resumption of dialogue between the two communities on Cyprus under the auspices of the United Nations, and expressing hopes for a just and viable solution to the Cyprus issue.

SOCIAL DEMOCRACY IN AN UNEASY WORLD

The world is going through a difficult period and events are moving swiftly. Globalisation has meant marginalisation for too many people, particularly women and children, still more are threatened by violence and renewed threats of war, and

increasing numbers are migrating, driven from their homes by insecurity and the quest for survival.

There are those who come with promises of easy answers, exploiting people's fears for short-term political gain. But they offer only dangerous mirages, for there are no easy answers in our uneasy world.

We in the Socialist International know this from long experience, in the struggle for peace - promoting disarmament throughout the most contentious periods of the Cold War and today as we make every effort to find resolutions to regional conflicts - in the fight for democracy and respect for human rights, and in our work to achieve sustainable economic development and opportunity for all.

The International stands apart because of our belief in finding lasting solutions to real problems through determined political action. Revitalising politics is therefore a principal task for our movement today, to inspire and to involve the greatest numbers of people in the decisions that affect their lives. In this way, by putting the humanity back into politics, we keep our family growing and moving forward as we respond to the challenges of today.

List of participants

Socialist International

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Luis Ayala

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GREECE**Panhellenic Socialist Movement, PASOK**

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Olga Haydée Flores Velásquez
Silvia Romero

Verónica Vergara
María Elena Chapa

PAKISTAN

Pakistan People's Party, PPP
Benazir Bhutto
Mehrunnisa Afridi
Khawaja Muhammad Shafique
Waheed Rasab
Begum Bealum Husnain

**TERRITORIES UNDER
PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY,
PALESTINE**

Fatah
Ilan Halevi

PANAMA

**Democratic Revolutionary Party,
PRD**
Martín Torrijos
Héctor Alemán
Jorge Sánchez

PHILIPPINES

**Philippines Democratic Socialist
Party, PDSP**
Elizabeth Angsioco

OBSERVER MEMBER PARTIES

ANGOLA

**Popular Movement for the
Liberation of Angola, MPLA**
Paulo T. Jorge
João Salvador dos Santos Neto
João I. Gimolieca
Luis de Almeida

BELARUS

**Belarusian Social Democratic
Party (Narodnaya Hramada)**
Mikalai Statkevich

BULGARIA

European Left
Alexander Tomov
Kiril Avramov

IRAN

**Democratic Party of Iranian
Kurdistan, PDKI**
Khosrow Abdollahi
Abulinajd Hakki

**THE FORMER YUGOSLAV
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

**Social Democratic Union of
Macedonia, SDUM**
Radmila Shekerinska

MONGOLIA

**Mongolian People's Revolutionary
Party, MPRP**
D. Idevkhten
D Surenkhor
D. Terbish
Ts. Baatarsaikhan

SI Secretariat

Latifa Perry
Gabriela Shepherd
Sophie Théroutanne
Maria Paula Escobar
Fred Smith
Hugh O'Shaughnessy
Doug Payne
Eva Olofsson
Marie-Claire Adriaenssens

FRATERNAL ORGANISATIONS

**International Union of Socialist
Youth, IUSY**

Enzo Amendola
Marije Laffeber

**Socialist International Women,
SIW**

Marlene Haas

ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS

Parliamentary Group of the PES

Enrique Barón Crespo
Jean-François Vallin
Robert Goebbels

Party of European Socialists, PES

Antony Beumer

**GUEST PARTIES AND
ORGANISATIONS**

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

**Party of Independent Social
Democrats, SNSD**
Milorad Dodic
Neskovic Branko

BULGARIA

Bulgarian Socialist Party
Seirgei Stanishev
Kristian Vigenin

**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
YUGOSLAVIA**

Democratic Party of Serbia
Aleksandra Joksimovic
Gordana Comic

**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
YUGOSLAVIA**

Social Democratic Party of Serbia
Vlatko Sekulovic

IRAQ

Kurdistan Democratic Party, KDP
Saywan Sabir Mustatfa
Dilshad Miran

IRAQ

Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK
Latif Rashid
Ahmad Bamarni

MAURITANIA

**Assembly of Democratic Forces,
RFD**
Ahmed Ould Daddah
Yacoub Diallo

NAMIBIA

Congress of Democrats, CoD
Ignatus N. Shixwameni

NAMIBIA

SWAPO
Hifikepunye Pohamba
Festus Naholo

ROMANIA

Social Democratic Party, PSD
Cozmin Gusa
Victor Bostinaru

RUSSIA

**Social Democratic Party of
Russia**
Konstantin Titov
Gennady Gendin

RUSSIA

Otechestvo
Alexandr Vadislavlev
Vassily Lipitsky

TUNISIA

FDTL
Mustapha Benjaafar

TURKEY

HADEP
Murat Bozlak
Mutlu Civiroglu
Fayik Yagizay
Eyyup Doru

UKRAINE

**Ukrainian Social Democratic
Party, SDPU**
Yury Buzdugan
Olena Skomoroshchenko
Volodymyr Yalovy

VENEZUELA

Movement to Socialism, MAS
Felipe Mujica
Carlos Santafe
Alfredo Torres
Alfredo Chaparro
Carla Cazzani

YEMEN

Socialist Party of Yemen
Abdulgani Abdulkader

Friedrich Ebert Foundation, FES

Ernst J. Kerbush
Achim Vogt