

**Summary minutes of the SI Council meeting in Luanda, Angola**

**27-28 November 2015**

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**Friday 27 November – first day of the Council**

*Opening*

**George Papandreou** (SI President) called for one minute of silence in remembrance of those fallen in the acts of terror and violence around the world since the previous Council.

**Luis Ayala** (SI Secretary General) expressed his gratitude to the MPLA and Julião Mateus Paulo and greeted the party leadership and members of the government present, who were comrades and friends from the days of the struggle for freedom, peace and dignity. This was part of the identity of democratic socialism. Much progress had been made in the struggle for national liberation, but new challenges had emerged – those of regional conflicts, the global economy and climate change. The shared struggle for independence, sovereignty, equality and democracy had made the SI a truly global movement.

The secretary general reflected that of the 150-plus SI member parties, more than 50 were in government, of which 15 were in Africa, one of the continents where our movement has had great success. The movement was also advancing in Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and Asia. He paid tribute to Mikalai Statkevich from Belarus, who was present and a symbol of the fight for democracy and freedom.

He expressed solidarity with those struggling against terror in all places – President Hollande in France, who had responded with authority, commitment and humanity and President Keita in Mali who had shown courage in advancing the peace process. He also praised those fighting for freedom and peace in Syria, among them Kurdish parties who were at the front line. The Council meeting would be a manifestation of the commitment of the SI to fight terror, for stability, security and above all freedom and democracy.

**George Papandreou** equally thanked the MPLA and Julião Mateus Paulo, recognising the importance of Angola in the region because of its historical struggle. He praised the progress made since the end of the civil war in 2002 to diversify the economy, develop democracy and move beyond internal divisions, without outside interventions. He spoke of the pride of the SI in bringing together parties from diverse countries in the world that shared common values, underlining that it was more relevant than ever in face of the type of global challenges faced by humanity.

These included the financial crisis and the need for reform and regulation in the global financial system. There was also the phenomenon of the exodus of refugees towards Europe from war-torn areas and the rise of hatred, fanaticism and violence. The shocking barbarism in Paris was a reminder of similar events in many countries, which the SI had a duty to oppose, not simply by military force but also by looking deeper into the root causes and winning over those indoctrinated into hatred and violence. He also underlined the importance of combating all forms of hate and polarisation rather than closing doors to refugees and alienating populations further.

Refugees were also fleeing climate disasters and he underlined how the consequences of climate change could affect Africa in a very negative way. The SI had been at the forefront of the climate debate, and he

expressed hope that COP21 could be constructive and lead to an agreement. He concluded that the SI needed to contribute to humanise globalisation by cultivating common values, supporting global regulations that would ensure the public good and protect each and every human being as a unique and respected citizen of our world.

**Julião Mateus Paulo** (Angola, MPLA) welcomed delegates on behalf of the executive of the MPLA and President dos Santos. He noted that the meeting occurred during the 40th anniversary celebrations of the proclamation of national independence, and that Angola continued to struggle for economic independence and diplomatic relations with all countries based on mutual respect, national sovereignty, equality and reciprocity, and peaceful co-existence.

He outlined the challenges faced by Angola in the 13 years of rebuilding following peace in 2002. The country was at the beginning of a long process to deliver better life conditions for Angolans in line with the values and principles of the SI as reflected in the programmes and statutes of the MPLA. He expressed concern that conflicts in Africa and elsewhere were fed by external interventions and disruptive to the democratic process and electoral regularity. The strengthening of the political, economic and security power of African countries was therefore a priority.

He reflected that the agenda of the meeting would include themes that reflected major international concerns that the SI had maintained as a focus of attention. He expected that these matters would be discussed in detail, for the benefit of all those who shared the SI's values and awaited its contributions on these enormous problems, adding that the SI should play a key role in the promotion of initiatives in search of a more just and prosperous world.

First main theme of the agenda:

**“Working for global stability, peace and security in times of crisis”**

**Maurice Braud** (France, PS) greeted the Council from France, and in particular Paris, explaining that at that moment the President Hollande was at a memorial ceremony for all the victims of the attacks, where comrades from the SI, notably Elio Di Rupo and Mustafa Ben Jaafar, were present. He underlined three challenges that confronted all those present – the global challenge to fight terrorism, the cultural challenge and the particular challenge of reaffirming progressive values.

Fighting terrorism was a task for all states and all SI member parties. France, for example, had renewed the Françafrique in search of a new partnership against terrorism and in defence of democracy in Africa. Its military intervention in Iraq and Syria had the objective of contributing to peace and democracy in those countries, for which a large international coalition was required.

The cultural challenge was to encourage cross-cultural dialogue, encourage a state of law and good governance and promote equality in society. The attackers in Paris had all been young and it was also an obligation to be more inclusive of youth and give opportunities for development. Progressives needed to more strongly affirm their values, be inclusive of youth and women in its activities, and work together with other the socialist and progressive organisations of the world.

**Youba Ould Messaoud** (Mali, RPM) explained the situation in Mali, which had required the joint efforts of Malian forces, sub-regional organisations and the international community to overcome a security crisis in 2012. Mali saw the intervention of France not as a return to colonial practices but a response to a

request for assistance from an ally in difficulty. Following the election of President Keita, the first priority had been the resolution of the crisis, leading to the signing of a peace and reconciliation agreement in May 2015. Terror had however persisted, targeting national and international security forces, and people and places considered welcoming to foreigners such as hotels and restaurants.

The recent terrorist attacks aimed to destabilise not only all of Mali but also the sub-region. Despite the peace accord the terrorists had continued their attacks and there remained regions of Mali where the state was absent and terror remained. He considered that as long as poverty, injustice and a lack of freedom and democracy remained, people would fall into despair which could lead to terrorism, violence and hate. Development was therefore one of the solutions to terrorism, alongside good governance and democracy.

**Ibrahim Muslem** (Syria, PYD) detailed the struggle of the Kurds in Northern Syria, known by the Kurds as Rojava, where they were striving for democratic self-governance and their cultural, national and political rights, underlining their struggle for gender equality. They had been fighting terrorism for many years, and the events in Paris showed the need for unity. He also drew attention to the role of Turkey, which he stated had been helping Daesh to attack the Kurdish people. He requested that the SI send a political and humanitarian mission to Rojava to see the multi-ethnic democratic system in place.

**Manuel Augusto** (Angola, MPLA) reflected that the survival of humanity depended on the level of responsibility of action in favour of global stability, peace and world security, which were a necessity for economic development and social progress. The Angolan government wished to see a strict adherence to the founding principles of the UN. Recent acts of terror had a global dimension, and required an alliance of humanity to be stopped. In this context, the platforms for dialogue and multilateral coordination provided by the SI were particularly important due to their richness and diversity.

**Porfirio Silva** (Portugal, PS) stressed the importance of global themes such as the struggle against poverty, sustainable development and human rights to progressives. The challenges needed to be met with more quality, understanding, inclusion, peace and democracy. The current humanitarian crisis needed a unified and well-planned response and the SI needed to develop a global agenda for migrations and a road map to define the capacity to respond to flows of migrants and refugees.

**Emmanuel Golou** (Benin, PSD) noted that Africa was the least stable continent in the world, with many conflicts. Migration was also a problem, with people accepting the possibility of dying in the Mediterranean. Economic growth was not bringing benefits. Africa was experiencing demographic growth, but those young people were the ones killing and being killed. One cause of terror was poverty and unemployment and he proposed a Marshall Plan for Africa to give Africa the resources it needed.

**Mario Nalpatian** (Armenia ARF-D) considered this to be the most worrying period since the second world war as a result of conflict and terror, adding that the principal agenda of humanity should be to fight for more equality, democracy and solidarity. He underlined the importance of fighting terror, discrimination and stigmatisation of refugees without giving up any hard-won rights. He also invited the CHP (Turkey) to fulfil their commitment made at the previous Council to participate in a joint meeting hosted by the SI on the question of the Armenian genocide.

**Ebrahim Ebrahim** (South Africa, ANC) recalled that South Africa was a strong advocate of peaceful resolutions to conflicts, whose nature had changed over recent decades. He underlined that no matter what the cause of terrorism, it had to be condemned. He referred to a number of unresolved conflicts in

the world, and also fundamentalism, not only the Islamic state but in Burma against Rohingas, in Sri Lanka, in Israel, and the case of white supremacists in the USA and Europe. He considered that the SI could make a significant contribution to peaceful resolution of conflicts around the world.

**Hazem Abu Shanab** (Palestine, Fatah) reflected on the situation in Palestine, where the focus was on survival and existing under the Israeli occupation, considering that actions from Israeli terrorists were making a new intifada likely. The international community and the SI had deemed settlements illegal and recognised the State of Palestine. Palestinians wanted a peace process that would end with an independent Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital and called on the international community to act for justice.

**Andrés Esono Ondo** (Equatorial Guinea, CPDS) considered that poverty and frustration of the kind that could lead to terrorism were exacerbated in non-democratic societies. He questioned how we had arrived at an internal and migration crisis caused by poverty, violence and terrorism, and whether and how it was possible to emerge from the crisis. He said that in response to the crisis the SI needed to be a guardian of social democratic values, mobilising its members to work for global stability, peace and security.

**Francisco Rosales** (Nicaragua, FSLN) reflected that there had been 30 years of democracy in Latin America, but media lynching and coups were still taking place against progressive governments. He called for consistency with regard to the fight against terrorism, to be against all forms of terrorism and not to prioritise business and trade over human rights, or deal with those who financed terrorism. The UN also needed to more effectively play its role in the search for solutions to global problems.

**Chantal Kambiwa** (Cameroon, SDF) spoke of the continuing search for peace and how it was possible in a world with so much violence against women. Peace was more than the absence of bombs and war; it needed to be durable, with zero tolerance for all forms of violence and discrimination. She called on the SI to change its statutes at its next Congress to promote an end to violence against women among member parties and improve the level of female representation in its bodies.

**Alexander Romanovich** (Russia, Just Russia Party) remarked that the meeting took place at a time of worsening of the international situation due to terrorist attacks. The party considered that the conditions for so-called Islamic State's existence were created through successive interventions in the Middle East without UN authorisation. JR believed that an international effort for anti-terrorist unity was required, and that the SI could promote a humanist, social-democratic doctrine based on the value of human life.

**Tiémoko Sangare** (Mali, ADEMA-PASJ) endorsed the assessment of the RPM delegate of the situation, adding that Mali had never been more in need of international solidarity. The most important challenge was the implementation of the peace agreement. Terrorists, drug-trafficking groups and others existed off poverty and exclusion, making the social democratic philosophy of social justice, solidarity and the fair distribution of wealth extremely relevant. He expressed his hopes for the success of COP21.

**Muhittin Özsglam** (Cyprus, CTP) referred to the frozen conflict in Cyprus. The CTP supported reunification on the basis of bi-communality in a federal state, but the peace process was slow. Cyprus was also affected by the conflict and refugee crisis in the Mediterranean, and he called for cooperation in Cyprus on refugee issues as a dimension of confidence-building measures and a humanitarian issue. He called for cooperation to combat terrorism and an end to interference in the domestic affairs of countries.

**John Fru Ndi** (Cameroon, SDF) called for an end to a situation in which Russia and the USA were fighting in Syria and elsewhere. He bemoaned a lack of justice in the world, exemplified in Cameroon where the president had been in power for 33 years. The world was not interested in the lack of democracy there but interfered in other places where they did have interests. Justice would only come about by standing up to the powers of the world, telling them that what the people dreamed of was not accepted.

**Cemal Gürsel Özyigit** (Cyprus, TDP) explained that leaders of the two communities in Cyprus were negotiating for a permanent solution that could reunite the island in a federal system. The TDP supported any initiative for unification. He reflected that local problems and solutions could not be considered in isolation, but that a common fight was needed against imperialist wars, colonisation, terrorism, starvation, poverty and discrimination.

### Special intervention

**Mikalai Statkevich** (Belarus, BSDP-NH) expressed his pleasure to be able to address the Council, following his release from prison three months earlier. He had been condemned to eight years in prison after organising a protest demonstration against the rigged presidential elections five years prior and released early due to a campaign of solidarity and the economic problems of the regime. He thanked the SI and its secretary general, who had visited Belarus in person to demand his release. He recalled Angola's struggle for freedom from colonialism, during which some Belarusians had helped. He remarked that those who have experienced the loss of freedom value the freedom of others, and appealed for the release of all political prisoners everywhere.

### Second main theme of the agenda:

#### **"Struggling for equality and common progress in an interdependent world"**

**Manuel Nunes Júnior** (Angola, MPLA) noted that the advantages and disadvantages of globalisation were much discussed, and the theme was pertinent due to the interdependence of nations. He introduced the idea of a trilemma facing the world with respect to globalisation, whereby democracy, national sovereignty and strong economic integration could not exist at the same time. Strong economic integration could lead to loss of sovereignty and democracy.

Angola was looking to implement a model of development that prioritises a just country, with equality and cultural development. Angola was becoming more inclusive from the political, economic and social point of view. His concluding message was that Angola, despite colonisation, 40 years of war and all the constraints of the modern world, could remain open to the world without ignoring the deepest aspirations of its people.

**Carlos Eduardo Vieira da Cunha** (Brazil, PDT) underlined the historical ties of friendship between Brazil and Angola and expressed his support for the consolidation of peace in Angola. Brazil was going through a period of great challenges, due to a collapse in the economy and a huge corruption scandal. The political instability was not helping the economy to recover, but Brazil's institutions were working and in a democratic system the law must apply equally to all. He noted that the SI was founded to fight for peace and would not compromise on its universal values in face of hatred, intolerance and barbarism.

**Ouaffa Hajji** (SI Women) considered that in order to achieve equality of the sexes as set out by the 2030 Agenda of the UN, unequivocal action was needed against inequalities that existed in cultural ideology, political processes and legislative instruments. Freedom of political and social participation for women was essential to this process, and urgent work needed to be done in the regions where millions of women continue to suffer social and political repression. She highlighted the crucial and underappreciated role played by women in development and peacebuilding and called on the SI and its members to apply gender equality within the organisation by establishing gender parity within both the SI and its member parties, giving credibility to its message.

**Ramachandra Khuntia** (India, INC) highlighted the importance of equality to the INC, which had long struggled for this principle in India and internationally. Growth needed to be inclusive of those at the margins of society, and progressive legislation enacted by the INC was now under threat. Another important issue was migrant labour, as millions of migrant labourers from Asia and India were suffering harassment, lower wages and a lack of medical treatment in the Middle East. No society, community or country could fight alone for equality and the INC would give full support to the SI's fight for equality and justice.

*Third main theme of the agenda:*

**"COP21 – Our goal for a universal binding agreement, common commitments, differentiated demands and precise objectives"**

**Fátima Jardim** (Angola, MPLA) presented a summary of what would take place in the following days in Paris, during the climate negotiations. She outlined how changes in climate were having a visible impact on people in developing countries, who wanted to say clearly that developed countries were directly responsible for causing the problem. It would need the commitment of all to reduce emissions and support the formulation of a new climate order. The world population continued to grow, meaning strategies for 2030 needed to be addressed in an inclusive and integrated manner.

Climate change affected development and hindered growth, and the minister highlighted the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities for Africa, so that development could continue and countries would be compensated. Each country would make national contributions to reduce emissions, but for developing countries incentives and financing were vital for a just agreement. She acknowledged the political commitment of the SI for a just world with equality and well-balanced responsibilities, and Angola was working for a consensus in Paris that honoured all the citizens of the world.

*End of the first day*

**Saturday 27 November – second day of the Council**

*Report of the Ethics Committee*

**Luis Ayala** reported that Gilles Mahieu (Belgium, PS) had been obliged to step down as committee chair as result of new responsibilities as a provincial governor, therefore the Secretary General had been mandated to act as chair pending the election of a new committee chair.

Ayala reported that the committee had met in London on 2 October and had on its agenda a great many applications for membership and changes in status and a number of decisions had been taken. The committee recommended that Belarusian Social Democratic Party (BSDP-NH), Egyptian Social Democratic Party (ESDP), Nationwide Social Democratic Party (OSDP, Kazakhstan), Progressive Democratic Party (PDP, Paraguay) and A New Era (UNT, Venezuela) be upgraded to full membership. The committee had also made a number of recommendations for new member parties and organisations: the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP, Iran) as a full member; the Social Democratic Party (TDP, Cyprus) and Democratic Union Party (PYD, Syria) as consultative members; and the Arab Social Democratic Forum as an associated organisation. On the eve of this Council the Ethics Committee did not meet, nevertheless, there remain a substantial number of applications on the agenda for the next meeting.

The report and the proposals of the committee for changes to status and new membership were accepted by the Council.

The SG put on record, in relation to the applications pending, that the members of the Ethics Committee present in Angola had received a report from the representatives of the ANC, South Africa, on the visit of their Secretary General, who is a member of the committee, to Burkina Faso to examine in situ the application of the MPP and that following his visit and discussions with MPP party members he was ready to recommend full membership for that party which had been playing a crucial role in the transition to democracy in that country. This application would be among the first decisions to be taken by the Ethics Committee at its next meeting.

#### Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

**Luis Ayala** reported on behalf of the committee co-chairs that the work of the SI had continued without pause, despite the fact that only 45 parties were up to date with their membership fees. The details of fees owed and received were available on the SI website. He recalled the statutes, whereby parties with more than three years of outstanding fees cease to be members.

Only 40% of the fees for 2015 had been paid to date and despite a number of donations from member parties, the SI had received close to £700,000 of a budget of £1.25 million and had many debts and costs associated with its activities.

The SI needed to maintain high ambitions and hoped to recover a substantial part of the outstanding fees. The finances of the SI also affected SIW, who were in the same position. He presented the proposal agreed by the finance committee for a budget and membership fees for 2016, to enable the SI to carry out an expected large number of activities, concluding at the end of the year with a Congress.

The report and the budget for 2016 were adopted by the Council.

#### Second main theme (continued)

**Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana** (Namibia, SWAPO) referred to the many challenges faced by the world, including climate change, violence and terrorism and civil wars, which had consequences on global stability, peace



and security and were a source of great humanitarian concern. She underlined the importance of democracy, but reflected that elections themselves could not remove the source of conflict. In this regard she expressed the support of SWAPO for the self-determination of the Palestinian and Saharawi peoples.

**Margarita Zapata** (Nicaragua, FSLN) regretted that gender inequality remained in the SI and its member parties. She considered that as far as world peace was concerned, the world depended on both small and large parties, and that those whose house was not in order could not criticise. This also applied to democracy and she asked why SI member parties that had not paid fees were sanctioned while those not meeting the gender equality quota faced no action.

**Miguelina Vecchio** (Brazil, PDT) called for the rejection of violence in all its forms, whether in France, Palestine or Western Sahara. She did not believe that the UN had the capacity to mediate conflicts, due to a lack of political will. She noted that a country was not peaceful simply in absence of an armed conflict, as in Brazil more women died from domestic violence than in conflicts. She called for more gender equality within the SI, in the composition of delegations and the statutory committees.

### Third main theme (continued)

**Bernal Jimenez** (Costa Rica, PLN) spoke about the experience of Costa Rica in terms of conservation and green policies. The country had a culture of respect for nature and many national parks and conservation areas. Ecological policy had eliminated mining from the country, and eco-tourism accounted for at least one third of total tourism. There were however problems such as the pollution of rivers caused by urbanisation and industrialisation and the aim of celebrating 200 years of independence by becoming carbon neutral had not been achieved. He expressed hope for an agreement in Paris, but this would not happen without financing and cooperation in all respects.

**Johnson Asiedu Nketiah** (Ghana, NDC) reported that climate change was no longer a theory but a reality in Ghana, which was suffering the drastic impacts of unpredictability in the seasons and desertification. The SI needed to take an interest, as those countries that contributed most to climate change were least affected by it, whereas the developing world was on the receiving end, which was fundamentally unfair. It was time to indicate to countries of the West that mitigating their impact on developing countries was also in their interests.

### Interventions on national situations

**Araz Alizada** (Azerbaijan, ASDP) reported that following elections on 1 November the ASDP was a parliamentary party again after 20 years. He disputed the claims of representatives of the Venice Commission that the elections were not democratic. He underlined the necessity of peace, considering that 20% of the territory of Azerbaijan was occupied. He considered that the terrorist 'Islamic State' was not related to Islam but a fascist organisation.

**Maurice Poler** (Venezuela, AD) reported that the Venezuelan opposition had united in a single roundtable coalition. They hoped for the establishment of a political dialogue creating the conditions for a fair electoral process with international observers and considered that the electoral process was the best opportunity for the Venezuelan people to find a solution to their political, economic and social crisis. He categorically condemned recent violence perpetrated by groups linked to the government.

**Domingos Simões Pereira** (Guinea Bissau, PAIGC) thanked the MPLA and SI for their historical support for PAIGC and spoke of the role of progressive parties in seeking to achieve democracy, sovereignty and economic growth. In Guinea Bissau, he had resigned as head of government after less than one year and despite successfully confronting various problems, as the president of the country lacked a strategic vision and commitment to the future of the people. The PAIGC considered its responsibility to be to the country, and would therefore seek to see out the remainder of the legislative period in tranquillity.

**José Samuel Jara** (Chile, PS) expressed the support of his party for the SI and explained that the Chilean government, led by President Bachelet, was working on deep reforms in pursuit of equality. He reported on a dispute between Chile and Bolivia at the International Court of Justice, in which Bolivia was requesting sovereignty over Chilean territory with access to the sea. He regretted that Bolivia and Chile did not have diplomatic relations, despite many attempts on the part of Chile, believing that the dispute would be best solved bilaterally.

**Saleh Kebzabo** (Chad, UNDR) reported on the situation in Central Africa, a region with many problems, giving a short summary of the situations in Cameroon, Congo, DR Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and CAR. On Chad, he noted that the president, like many others in the region, had been in power for 25 years. Democrats there were hoping the situation would change after elections the following year for which he would be a presidential candidate. He concluded by supporting the view that terrorism was engendered by economic injustice to which democracy and development was the solution.

**Svetlina Yolcheva** (Bulgaria, PBSB) spoke on behalf of the PBSB leader Georgi Anastasov, who had been taken ill. She noted that the world was at war against terrorism, a war created by growing socio-economic inequality. There were clear differences between rich and poor countries, and only certain countries had a social security system for each person. It was impossible for any state to fight against poverty alone. The PBSB proposed that an SI committee could work on a proposal for a global minimum income to guarantee dignified life for all people, including food, education and health.

#### Adoption of resolutions and declarations of the Council

**The chair** commented that as was the practice, last minute resolutions could not be accepted due to the need for all delegations to read, understand and discuss the proposals. The capacity to translate documents at the last minute was also extremely limited.

#### Declaration on climate change and COP21:

The **declaration on climate change and COP 21** was adopted.

#### Declaration on Angola:

**The CPDS (Equatorial Guinea) delegation** stated that the responsibility for the situation in Africa was the responsibility of African countries and simply not due to countries that coveted their natural resources, and remarked that terrorism was a problem in the whole world. It was therefore proposed to delete all text in the final paragraph of the resolution after the words "...hit by fratricidal wars."

**Francisco Rosales** (Nicaragua, FSLN) spoke in favour of the original text and proposed to ask the MPLA if they wished the paragraph to be removed.

**The MPLA (Angola) delegation** defended the original text.

**Carlos Eduardo Vieira da Cunha** (Brazil, PDT) supported the original text.

Following a vote, the **declaration on Angola** was adopted according to its original wording.

Declaration on the refugee crisis:

**Saleh Kebzabo** (Chad, UNDR) proposed that an addition needed to be made to the text on the refugee situation in Africa, which had the largest number of political refugees in the world.

**The chair** proposed that Kebzabo could draft a short text to this effect, which would be added to the declaration.

An intervention was made from the floor arguing that the problem of refugees was a global one and not simply about Syria, and proposed either expanding or deleting the final paragraph. The speaker also remarked that it was difficult to make decisions on politically sensitive declarations in the short time available.

**The chair** agreed that more time was needed and underlined the importance of receiving texts in advance in order that they could be properly prepared, but noted that there were often final amendments that were needed. He proposed waiting for the proposal to come from the representative of Chad, and added that the text was highlighting the responsibility of the EU, towards which there was currently a major exodus from Syria.

The **declaration on the refugee crisis** was adopted.

Declaration on Venezuela:

**Francisco Rosales** (Nicaragua, FSLN) proposed the deletion of the third paragraph of the draft declaration, as the SI should not accuse the government of being allied with those responsible for the recent acts of violence without knowledge of all the facts.

**Carlos Eduardo Vieira da Cunha** (Brazil, PDT) made an intermediate proposal to maintain the first sentence of the third paragraph: "Finally, the SI condemns in the strongest terms the recent acts of violence in Venezuela."

**Marcelo Stubrin** (Argentina, UCR) said it was possible to modify the text but indisputable that there were political prisoners in Venezuela and that the SI had repeatedly called for their release. He proposed that the words "perpetrated by groups allied to the government" be deleted, leaving the rest of the third paragraph intact. He further proposed to add a final sentence stating: "We hold President Nicolás Maduro and his government responsible for guaranteeing a climate of peace, respect and tolerance vis-à-vis the electoral process."

**Johnson Asiedu** (Ghana, NDC) said that it was too much for the SI to say that speeches had been clearly intended to create public violence.

**Maurice Poler** (Venezuela, AD) accepted the proposal from the UCR and suggested to the Nicaraguan representative that he read the reports of the SI on its visits to Venezuela where he would see that human rights were not respected.

**Francisco Rosales** stated that a combination of the UCR and PDT proposals could lead to a declaration that was well-considered, proportional and did not incriminate anyone.

**Carlos Eduardo Vieira da Cunha** agreed with the UCR proposal with the exception of the word "tolerance" which he felt should be replaced with "respect" as it related to electoral law.

**The chair** found that there was a consensus to accept the proposal made by Marcelo Stubrin with the amendment proposed by Carlos Eduardo Vieira da Cunha.

The **declaration on the legislative elections on 6 December in Venezuela** was adopted.

Declaration on global stability, peace and security:

**The chair** noted a proposal from the CTP (Cyprus) to add a paragraph on Cyprus, and proposed to use the text that had been adopted by the Migrations Committee in its Barcelona Declaration on migrants. He also noted the receipt from JR (Russia) of a large text on ISIS and terrorism which could not be accepted as it came too late. He therefore proposed to incorporate some elements of that text in the declaration, in relation to the downing of a Russian fighter plane by Turkey and the recent unanimous resolution of the UN Security Council on terrorism and ISIS/Daesh.

A proposal was made from the floor to add an expression of support to all governments fighting Boko Haram.

**The chair** accepted the proposal.

**Saleh Kebzabo** (Chad, UNDR) felt that the declaration focused disproportionately on Syria at the expense of other problem such as the crisis in Palestine. He noted that there was no mention of Libya and proposed a paragraph on the situation there.

**The chair** noted the procedural issue that only members that had paid fees could vote, and only full members had the right to present amendments, though the SI tried to accommodate a view from everyone. According to the statutes it was the full members that were ultimately responsible. He proposed that on Libya and Cyprus the declaration could be amended on the basis of text that had been discussed by the Mediterranean Committee in Barcelona.

**Alexander Romanovich** (Russia, JR) proposed the deletion of a paragraph holding government forces responsible for the vast majority of civilian deaths during the civil war.

A proposal was made from the floor that the declaration should include the possibility for the SI to meet to discuss peace, security and terrorism.

**The chair** proposed that the declaration could include a reference to further initiatives to be taken by the SI on terrorism and violence.

**Francisco Rosales** (Nicaragua, FSLN) proposed that the declaration should include a call for strict measures to restrict the financing of terrorist organisations, their access to weapons and the flow of foreign fighters.

**The SG** spoke of the need to reconcile the different elements presented. The SI had been happy to see both the US and Russia working together with Turkey and Saudi Arabia in Vienna and the unanimous acceptance by the UN Security Council of the framework of the war against terrorism. This should also be the frame of reference for the SI, as the first priority was international unity against terrorism.

**The chair** summarised the changes that would be made to the text, reflecting the interventions and contributions made during the debate, and asked for the confidence of delegates in drafting the final declaration.

The **declaration on global stability, peace and security** was adopted.

#### The next Council meeting

**Luis Ayala** announced that the SI would be present the following week at the COP21 in Paris, after which there would be a number of other activities. Consultations were underway in regard to the venue and date of the next Council and the information would be circulated in due course.

#### Closing

**Luis Ayala** warmly thanked the host party once more for their fraternal hospitality and noted that although there were complex and difficult issues to handle, it had been a very satisfactory end to the meeting.

**George Papandreou** thanked the SI Secretariat, the interpreters, and the staff and volunteers from the MPLA. He reflected that politics at national and local level were faced with global issues, to which there were two reactions. That of Daesh was to go back to a tribal way of looking at the world, whereas the SI stood for common values, consensus and a belief in each and every human being.

**The meeting was declared closed**

*End of the Council.*