

Resolution of the XXV Congress of the Socialist International
Cartagena, Colombia, March 2, 3 and 4, 2017

DECLARATION

Support for the Rassemblement des Forces Democratiques (RFD) in its fight against the change of the Constitution in Mauritania outside the national consensus

Original: French

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

After failing to organize a referendum to make this change happen, faced with the rejection of such a project by the political forces of the Mauritanian opposition, including the RFD, a member of the SI at the forefront of combat For Mauritania's democracy, for its rejection by civil society, opinion leaders and Mauritanian citizens, the government in Mauritania is trying again to tamper with the constitution in order to tailor it to its bringing together the two illegitimate chambers of parliament, namely a Senate whose term of office has largely expired and a National Assembly elected in non-transparent conditions and boycotted by the majority of the opposition.

The constitutional changes being put in place further undermine what remains of fragile national unity and further delay the establishment of the rule of law that the country so badly needs. There is no other explanation for this forcing than the will of the country's leaders to maintain themselves in any way in power and to avoid any possibility of prosecution for the future because of the catastrophic political, economic and social governance they are subjected to the Mauritanian people.

Given the persistence of power in Mauritania to lead the country towards uncertain horizons, considering the major risks incurred by the country for this purpose, in particular the disturbances and instability observed in other countries having experienced similar situations of not resolved political crisis, the Socialist International reiterates its unwavering solidarity with the RFD and all the Democrats in Mauritania in their struggle to block the way for any constitutional amendment concerning form or content, at a time when the national political scene is experiencing Unprecedented tensions.
