



SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

**ACTIVITIES AND STATEMENTS
OF THE
SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL**

**From the New York Council in July 2017 to
the Barcelona Council in November 2017**



Council

Meeting of the SI Council at the United Nations in New York

Strengthening Multilateralism for Peace

11-12 July 2017



Latifa Perry

On 11-12 July 2017 the SI Council held its first meeting after the XXV Congress, returning to the United Nations headquarters for two days of discussions on strengthening multilateralism, reaffirming social democratic values and defending democracy.

The Council was also the first occasion upon which the SI had met at the UN since the election of the new UN Secretary-General, António Guterres. A former president of the Socialist International, Guterres participated as a special guest during the opening session in which he outlined his vision for the work of the UN, before inviting comments and questions from delegates in an interactive dialogue.

Introducing António Guterres at the opening of the meeting, SI Secretary General Luis Ayala said that all those present were very pleased to have the opportunity to directly hear the views of the UN Secretary-General, particularly at this time when we were entering a new inter-Congress period and we would continue to work for solutions to the same global challenges confronted by the UN. He congratulated Guterres on his new role and thanked him warmly for having accepted the invitation to come and engage in a conversation with members of the global social democratic political family.

António Guterres expressed his pleasure to be able to take part in this SI Council meeting and to share global concerns with this political gathering. He perceived a deficit of trust in the world, between peoples, countries and institutions, which was linked to the difficulties associated with globalisation. The UN's agenda 2030 was part of a drive to make globalisation fairer, and ensure that no-one was

left behind. He underlined the importance of the work of multilateral organisations, which needed to be strengthened to address issues such as climate change, which was exacerbating many of the other difficulties faced by the world.

Following his introductory remarks, the UN Secretary-General responded to comments and questions from Council attendees. Delegates representing parties from across the world drew attention to wide-ranging issues such as refugee rights and migrations, gender equality, climate change and the resolution of outstanding conflicts. The Secretary-General addressed delegates' concerns from both a personal and institutional perspective, underlining his determination to promote peace and reconciliation efforts, gender parity and human rights mechanisms during his time in office.

SI President George Papandreou gave thanks to António Guterres, and expressed that his election had brought a new spirit to the UN, creating hope at a difficult time for the world. He noted that though the UN Secretary-General could not be partisan, social democrats had the opportunity and responsibility to be vocal on the issues he had raised, and called on them to achieve what they could through dialogue, friendship and compassion.

Before the opening of discussions on the main themes of the agenda, the Council was informed of developments in Spain, where the SI member PSOE had elected Pedro Sánchez as its leader with a large mandate. Sánchez was duly endorsed by acclamation to fill the position on the SI Presidium held by the party, and then spoke as a newly elected SI vice-president, delivering a keynote address underlining the shared history of the PSOE and the SI, and calling for an alternative vision of globalisation in face of climate change, inequality, and challenges to peace and democracy.

Exchanges on the first main theme, *'Strengthening multilateralism for peace'*, touched on peace and conflict resolution processes in many parts of the world that are ongoing with varying levels of success. The Council heard that since the XXV SI Congress in Colombia, great forward steps had been taken in that country with the laying down by the FARC of all weapons, which had been received by the United Nations. Perspectives were heard on a great many unresolved conflicts in different regions of the world from those directly engaged in efforts for peace, including the situation in Iraq, the Kurdistan region, Syria, Moldova and Transnistria, the Great Lakes Region, Cyprus, India and Pakistan, Turkey, Western Sahara, Azerbaijan and Armenia, and Israel-Palestine. A common thread to these contributions was the need for the SI to be at the forefront of multilateral efforts to bring conflicting parties to the negotiating table and promote peace.

The second main theme of the meeting was *'Reaffirming our values and policies for the change we need'*. Speakers on the issue were in broad agreement that socialists and social democrats needed to be more assertive in promoting the values and policies that would bring positive change to the most vulnerable people across the world, and make clearer the distinction between the forward-looking proposals of social democratic parties and the conservative and reactionary alternatives.

On the subject of democracy, the focus was on the need to overcome challenges to democracy in many parts of the world, under the main theme *'Defending and protecting democracy where it is denied or is under threat'*. Speakers from a number of countries suffering a democratic deficit outlined their experiences and the challenges they face.

Being its first meeting in a new inter-Congress period, the Council also had the task of establishing the working organs of the SI. The membership of the statutory committees of the SI was duly elected, in line with the principle of regional balance and ensuring representation for SIW on both the Ethics Committee and the Finance and Administration Committee. Regional committees for Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, the CIS, the Caucasus and the Black Sea, and the Mediterranean were re-established. The Council endorsed the re-establishment of the SI Middle East Committee at a time when new initiatives and new impetus to the peace process are sorely needed. The Council also established a Committee on Migrations and Refugees.

The Council further agreed that the work of the SI Commission on Inequality in the World Economy would continue for the next inter-Congress period. A number of interventions had been made during the course of the Council meeting, underlining that despite the successful reaching of an agreement in Paris, much work remains to be done on climate change. In order to ensure that the SI accompanies this process and to build on the achievements of the SI Commission for a Sustainable World Society in previous years, a commission on the issue of climate change and energy was established.

In line with the decision of the XXV Congress, the SI Council will continue to be engaged in the implementation of the principle of gender parity within the organisation, and will set up the Committee on Equality and define its membership and mandate at the next Council meeting.

The Council acted in order with a specific mandate from the XXV Congress to fill vacancies on the SI Presidium in line with statutory requirements for gender and regional balance. Elected to join the ranks of the SI vice-presidents were Janira Hopffer Almada (PAICV, Cabo Verde), Shazia Marri (PPP, Pakistan) and Bokary Treta (RPM, Mali).

At its conclusion, the Council adopted a number of resolutions and declarations relating to items discussed under the main themes on the agenda from a global perspective and on specific situations of concern to SI member parties.

The Council decided that its next meeting would be held in Spain at the invitation of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) and its leader Pedro Sánchez, at the end of November 2017.

Meeting of the Council of the Socialist International
United Nations, New York, 11-12 July 2017

DECLARATION ON ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

The Socialist International has a longstanding commitment to the global fight against climate change, an issue which has been at the heart of the agenda of the SI Council and Congress, and was the major focus of the work of the Commission a Sustainable World Society between 2007 and 2011. The SI and its member parties have at the same time been among those working tirelessly for the success of the negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The finalisation and approval of the Paris Agreement in December 2015 was welcomed enthusiastically by the SI as a signal of consensus among all countries of the world about the serious and immediate threat posed by climate change, and a recognition that concerted action is required by all countries to address its causes.

In light of the recent notification by the present government of the United States of its intention to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, the SI Council unequivocally reiterates its commitment not only to the fulfilment of the commitments made at COP21, but also to go beyond that which was agreed in order to ensure that the global temperature rise can be limited to 1.5°C. The Council regrets that the current ruling administration in the US has seen fit to withdraw from its obligations, commensurate with its status as the leading historical contributor to the changing climate.

The Council further expresses its full support to those who continue to work to fulfil the commitments of the US under the Paris agreement, at the level of individual states, cities and businesses that have made clear their disagreement with the path taken by the federal government on this most crucial of issues.

In line with its fundamental commitments on the issue, the Council establishes a commission on the issue of climate change and energy, to begin activities during the current inter-Congress period. This group will work to promote the enduring vision of the SI to tackle climate change while ensuring that the right to development is protected. On energy, the Council reiterates its commitment to a zero-carbon future and mandates the commission to examine how this can be best achieved in both developed and developing economies.

Meeting of the Council of the Socialist International
United Nations, New York, 11-12 July 2017

RESOLUTION ON CAMEROON

The members of the Socialist International meeting in Council at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York City on 11-12 July 2017 follow with great concern the political, economic and social crisis that has virtually paralysed Cameroon's two English-speaking regions where lawyers have stopped going to court and schools have remained closed for almost a year.

The crisis is the result of decades of systematic neglect and marginalisation of the minority English-speaking population by President Biya's Government. SI cannot be indifferent to the situation in Cameroon which if left unresolved could threaten the peace and stability of the Central African sub-region.

Accordingly, the SI urges President Biya to follow the recommendations made by our member party, the Social Democratic Front, as well as the UN Special Envoy for Central Africa when he visited Cameroon early this year to release all detainees arrested in connection with this crisis and reopen dialogue with the leaders of the English-speaking population as a crucial first step to begin the process of healing an increasingly divided nation.

Meeting of the Council of the Socialist International
United Nations, New York, 11-12 July 2017

DECLARATION ON CYPRUS

The XXV SI Congress and recent Council meetings have called on Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders to pursue peace talks aiming to reach a bizonal, bicommunal federal solution for Cyprus as soon as possible, and has closely followed the recent reunification talks that concluded without an agreement on 7 July.

As agreed by both sides on the island, the current status quo cannot be accepted in Cyprus. Despite the unsuccessful end to the conference on Cyprus in Crans Montana last week, an important step forward was achieved as all stakeholders were present and presented their views. Consequently, all sides should not give up the efforts to change this status quo. Convergences reached to date should not be wasted. Both communities of Cyprus deserve to live in a peaceful country integrated in the international community. The United Nations and the international community should encourage all the related parties in this direction. Until the political solution is reached, confidence-building measures should be supported with the aim of mutual coexistence, rapprochement and peacebuilding throughout the island.

Meeting of the Council of the Socialist International
United Nations, New York, 11-12 July 2017

DECLARATION ON GUATEMALA

Original: Spanish

The Council of the Socialist International expresses its support to the processes of strengthening of justice and the fight against corruption and impunity in Guatemala. In particular it values the efforts of United Nations through the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), which directly contributes to the consolidation of democracy in Guatemala.

Meeting of the Council of the Socialist International
United Nations, New York, 11-12 July 2017

DECLARATION ON MALI

Original: French

The participants at the Council have reiterated their support and commitment to the sovereignty, the unity and the territorial integrity of Mali. They have welcomed the progress achieved in implementing the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement in Mali, a result of the Algiers process, under the authority of His Excellency Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali. They called on all the Malian signatory parties to continue their efforts in order to restore the authority of the State of Mali over the whole of its territory.

The participants have welcomed the adoption of resolution 2359 (2017) of 21 June 2017, regarding G5 Sahel Joint Force (FC-G5S) to fight against terrorism, organised transnational crime and human trafficking. They have appealed to the international community to offer an urgent and concrete support in this respect, and they have insisted on the need to convene without delay the Conference for the planning of contributions from bilateral and multilateral partners of the region, in accordance with the resolution 2359 (2017), in order to ensure the coordination of the efforts of assistance by the donors to the FC-G5S.

Meeting of the Council of the Socialist International
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RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO

Original: Spanish

The Council of the Socialist International welcomes the Decision of the Special Committee on Decolonisation on 19 June 2017 in which, once again, the Special Committee unanimously:

- has reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence;
- has recognised that the majority of the people of Puerto Rico is against the continuation of the current regime of political subordination to the United States;
- has condemned the decision of the government of the United States of imposing a Board of Fiscal Supervision appointed by the President of the United States with absolute authority over the elected officials of the government of Puerto Rico;
- has recognised that the Supreme Court of the United States formally ruled in 2016 that the final authority over Puerto Rico rests with the Congress of the United States and that any limited concession of a self-government can be revoked unilaterally by the said Congress;
- has taken note that the most recent consultation regarding political status on 11 July 2017 was not designed to promote decolonisation in accordance with the Resolution 1514(15) of the General Assembly and that furthermore the electoral turnout was only 23%.
- has demanded that the government of the United States assume its responsibilities to accelerate a process that may allow the people of Puerto Rico to fully exercise their right to self-determination and independence in accordance with international law.

The SI Council further calls on the United Nations Secretary General, António Guterres, to lend his good offices to ensure that the request that was reiterated in the Decision of the Special Committee on 19 June 2017 be pursued, in the sense that the General Assembly “broadly examine in all its aspects, the question of Puerto Rico and reach a decision as soon as possible”.

Meeting of the Council of the Socialist International
United Nations, New York, 11-12 July 2017

RESOLUTION ON REFUGEES

Original: Spanish

The Council of the Socialist International, meeting in the headquarters of the United Nations in New York on 11-12 July 2017, expresses its support and solidarity with refugees all over the world.

Considering the thousands of lives lost, especially children and women who through refuge are searching for an alternative to the conflicts and wars and in their travels, be it by land or sea;

Considering the situation that innumerable citizens are suffering in refugee camps all over the world, subject to misery and hunger;

Expresses, through its world Council, the conviction that all refugees are “citizens of the world” and as such they deserve priority, and

Reaffirms its commitment to care, protection and support, in this inhuman situation that confronts the world.

Meeting of the Council of the Socialist International
United Nations, New York, 11-12 July 2017

DECLARATION ON SYRIA

The Syrian crisis has taken various dimensions that pose a threat to world peace, which therefore require an urgent and just solution and to continue the efforts of the international community to eradicate terrorism.

Efforts should continue so that all Syrian democratic forces should be integrated into the peace efforts in both Geneva and Astana.

The countries of the region, as well as the international actors, must cooperate towards the goal of a peaceful resolution at the conflict which will lay the foundations for an open, inclusive and peaceful Syria, one that guarantees the security of all and the respect of every citizen's diverse identity. Only then can the return of refugees be realized and the reconstruction of Syria be accomplished.

DECLARATION ON TURKEY

The SI Council stands beside the many thousands who were walking alongside CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu during his Justice March from Ankara to Istanbul, and the millions who turned out at the rally on his arrival in Maltepe. Their peaceful calls for rights, law and justice must be heard.

The Council wholeheartedly supports the demands of the people of Turkey for justice and democracy. Since the failed coup on 15 July 2016, which we condemned, freedoms and rights of the Turkish citizens have been curtailed and many of them find themselves the innocent victims of an indiscriminate crackdown that has left thousands without jobs or arrested.

Crucial tenets of the democratic system have been targeted, such as freedom of expression, as reflected in the continued imprisonment of more than 150 journalists. The forced closure of many media outlets is equally an attack on a pillar of democracy, namely the freedom of the press. The imprisonment of opposition parliamentarians practised by the government of Turkey is completely alien to any democracy, as are the current judicial proceedings against a dozen members of parliament. We condemn all these attacks on the democratic system, in particular the sentencing of MP Enis Berberoğlu of the SI member CHP to 25 years in prison.

The Council of the Socialist International reiterates its support and solidarity to the democratic opposition in Turkey, in face of concerted actions to suppress fundamental rights and freedoms on the part of the Turkish government. We have full confidence that all those citizens of Turkey who are today standing up to safeguard democracy and their future will prevail.

The Council fully endorses the Maltepe Call for Justice issued on behalf of millions on 9 July and urges the immediate implementation of the ten demands contained therein.

Meeting of the Council of the Socialist International
United Nations, New York, 11-12 July 2017

DECLARATION ON VENEZUELA

Original: Spanish

The Council of the Socialist International, meeting at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York, on 11-12 July 2017, has been the occasion to express once again the concern of the organisation at the worsening of the humanitarian crisis and the weakening of democracy in Venezuela.

The Socialist International, at its different meetings, has received information and denunciations duly supported from its member parties in Venezuela. The organisation has committed its solidarity and good offices to the search of fair, peaceful solutions in compliance with the Venezuelan constitutional order.

The International reiterates the need to promote in Venezuela political changes that guarantee the freedoms, the impartiality of Justice and the autonomy and separation of public powers, all necessary for the normal functioning of democracy. It insists on the need for the opening of a humanitarian channel, the release of all political prisoners, and the full recognition of the National Assembly and the timetable for elections. At the same time, it considers necessary that the government withdraw the proposal of a Constituent because that departs from the constitutional and democratic principles.

The Council of the Socialist International reaffirms its commitment to continue supporting all the democratic forces in Venezuela.



Venezuela

Venezuelan government deepens break with democracy and increases repression and violence

31 July 2017

The Socialist International has followed with grave concern the recent events in Venezuela, where yesterday the government of President Nicolás Maduro held a vote to elect members of a constituent assembly via a process that ran contrary to Venezuela's current Constitution. This election in turn did not meet the minimum requirements and guarantees to ensure that the vote was fair and its results credible. It was also an election marked by repression and violence that cost the lives of more than 10 Venezuelans; these adding to the 120 fatalities that have already resulted from the repression that has taken place during demonstrations over the last few months.

Given the lack of legitimacy of the path taken by the Venezuelan government, the Socialist International, along with condemning this serious breakdown of democratic order, today reiterates its deep solidarity with every citizen who has been suffering from the consequences of the serious political, economic, social and humanitarian crisis to which the country has been subject for a long time; a crisis that is deepening and worsening the further Venezuela moves away from good governance, and respect and recognition of the institutions of democracy.

In the current circumstances, Venezuela is at a critical juncture in its history, and nobody can deny the enormous responsibility that falls upon President Maduro and members of the current Government. Today, we are at the limits of a point of no return, and the country must urgently regain its ability to recognise the diversity that accompanies political life in democracy, or it will continue to descend into the authoritarianism and repression that we have seen over recent days.

Venezuela, which has always been an ally in the struggles for democracy and freedom in the face of past dictatorships in Latin America, does not deserve this fate.

The government of Venezuela must respect the life, liberty and rights of all of its citizens and must release immediately all political prisoners. The government should listen to those who have an opinion to contribute to democratic coexistence, beginning with those who have been duly elected to do so, the members of the National Assembly, elected in December 2015 for a tenure lasting until 2021. The government must respect and recognise the mandate given by the people to the National Assembly and the powers of this institution in line with the country's constitutional system.

At this crucial time for Venezuela, the Socialist International stands side by side with its people and calls on the entire international community to act decisively to preserve Venezuelans' freedom and all of their rights in response to the difficult juncture with which they are faced at this time.

The Socialist International will remain in contact with its member parties in Venezuela, and with the Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD), in order to continue supporting their efforts for democracy and peace.



Venezuela

It is time to enforce the Democratic Charter in Venezuela

18 August 2017

The Socialist International strongly condemns the decision of the Venezuelan regime to usurp the powers of the National Assembly, the seat of the legislative power in that country.

This unconstitutional and illegitimate decision does not only ignore the will of the Venezuelan people expressed in the ballot box in elections that took place at the end of 2015, in which its members were elected, but places, in an unequivocal and irrefutable way, the people of Venezuela under an authoritarian and dictatorial government.

Under these circumstances, the international community, faced with the risk of having to witness an untenable internal situation of continuing violations of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of the Venezuelan people, must act decisively and with a sense of urgency, with reason prevailing over the rule of force, in order to prevent the Venezuelan authorities from committing the crime of depriving their people of their rights and freedoms and to mobilise themselves to implement the Right to Protection in the case of the Venezuelan people.

Within this context, we also call on the Organisation of American States, OAS, to take immediate action in favour of the enforcement of the Democratic Charter in Venezuela.

The defence of democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in other regions and continents, must be a shared priority in politics and by all the actors involved.



Angola

SI in Angola to observe elections

23 August 2017



MPLA candidate for President of the Republic, João Lourenço, receives international observers



President João Lourenço with SI Secretary General, Luis Ayala



Myanmar

SI call to protect the Rohingya people in Myanmar

8 September 2017

The Socialist International has witnessed with growing concern the severe deterioration of the situation in Myanmar's Rakhine state. Renewed violence has led to multiple deaths and the displacement of many thousands of members of the Rohingya minority in that country, deepening the humanitarian crisis. Ethnic Rohingya refugees who have successfully fled to Bangladesh have reported massacres in their villages and the burning of hundreds of homes by the Burmese military, in an effort to remove the civilian Rohingya population from this area by forcible means.

The government and authorities of Myanmar have a moral and legal responsibility to ensure the safety and security of all those living in the country, regardless of ethnicity and religion, and the SI calls on the government to now cooperate with the United Nations and to allow aid to reach those in desperate need. The reluctance of the Burmese authorities to allow independent monitors to access the affected areas of Rakhine state casts doubt on their denial of responsibility for the violence and destruction. The SI appeals in particular to State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi to show moral leadership and exert her influence and authority to put a stop to the suffering of the Rohingya.

As the crisis continues to deepen, the international community must also fulfil its responsibility to the Rohingya minority in Myanmar, by increasing pressure on the Burmese government to take the necessary steps to bring an end to the violence and grant the Rohingya people their fundamental rights. Those who have been forced to flee to neighbouring countries, including more than 120,000 who have crossed into Bangladesh in the last two weeks, must be assured of humanitarian assistance and given support until they are able to return to their homes.

The SI has consistently spoken out in support of the rights of the Rohingya people in Myanmar, a subject that has been addressed by both its Committee on Migrations and the XXV Congress of the SI, which took place in Cartagena earlier this year. It has heard first hand from representatives of the Rohingya on their current and historical plight. The SI now reiterates its call, made at the XXV Congress, for the leadership and government of Myanmar to immediately end persecution and human rights violations against the Rohingya and to open a full dialogue to address their minority rights and needs to be recognised and respected as full citizens.



Presidium

Meeting of the SI Presidium and Heads of State & Government, United Nations, New York

21 September 2017



The Presidium of the Socialist International gathered at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York on 21 September 2017 for its annual meeting in conjunction with the high-level segment of the UN General Assembly. The main items on the agenda of this meeting were the pursuit and maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, issues which are central to the work of the SI and its members. As in previous years, the members of the Presidium were joined by a number of heads of state and government from SI member parties, senior representatives of SI member parties in government and specially invited guests. The substance of the discussions and perspectives heard on the issues on the agenda were reflected in a **statement** issued following the meeting.

The meeting was opened with an expression of sympathy and solidarity to the victims of the major earthquake that had struck Mexico two days prior to the meeting, and those who had been and continue to be in the path of the powerful hurricanes that had caused such destruction across the Caribbean. Outlining the agenda of the meeting, SI President George Papandreou underlined the importance of the United Nations for social democrats who wanted and needed a world based on the values of cooperation. The SI Secretary General Luis Ayala introduced the discussions, adding that as the largest global political family, with close to 50 member parties in government, the SI had a unique ability to influence the global debate on these questions.

On the theme of international peace, the Presidium closely examined the threat posed to regional and global stability by North Korea. Joining the meeting for these discussions was Kevin Rudd, former prime minister of Australia and president of the Asia Society Policy Institute, who presented his expert opinions on potential future scenarios and the ways in

which a diplomatic solution might be achieved. Rudd outlined the framework for a diplomatic initiative to resolve tensions on the Korean peninsula and bring an end to the nuclear programme of North Korea. The first step would be that the Korean armistice agreement could be turned into a peace treaty and official US recognition of the North. This would be accompanied by external security guarantees for the North Korea state and regime, from China, the US and Russia, followed by a staged withdrawal of US military from South Korea based on the verifiable elimination of the nuclear arsenal.

Members of the Presidium had the opportunity to put forward their own impressions of the situation during in-depth exchanges, and solidarity was expressed with other peoples and countries of the region directly affected. Of concern was the controversial and challenging rhetoric emanating from North Korea and the US Administration, as well as the potential for South Korea and Japan to develop their own nuclear deterrent in response to the threat from the DPRK. The prevailing sentiment was of a need to be creative and optimistic, to be ambitious for peace and foster the role that the UN could play in facilitating a freeze in the conflict.

The ways in which insecurity and conflict affect a number of countries where SI member parties are in government were described by heads of state and government in attendance. President Alpha Condé of Guinea thanked the SI and its members for their support in the past when his country had been dealing with the Ebola crisis. He underlined the extent of the problem of terrorism in Africa and, as Chair of the African Union, he emphasised the need for African solutions to African problems. His sentiments on the need for inter-African cooperation were echoed by his counterpart from Burkina Faso, President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, attending his first UN General Assembly meeting as the head of state of his country. President Kaboré explained that Burkina Faso was at the epicentre of terrorism in the Sahel region, and called for support of all countries and the UN for the newly-established G5 Sahel task force. He underlined that action to eliminate poverty and youth unemployment was indispensable in the struggle against terror.

Prime Minister Pavel Filip explained that Moldova was a young country with a history of conflict. He wanted to see the withdrawal of foreign troops from the Transnistria region, as peace and security were preconditions for development and economic success. Another perspective came from Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci, who explained how an opportunity for a meaningful solution under the auspices of the UN to half a century of conflict had ended without any positive outcome. He expressed his determination to persist in the quest for a solution as long as the problem continued to exist.

Contributions made on the themes of the meeting from presidium members encompassed the situations in their respective countries and the wider global threats and opportunities. A view shared by many was that the world needed a strong United Nations to work for common rules and principles, with solidarity and human rights. Multilateral initiatives were more important than ever to resolve conflicts, to address poverty and inequality, to promote sustainable development and to secure the future of the planet through concerted action on climate change.

The members of the SI presidium that participated in the meeting were George Papandreou, SI President; Luis Ayala, SI Secretary General; SI Vice-Presidents Victor Benoit (Haiti), Elsa Espinoza (Mexico), Eero Heinäluoma (Finland), Janira Hopffer Almada (Cape Verde), Chantal Kambiwa (Cameroon), Shazia Marri (Pakistan), Attila Mesterhazy (Hungary), Rafael Michelini (Uruguay), Mario Nalpatian (Armenia), Umut Oran (Turkey), Julião Mateus Paulo (Angola), Alexander Romanovich (Russia), Nabil Shaath (Palestine), Ousmane Tanor Dieng (Senegal), Bokary Treta (Mali); SI Honorary Presidents Mustafa Ben Jaafar (Tunisia) and Tarja Halonen, former President of Finland. They were joined by the President of Guinea

Alpha Condé, current Chairperson of the African Union, the President of Burkina Faso Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, the Prime Minister of Moldova Pavel Filip, Kevin Rudd, former Prime Minister of Australia and President of the Asia Society Policy Institute, Miguel Vargas, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic and President of the PRD, Bert Koenders, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Mustafa Akinci, Turkish Cypriot leader, and officials of the governments of Mozambique and South Africa.

Statement following the annual meeting of
the SI Presidium and Heads of State and Government
United Nations, New York, 21 September 2017

In recent weeks and months, a series of natural disasters have caused death and destruction in different regions of the world. The SI stands in solidarity with all those who have suffered loss of loved ones, property and livelihood, including the victims of the Mexican earthquake, successive major hurricanes in the Caribbean, mudslides in Sierra Leone and flooding in Nepal, India and Bangladesh. Many of those countries affected are facing severe economic challenges and will therefore require international support and solidarity as they seek to rebuild following these tragic developments. The number of extreme weather events during 2017 also underlines the necessity of concerted action to address the climatic changes that are increasing the likelihood of such incidents occurring with more frequency.

The maintenance of international peace and security

The current threats to global peace and security are of great concern to the nations of the world, and the United Nations, as the preeminent forum for the multilateral pursuit of international peace and security, has today a crucial task ahead of it.

The grave situation on the Korean peninsula is a challenge to the entire international community. The atomic weapons that have been developed by the North Korean regime represent a major threat to stability and peace in Asia and the Pacific, with global repercussions. Recent aggressive and provocative actions by North Korea are further destabilising the region, showing a failure by the regime to comply with its international obligations. The potential for conflict between states with the capability to launch nuclear weapons is a chilling prospect. No effort must be spared in seeking a diplomatic solution to this crisis, in order to avert a potential catastrophe.

All efforts to bring peace to Syria must be supported, in line with consistent calls made by the SI for dialogue and negotiation. This includes the most recent talks held in Astana aimed at establishing de-escalation zones in Syria. We welcome the decline in strength and influence of Daesh, and the priority in the short term must be ending the violence and bloodshed.

Across the Middle East, populations that are subject to terror require the support and solidarity of the global community. In Iraq, the defeat and withdrawal of Daesh must be accompanied by assistance in rebuilding for those who are left behind in the aftermath. In Yemen, the desperate humanitarian situation must be addressed. Indiscriminate air strikes have claimed the lives of thousands of civilians, and the armed conflict has left nearly 20

million Yemenis in need of humanitarian assistance. This conflict deserves the full and urgent attention of the international community. Credible reports of violations of international law and human rights must be independently investigated.

The move towards reconciliation in Palestine is a welcome development and the SI supports Palestinian efforts to renew the democratic process and convene national elections as soon as possible. This should serve as a catalyst for concerted efforts to achieve the two-state solution, which requires the recognition of the State of Palestine on the June 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. As previously outlined by the SI Council, the collective efforts of the international community are required to bring an end to the occupation of Palestinian land and allow the Palestinian people their right to self-determination.

In the Sahel region, President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita (Mali), President Mahamadou Issoufou (Niger) and President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré (Burkina Faso) are playing a crucial role in the fight to end terror and bring security and stability. The establishment of a joint task force to tackle terrorism in the Sahel with the key regional actors is a positive development and the SI urges international partners to offer their full support to this endeavour. It is equally crucial that military action against terrorist groups in the Sahel is accompanied with concerted action to reduce poverty and unemployment, which have been shown to be the best recruiting tool for terrorist and extremist groups.

The Presidium reiterated the call made by the SI to end the violence in Rakhine province, Myanmar, where a humanitarian crisis is underway following a severe escalation of the discrimination suffered by the Rohingya people. It condemned the systematic persecution of this minority in Myanmar and underlined the need for the government of that country to allow independent monitors to the affected areas to verify reports of pillage, executions and forced displacements at the hands of the military. Though the attacks made by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army should be condemned, the disproportionate and indiscriminate military response against a marginalised community is completely unjustified and in contravention of basic human rights. The UN and the international community should exert pressure on the government of Myanmar to uphold the rule of law, and the SI Presidium echoed the recent call by the UN Secretary-General for the suspension of military action, the right of return for those forced to leave the country, and allowing the delivery of humanitarian aid by the UN and other international organisations.

Conflict, insecurity and persecution are major causes of the unprecedented migratory flows in the world today. The resolution of the global refugee crisis requires a great deal of compassion and solidarity, in particular from those countries in the developed world that have the capacity to welcome those in desperate need of assistance.

The successful conclusion of peace talks on the future of Cyprus are necessary to end the unacceptable status quo and to bring the benefits of mutual coexistence on the island. The SI continues to support talks aiming to reach a bizonal, bicomunal federation for Cyprus.

The crisis in Venezuela continues to be extremely troubling, as the regime fails in its democratic duty to its citizens, resulting in further economic hardship and suffering for the people of that country. The deprivation of the democratic rights of Venezuelans must come to an end, all political prisoners must be released and the powers of the Parliament must be recognised and restored. In Guatemala, the rule of law must be upheld and the justice sector strengthened. Accordingly, the important work of the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) should continue free from hindrance or interference.

The promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development

The SI remains fully committed to economic growth that is sustainable in the long-term, acknowledging the need to take a unified approach to the problems of poverty, inequality and climate change.

Concerted efforts are still needed to achieve the objective of zero hunger in the world, and the recent rise in global hunger is a disturbing development. Last year, the number of undernourished people increased significantly to 815 million, reaching the highest level in nearly a decade. This trend must be reversed. Deterioration in the food security situation in many of the poorer regions of the world is directly linked to conflict and climate-related shocks, underlining the importance of taking action to resolve conflicts and minimise climate change.

Persistent economic inequality within and between countries and regions is a severe problem and a catalyst for grievances and conflict in all regions of the world. The continued existence of poverty is unacceptable while the richest 1% continue to accumulate more wealth.

Climate change remains the single greatest threat to economic prosperity, food security and future quality of life on this planet. The renewed commitment of the vast majority of governments to the Paris Agreement on climate change is in this regard to be welcomed. This sends a strong signal that there is an overwhelming resolve within the international community to do what is necessary to mitigate anthropomorphic climate change, which will not be derailed by reticence and equivocation from individual member states.

The inseparability of these problems underlines the importance of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development, which are a central feature of the political programmes of SI member parties. The lack of progress and in some areas regression that has taken place since the adoption of the goals in 2015 is a cause for concern. If the Global Goals are to be achieved by 2030, there needs to be concerted action in all areas, with accountability and monitoring of progress to identify the goals that are in danger of being missed.

The role of the United Nations

In the face of the many serious and multi-faceted threats to security, prosperity and sustainability, the SI Presidium reinforced the central role that the UN must play, both in resolving conflicts between member states and in responding to global problems that no country can tackle alone. There is no other multilateral intergovernmental organisation that can substitute for the UN, and it is up to all member states to work within its framework to face up to the common challenges confronting humanity. For the UN to succeed, it needs more engagement from its member states, not less. A strong UN and a robust system of global governance should not be seen as a threat to national sovereignty, but a mutual benefit to all countries of the world.

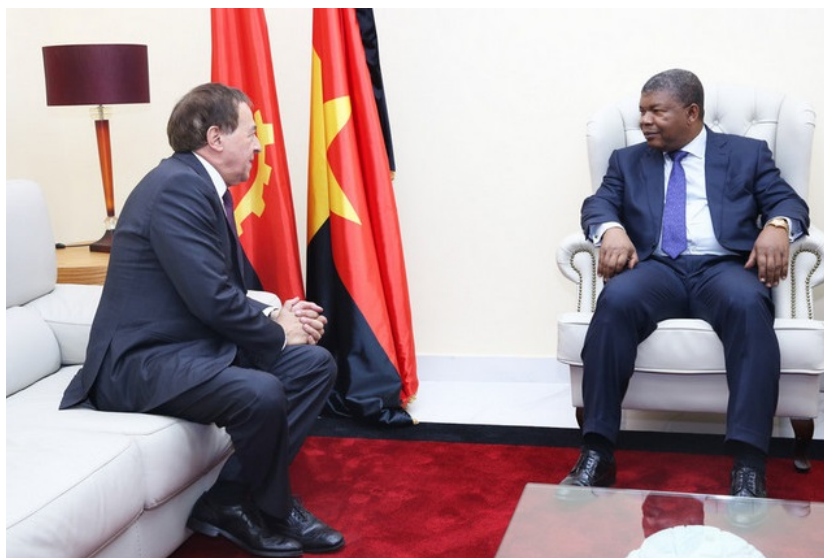
UN Secretary-General António Guterres has the full support of our movement and all its members as he works to uphold the values of the UN charter and promote multilateralism, conflict resolution, peace and sustainable development. These are the goals of social democracy and will remain at the heart of the agenda of the SI and its member parties.



Angola

Inauguration of João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço as new President of Angola

26 September 2017



PRESIDENT JOÃO LOURENÇO, (ON THE RIGHT) MEETS CHILEAN LUIS AYOLA, SG OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

PHOTO: ANTONIO ESCRIVAO

Angop, 29 September 2017

Luís Ayala spoke to the press at the end of an audience granted by MPLA deputy president João Lourenço. The Chilean, Luís Ayala, said that the International Socialist, an organization in which the MPLA is a permanent member, is satisfied with the party's victory.

Iraq

Socialist International SG in Baghdad following the passing of President Talabani

8 October 2017

The President of the Republic receives the Secretary – General of the Socialist International Organization Mr. Luis Ayala

Iraqi Presidency, 9 October 2017



H.E. Dr. Fuad Masum the President of the Republic received Mr. Luis Ayala the Secretary-General of the Socialist International Organization, in Baghdad, this afternoon, Sunday, October 8, 2017. Mr. Ayala came to offer condolences on the death of the great late former President Mam Jalal Talabani.





IPU

SI at the 137th IPU Assembly in St Petersburg, Russia

14-18 October 2017



Latifa Perry

The 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was held in St. Petersburg, Russia, from 14 to 18 October 2017. The inaugural session included an address by the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, along with outgoing IPU President, Saber Chaudhury and the heads of both the Council of the Federation and the State Duma of Russia.

This Assembly, the largest gathering of the IPU to date, voted to give prominence, as an emergency item, to the humanitarian tragedy affecting the Rohingya people being forced to flee Myanmar, victims of ethnic cleansing. Other themes highlighted during the discussions were democracy and human rights, the threat of nuclear weapons, and the role of parliaments in promoting peace. The Assembly elected a new IPU President for the next three years, Gabriela Cuevas from Mexico.

Within the framework of the Assembly, the SI held its usual meeting of parliamentarians from the social democratic political family to exchange views on key issues for debate and decisions due to be taken by the Assembly of the IPU and to discuss issues of common concern on the international agenda.

The SI meeting included among its participants a good number of Speakers and Deputy Speakers of Parliament. Those present included representatives from Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Finland, Ghana, Guinea, Italy, Mali, Nicaragua, Namibia, Niger, Palestine, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, Turkey, Uruguay,

Venezuela, Zambia, and from the Global Fund. The meeting was chaired by the SI Secretary General.

Participants received a first-hand report from the head of the Fatah delegation to the talks that had just concluded in Egypt between Fatah and Hamas for reconciliation and national unity in Palestine. These positive developments were welcomed, and seen as a major contribution and a catalyst to move forward the stalled process for the two-state solution and peace in the region. Participants shared information on developments in different regions and countries, among them the situation in the Sahel and efforts to end terror and secure peace, with contributions from countries in that region and others. Democracy was also a strong theme in the exchanges, with a particular focus on the situation in Venezuela.

Elections to a number of posts within the IPU, including that of President, was a subject of discussion and the meeting had the opportunity to hear from participants who were standing for election to different responsibilities.

The Secretary General reported on various activities of the Socialist International and the work ahead following the decisions of the last Council and Congress, and on its global work in favour of democracy, the resolution of conflicts, and for greater equality in the world economy.



Balfour Declaration

The Socialist International on the centenary of the Balfour Declaration

2 November 2017

One hundred years ago today during the First World War, British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour conveyed the support of his country's government for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people in Palestine", in a declaration that has had a profound impact on the subsequent history of the Middle East and on the peoples of Israel and Palestine. Balfour's pledge paved the way for the declaration of an independent State of Israel in 1948 and later its acceptance as a member of the United Nations in 1949.

On this anniversary, despite the conflicts, wars and human suffering of the past hundred years, we can appreciate that the aspirations and needs of one people led the international community to act positively to their quest for statehood. There remains, however, the challenge to equally respond to the aspirations and needs of the Palestinian people who have waited all these years for their rights to be recognised and respected.

The commitment made one hundred years ago in the Balfour Declaration that "nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine", has not been fully upheld, and many of these rights have been successively eroded. In addition, the declaration notably fails to mention political rights and was made without any consultation of these nameless communities. The unequal status afforded to the non-Jewish population by the Balfour Declaration has contributed to the ensuing decades of unresolved conflict between Arabs and Jews throughout the Middle East.

The Socialist International has long considered that a just and durable resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict is a prerequisite for regional peace in the Middle East, and this requires that all the rights – civil, religious *and* political – of the Palestinian people be upheld. This is only achievable with the full international recognition of an independent Palestinian state, living peacefully side by side with Israel, on the June 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. This has been reflected on numerous occasions in positions adopted by the Socialist International, with the support of its Israeli and Palestinian member parties, underlining the right to statehood of the Palestinian people. The Socialist International has equally agreed that any member party of the organisation that is a member of its national government should ensure its recognition of the State of Palestine.

To date, although 136 of the 193 UN member states have now recognised the State of Palestine, it holds the status in the UN of "observer non-member state". It is high time for the entire international community and the United Nations to take decisive and courageous actions, giving not only their long overdue full and unconditional recognition to the State of Palestine, but also the support necessary to ensure the viability of that state becomes a tangible reality. Only on this basis can peace and security in a two-state solution between two sovereign and democratic states with equal status be achieved.



Latin America and the Caribbean

Meeting of the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean

3-4 November 2017



The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean convened in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 3-4 November, hosted by the SI member party in that country, the PRD. On the occasion, twenty parties of the social democratic family from that region shared their views on the priorities of the continental agenda, the challenges their democracies face and their national situations. Being its first meeting after the SI Congress in Cartagena, the Committee also had to elect its authorities for the current period.

Opening the meeting, the leader of the host party and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, Miguel Vargas, thanked all those present and shared with them what, in his opinion, were the main challenges for the progressive political forces in Latin America and the Caribbean ([see his full speech](#)).

The SI Secretary General, responding to the words of Vargas, thanked the PRD and its president for their warm welcome, highlighting the long-lasting and strong relationship that exists with Dominican Republic since the days when José Francisco Peña Gómez established this relation between his party and the SI. At the same time, he thanked Miguel Vargas for the life and dynamism that he has given to the Committee during his term as Chair these last years. Luis Ayala expressed his satisfaction at the results obtained in the last meetings of the International: during the first half of this year, on the occasion of the Congress in Colombia, there was the opportunity to express our solidarity with the peace process underway in that country, in the presence of its President and Nobel Peace Prize winner and the colleagues of the Liberal Party; in the middle of the year, the organisation celebrated its Council at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York with the participation of the UN Secretary-General António Guterres; and now towards the end of the year, the Council in Barcelona will

offer the organisation the opportunity to close a year of activities relevant to the International together with the colleagues of the PSOE and its leader and SI Vice-President, Pedro Sánchez. It has been a time of challenges and accomplishments in different parts of the world. A quick look, said the Secretary General, shows that the International is very active and very present worldwide. The organisation keeps its commitments alive, such as the struggle for peace, which was in evidence with the declaration issued the previous day on the occasion of the centenary of the Balfour Declaration, to which are added new challenges of great importance.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, Luis Ayala pointed out that for more than three decades, the SI and its member parties have been the architects of the recovery of democracy. Today the dictatorships of times past no longer exist thanks to the efforts of so many in our own parties, but we must act in the face of the critical situation in Venezuela, a country where today there are political prisoners and where the rules and institutions of democracy are not respected; we must face the attempts of President Morales to stay indefinitely in power in Bolivia; the restrictions imposed by President Cartes on the political life of leaders such as the leader of our member party in Paraguay, Rafael Filizzola; or the threats of the judicialisation of politics in Guatemala, which are challenges for the democracies in the region where the SI is closely engaged. The extreme inequality, the challenges for Latin America and the Caribbean in the world economy, migration, the role of the State in promoting a fair and equitable growth, are important challenges in which the SI is and will continue to be present. Referring to the struggle for respect for the environment, the Secretary General recalled with indignation the assassination of the Honduran activist Berta Cáceres, a fact about which, only a few days ago in the report of an international group, it came to light that it was instigated by an electricity company and perpetrated with the participation of agents of the State. For this very reason, the Secretary General said in his conclusion, the work of the SI in this region is crucial and its agenda is ambitious.

The Committee then proceeded to unanimously re-elect Miguel Vargas as its Chair and decided to postpone to the second day of the meeting the election of its vice-chairs, nominating a special Commission composed of the Vice-Presidents Sandra Torres (UNE, Guatemala), Rafael Michelini (NE, Uruguay) and Bernal Jiménez (PLN, Costa Rica), with the mandate to propose to the Committee the criteria for the election that the proposed candidates should comply with.

During the first day of the proceedings, interventions were heard from Bernal Jiménez (PLN, Costa Rica), SI Vice-President, who put the emphasis on the role of education as the engine of economic development and on increased equality and good financing of public activity via fiscal and taxation policy. The challenge for achieving these priorities is eminently political more than technical, he said. Claudio Vásquez (PPD, Chile), highlighted that social democratic policies in the region should ensure the basic rights of all citizens, distinguishing different levels of action among which, in his opinion, the municipal sphere has a great importance, as well as the decisive fight against corruption. Julian Robinson (PNP, Jamaica), underlined the need to ensure the political social democratic identity, which is not always evident when measures are implemented that are also advocated by the political forces of centre and even those of the right, putting a special emphasis on the importance of political education. Francisco Rosales (FSLN, Nicaragua) emphasised that the achievement of a fair distribution is still a challenge for the social democratic forces, which must promote participative and inclusive democracies and when policies of alliances become necessary in the region, these should not take into consideration the forces of the right as has been the case in Europe.

Edgard Giménez (PDP, Paraguay), also advocated for the reaffirmation of the political identity of the parties that are members of the SI in order to achieve the longed-for objectives

such as the SDGs with a view to 2030. Marcelo Stubrín (UCR, Argentina), pointed out that the region lives the paradox of an increasing inequality even though poverty has decreased, he also mentioned his concern at the low quality of the institutions and their weakness to confront corruption and organised crime. He underlined the importance of collaboration among the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean to look for global responses to local problems. Rafael Michelini (NE, Uruguay), Vice-President of the SI, underlined the importance of the fight against corruption, mentioning the situation of the recent resignation of the vice-president of his country for having used an institutional credit card for minor personal expenses. José Murat (PRI, México) stressed that in order to fight against corruption and impunity, it is necessary to have a solid ideology and coherence with the principles that inspire us, the socialist thought at its origin, in his opinion, can be summarised as the search to have access to cultural goods and happiness for all, and with this idea in mind our movement must confront the different local, national, regional and global challenges.

Rubén Berríos (PIP, Puerto Rico), SI Honorary President, shared with those present the devastation caused in his country by the Hurricane Maria, pointing out that after many weeks a great part of the island is still without electricity or drinking water, in his opinion this natural catastrophe could have as a consequence the population questioning the efficiency of the colonial administration of the United States and the mood for independence recovering its momentum. Sandra Torres (UNE, Guatemala), welcomed the presence of women at the meeting and called them to actively participate in the debates; referring to the political situation in her country, she expressed her concern at the growing importance that has acquired these last years the so-called “civil society” in Guatemala and shared with the Committee her apprehension with regard to their interests, their agenda and the attempt to substitute political parties in public activities; the political parties have to be permanently strengthened; she underlined the risks involved in the judicialisation of the political activity and the election of candidates who are presented as not being in this situation but who are in no condition to carry out the basic tasks of government, as is the case of President Jimmy Morales in her country; she finished her intervention saying that her party, already in existence for 15 years, is today the main force nationally, a fact that allows her to look with optimism towards the future electoral challenges.

Francisco Aramayo (UN, Bolivia), told the Committee about the apprehensions of the opposition political forces in his country at the actions of President Evo Morales and his party MAS, who are searching, via the Constitutional Court, for ways to ignore the impediment for the President to present himself for re-election to a new consecutive period, disregarding not only the expressed text of the Constitution but also the result of the referendum of February 2016. Manoel Dias (PDT, Brasil), shared with the Committee the concerns of his party at the recent measures adopted by the government of President Temer, which go contrary to the realisations and achievements of the previous administrations of Presidents Lula and Rousseff; his party, he said, has come out well from the general wave of accusations of corruption in Brazilian politics, and his leader, Ciro Gómez, is highly valued by the population and is an option for the presidential elections next year. Víctor Benoit (FSD, Haiti), adding to the comments already heard in relation to Guatemala, affirmed that the situation is very similar to the one in his country where they live under the presidency of an outsider who clearly lacks the skills and the competence to lead the nation and is adopting bad measures and deficient public policies.

Pedro Neira (PRSD, Chile), explained that the coming elections in Chile, Honduras, Costa Rica and Colombia, to name but a few of the countries of the region that will hold elections during the next months, give a special feeling to meetings of this political family in which experiences are exchanged; he also addressed the issue of parliamentary diplomacy, mentioning that the deputy of his party Fernando Meza, has assumed for one year the presidency of the Andean Parliament and could be interested in working with legislators of

the Central American Parliament. Ricardo Sancho (PLN, Costa Rica), expressed that his party is well positioned with a view to the elections on 4 February next year; he also noted the interest in sharing in these meetings common experiences and good practices implemented by the different parties, in the Costa Rican case, he adds, there is a rich heritage in matters relating to environmental measures and climate change.

On the second day of the meeting the report of the Commission established to propose vice-chairs for the Committee was presented. Rafael Michelini, on behalf of the Commission, presented a proposal containing as the guiding criteria for the election, in accordance with the statutes and the practice of the SI, the following: prioritization (a maximum of a total of three vice-chairs for the Committee); gender parity; regional parity and representativeness (priority to be given to candidatures of countries and parties who do not have other authorities in the SI). The proposal of the Commission gave rise to a rich and interesting debate in which almost all the delegates took part. Finally, the proposal was approved. The Commission expressed that, taking into consideration the candidatures presented in a timely manner and the criteria just approved, the Commission proposed the following persons as vice-chairs: Rafael Filizzola (PDP, Paraguay), Francisco Rosales (FSLN, Nicaragua); and Eyra Ruiz (PRD, Panamá). The Committee ratified the proposal of the Commission.

The morning concluded with presentations of reports on national situations from Peru, Panama, Guatemala and Costa Rica.

Before the conclusion of the meeting, the Committee discussed and adopted declarations on Bolivia, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico and Venezuela.



Meeting of the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. 3-4 November 2017

Declaration on Bolivia

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, meeting in Santo Domingo on 3-4 November 2017, addressed the serious situation affecting democracy in Bolivia due to the actions carried out by the party in government, *Movimiento al Socialismo* (MAS), that threatens to cause a breakdown of the constitutional order with unpredictable consequences.

The party in government (MAS) has submitted to the Plurinational Constitutional Court an action of abstract appeal of unconstitutionality, with a view to having the Court declare the non-applicability of four articles of the Bolivian Constitution, in order to legalise the indefinite re-nomination of President Evo Morales to the presidency.

On 21 February 2016, the Bolivian people rejected by referendum the attempt by the Legislative Assembly to modify Article 168 of the Political Constitution of the State that establishes that the president can only be re-elected for one consecutive mandate, a result which expresses the sovereign decision of the Bolivian people to reject a fourth re-run by the president.

As stated by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) referring to the situation in Bolivia, no judge can ignore the opinion of the only sovereign: the people.

The SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean expresses its concern at the above-mentioned actions promoted by the party in government and calls on President Morales to respect the result of the referendum of February 2016.

Meeting of the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 3-4 November 2017

Resolution in support of the FSLN and the people of Nicaragua

Original: Spanish

Considering that the people of the United States of North America and the people of Nicaragua have always maintained links of friendship and a close relationship over and above any political disagreement:

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean rejects and condemns any interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua, as it constitutes a flagrant violation of the Principle of Non-Intervention and Self-Determination of the People. Therefore, it calls on the members of Congress, and the North American Senate in particular, to interrupt the process of Nica Act law, because it would violate the independence and sovereignty of Nicaragua.

Ultra-conservative sectors aim to promote the Nica Act law in the North American Congress, whose objective is to make representatives of the Government of the USA in multilateral financial organisations vote against applications for credit from Nicaragua. This would convert cooperation and these international organisations into an instrument of their interventionist policy which violates the rights of the Nicaraguan people to their development, because it is a real denial of the political, social, cultural and economic processes that are currently underway in Nicaragua to improve the lives of all the citizens and to promote peace, happiness, harmony and the wellbeing of all Nicaraguans; therefore, under the pretext of freedom, respect for human rights and the rule of law, what the Nica Act intends is their denial.

The Committee also calls on the member parties of the Socialist International with a dedication to peace and democracy, to stand in solidarity with the people of Nicaragua and their government in their fight against extreme poverty, poverty and unemployment.

DECLARATION ON PUERTO RICO

Original: Spanish

The SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean expresses its solidarity with the people of Puerto Rico over the devastation caused by the Hurricane Maria.

Added to the physical, economic and social devastation in Puerto Rico, already suffering more than ten consecutive years of economic and demographic contraction, is added the intensification of the colonial domination by the US Congress via the so-called Financial Oversight and Management Board imposed by the United States Congress.

The crisis unleashed by the hurricane has served to underline and expose the enormous economic, social and institutional decomposition into which colonialism has plunged Puerto Rico.

The Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, in harmony with the many expressions of the Socialist International for more than thirty years, as in the resolutions of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization, reiterates its call to the United States government to promote a consensual mechanism that allows the people of Puerto Rico to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, and to set in motion a process that makes possible the urgent political and economic decolonization of Puerto Rico.

The people of Puerto Rico have already expressed themselves strongly in favor of ending the existing relationship of political subordination; it is now up to the United States to discharge its decolonization responsibilities without delay in accordance with international law.

Meeting of the Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 3-4 November 2017

Resolution on the political situation in Venezuela

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, meeting in Santo Domingo on 3-4 November 2017, makes the following appeal to the government of Venezuela in order to find a solution to the political crisis:

1. To immediately release the political prisoners and ensure the respect to the human rights of all Venezuelan to create the conditions for finding ways that lead to a satisfactory solution of the political crisis;
2. To respect the National Assembly and all its members in the performance of their duties. To respect the separation of powers established in the Constitution, the Rule of Law and the democratic principles;
3. To ensure that the presidential elections due in 2018 are free and fair, under the direction of an electoral authority that guarantees its full credibility, together with effective international observers. The legitimacy and independence of the electoral authority are essential elements to express and respect the sovereign will of the Venezuelan people;
4. The Committee offers its full support to President Danilo Medina and to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Miguel Vargas in their efforts in favour of peace in Venezuela by means of a process of dialogue between the government and the opposition in that country which will allow a democratic, peaceful and definitive outcome.



In Memoriam



**Salifou Diallo
President of the MPP,
Burkina Faso
9 May 1957 – 19 August 2017**



**Jalal Talabani
President of Iraq
Founder and Secretary General
of the PUK, Iraq
SI Honorary Vice-President
12 November 1933 –
3 October 2017**

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL
FROM THE NEW YORK COUNCIL IN JULY TO THE BARCELONA COUNCIL IN NOVEMBER 2017

July 2017

SI Council meeting at the United Nations in New York

August

Participation at the Congress of the PRI, Mexico

Observation of the presidential and parliamentary elections in Angola

September

Participation in the Congress of ETTAKATOL, Tunisia

Meeting of the SI Presidium and Heads of State and Government at the United Nations in New York during the High Level Segment of the General Assembly

Attendance at the inauguration of the new President of Angola, HE João Lourenço

Participation in the Congress of Frelimo, Mozambique

October

Attendance at the State funeral ceremony in honour of Jalal Talabani in Baghdad

Meeting with HE the President of Iraq, Fuad Masum

Participation in the 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in St Petersburg

Meeting of parliamentarians from SI member parties at the IPU Assembly in St. Petersburg

November

Meeting of the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Dominican Republic

Presidential and parliamentary elections in Chile

