



**Activities and Statements
Of the Socialist International**

**from the Mexico Council in June 2014
to the Geneva Council in December 2014**

MEXICO CITY

30 June-01 July 2014

IMAGES (77)

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COUNCIL

SI Council Meeting in Mexico City

30 JUNE-01 JULY 2014



The first Council meeting of the Socialist International of 2014 took place on 30 June-1 July in Mexico City, hosted by the organisation's two member parties in Mexico, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD). Leaders and representatives from member parties and organisations gathered to discuss the main themes on the agenda of the Council: "Our priorities in the global economy", "Our efforts for peace and the resolution of conflicts", "Our work to strengthen and deepen democracy", and "Defining an SI Charter for migrants".

The Secretary General of the Socialist International, Luis Ayala, welcomed participants and thanked both host parties. [Opening the meeting](#), he referred to the presence throughout Mexico's history of large social movements for justice and freedom. Today our two parties were carrying forward these values, which are shared by and define our global social democratic movement. The meeting was taking place at a time of multiple global challenges – on the economy, democracy, peace in a world of increasing conflicts, and migrations – which the Council would discuss and debate.

Leaders of both host parties delivered introductory speeches at the opening of the meeting and welcomed delegates to Mexico.

César Camacho (PRI) outlined in his [address](#), the virtues of social democracy and the commitment of the PRI to the shared values of the Socialist International, in particular the desire of the government of Mexico to tackle inequality and social injustice. He wished delegates success in their deliberations and work over the two days of the Council and extended a warm and friendly welcome.

In his [speech](#), Jesús Zambrano Grijalva (PRD) referred to the contribution to democracy, stability and governability by the left in Mexico and the goal of a society of rights and social equality. The global left, he added, stood for economic, social and civil rights, in particular women's rights. He reiterated the sense of belonging felt by the PRD in the great family of the Socialist International.

In his [opening address](#), SI President George Papandreou warmly thanked both host parties for their generous hospitality and committed participation in the work of the SI. His speech focused on the issue of growing inequality against which the global social democratic movement had long struggled. To combat this, he added, global governance was necessary to implement rules and regulations restoring the basis of equity and democracy. He announced that a new SI Commission on Equality would be launched this autumn, bringing this crucial issue to the forefront of the global political debate.

Under the first main theme, delegates presented their perspectives on the priorities of the International in the global economy. A number of keynote speeches were delivered, which provided the framework for the interventions to follow ([List of speakers](#)). Four key priorities featured heavily in discussions – tackling inequality, battling corruption and financial deregulation, making positive use of big data and protecting the

environment – and formed the framework of a [declaration on priorities in the global economy](#) later adopted by the Council. A further [statement](#) was also adopted in solidarity with Argentina in relation to the restructuring of that country's foreign debt.

During the first day of the meeting, delegates attended a lunch hosted by the Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs, José Antonio Meade Kuribreña. In a [speech](#) to participants attending the Council, he reflected on the role of Mexico in world affairs and the efforts of the government of President Peña Nieto for peace, inclusiveness, education and prosperity. That evening Council participants visited the Academy of San Carlos, where they were hosted and [addressed](#) by José Narro Robles, Rector of the largest university in Mexico, the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM).

Contributions to the discussion on the second main theme, “Our efforts for peace and the resolution of conflicts” highlighted the many active conflicts in the world in need of decisive action to bring an end to the death and suffering we are witnessing along with political instability in different regions of the world. A number of speakers conveyed their alarm and condemnation at recent events in Iraq, where widespread acts of terror threaten the very integrity of the state. A [declaration on the insurgency in Iraq](#) rejected the creation of an Islamic caliphate and called for a government of national unity with the representation of all the diverse groups within Iraqi society, recognising that the freedoms of all need to be respected. It expressed the solidarity of the SI with its member party in Iraq, the PUK, and with the Kurdish people who are in the front line of the battle against extremist insurgency, urging that the Kurdish people be granted their rightful voice in any discussions on the future of Iraq.

Contributions were also heard from the SI member parties in Ukraine and Russian Federation on the ongoing crisis, underscoring the role played by the SI as a forum for constructive discussions. It was agreed that the SI Committee for the CIS, the Caucasus and the Black Sea would return to the examination of this subject in a meeting to be convened shortly.

The Secretary General announced that preparations were underway, in contact with the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/SPLA) government and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition (SPLM/A-IO), and representatives of the Ethiopian government who had been heading talks between both, for the visit of an SI delegation to South Sudan to encourage both sides to end hostilities, which are in danger of escalation, leading to further violence and famine. Equally, he reported on contacts made with the President of the Central African Republic, and other political actors in that country, for a Mission of the Socialist International to CAR to engage in discussions on how to contribute to the end of that conflict.

Regarding Western Sahara, the Council recalled the Council resolution on this issue adopted in Cascais, Portugal, and endorsed the proposal of the Secretary General that the mission to the region previously agreed by the SI Mediterranean Committee would be carried out as early as possible and report to the next Council meeting. Should that prove difficult within the timeframe between now and the next Council, then the SI President and Secretary General would undertake such a visit.

A further [resolution](#) in support of the peace process in Colombia was adopted by the Council.

The work of the Socialist International on democracy has been a fundamental pillar of the organisation throughout its existence. Contributions on the main theme of “Our work to strengthen and deepen democracy” ([List of speakers](#)) recognised the historical contribution of the SI in this regard and reflected the deep belief by all its member parties in the need for effective, accountable and functioning democracies. Delegates spoke on democratic successes achieved by SI member parties working in difficult conditions, but also on the severe challenges to democracy faced by many social democrats in countries such as Mauritania, whose leader was a key-note speaker on this subject. Nowhere is the need for true democracy more keenly felt than in the Arab world, and this was reflected in a [declaration](#) adopted by the Council.

In regard to the current situation in Venezuela, the Council endorsed the resolution on [Venezuela](#) adopted by the Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean at its recent [meeting](#) in the Dominican Republic.

A [declaration on Puerto Rico](#) was also adopted by the Council.

The issue of migrations was the next item on the agenda, and specifically the definition of an SI charter for migrants, a task which the International had undertaken. The subject was introduced by the chair of the SI Migrations Committee, Habib el Malki (Morocco, USFP) who reported on the discussions held at its recent meeting in Tangiers. Further contributions were heard by delegates ([List of speakers](#)) from countries where the question of migration is particularly significant, such as Mexico and Guatemala, who presented their proposals for key elements that would make up the SI charter and other urgent aspects affecting migrants in their countries.

At the conclusion of the discussions on migrations, the Council adopted a [declaration on family reunification](#), treating the tragic cases of migrant children from Mexico and Central America who have been separated from their families.

The chair of the SI Ethics Committee, Gilles Mahieu (Belgium, PS), reported on the decisions on admission of new members and changes in membership status proposed by the committee. The Council accepted the proposal that the Republican Turkish Party (CTP), Cyprus be upgraded to full membership of the SI. Equally, the Council accepted the proposal for the reinstatement of consultative status for the Social Democratic Party of Azerbaijan (SDPA). Of the new applications for membership, the Council accepted the recommendation of the Ethics Committee to grant consultative status to the People's United Party (PUP) of Belize, the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), and the People's Harmony Party of Latvia. The Committee's proposal for observer status was accepted by the Council for the National Union for the Development and Renewal (UNDR) of Chad, the Lesotho Congress for Democracy (LCD) and the Swazi Democratic Party (SWADEPA). All decisions are due to be ratified by the next congress, in accordance with the statutes. The Committee would continue its examination of the many other applications for membership which are outstanding and agreed to re-convene for a one-day meeting in London in the autumn of this year.

Maurice Poler, co-chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, SIFAC, (Venezuela, AD) reported on the current financial position of the organisation, the audited accounts for 2013 and the discussions and decisions of the Committee. Proposals were made for sanctions to be taken against member parties with outstanding membership fees. Parties that have not paid membership fees for three or more years due to financial difficulties will be given the opportunity to enter into a payment agreement. Those that do not make this commitment will be informed that they will cease to be members of the Socialist International at the next Council meeting. The report of the committee was accepted by the Council, which also adopted the audited accounts of the SI for 2013.

The Secretary General, reporting briefly on the activities of the organisation since the last Council meeting in Istanbul, said that despite the financial constraints of the past year due to the late or non-payment of membership fees, the International had managed to continue with an intense programme of activities thanks to the enthusiasm and commitment of so many in our movement. This had been reflected in different parts of the world where the SI has been present, in the regional meetings of our International, in our presence in places of conflict, at meetings of our member parties, in our thematic and statutory committees, meetings of parliamentarians, election observation, and other initiatives organised by our International. Close to thirty different activities had been carried out globally since our last Council, following on from the sixty carried out during the previous year.

Concluding the meeting, the President thanked all delegates for their constructive participation and the common agreements reached. The SI was well placed, as our history has shown, to bring parties together and create dialogue where others couldn't because we share common values. He recalled the words of the rector of UNAM the day before, in that our generation, both the young and the old, have an enormous responsibility to humanity because the challenges we face today have no historical precedence. Paradoxically, we have the means, resources, know-how and human capacity to resolve these problems but it required political decisions and practicing real democracy. This depended on all of us individually and collectively and in the SI we are committed to continue working together to achieve our shared goals. On behalf of all participants, he sincerely thanked the host parties for their warm welcome and for providing the conditions for an excellent meeting.

[List of participants](#)

[Minutes of the meeting of the Council](#)

[***Press coverage of the meeting***](#)

Meeting of the Council of the Socialist International
Mexico City, 30 June – 1 July 2014

DECLARATION ON PRIORITIES IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

The financial crash of 2008 continues to be felt around the world. Meeting in Mexico City on 30 June-1 July 2014, the Council of the Socialist International discussed the key priorities of the global social democratic movement, and identified four key issues common to all societies and nations today.

Inequality

First, the increasing inequality in the global economy must be addressed. For far too long the success or failure of a country's economy has been measured in terms of GDP, without recognising relative wealth and distribution of economic growth across all income levels. This has been largely due to the now discredited notion that 'a rising tide lifts all boats', and that economic growth will benefit all. What we have consistently seen over the last 30 years is that economic growth can in fact exacerbate existing inequalities in society, doing very little for those in most need of increased incomes. This has become even more evident since the financial crisis, as more than 90 per cent of income increases have gone to the top one per cent.

In order to build more prosperous, egalitarian societies—where the needs of all citizens are met—we need measures other than GDP such as the Gini coefficient raised to a status equivalent to GDP that will ensure that the public's attention is drawn to the ways wealth is concentrated in the hands of the few, and so that we create economic policies that reduce inequality while enhancing growth. Making sure that governments publish their Gini coefficient annually alongside GDP and other economic indicators and of decent work in accordance with the ILO indicators will let citizens judge governments on their success in tackling inequality, thereby encouraging politicians to fulfil their democratic obligations.

On a political level, increasing inequality has allowed the ugly politics of anger and reaction to gain strength. Disaffection with 'business as usual' has manifested itself in powerful grassroots movements, but also enabled populist and extremist 'anti-system' parties to increase their support. We know that the politics of marginalisation and division cannot provide solutions to the global economic difficulties. Pitting different sectors of society against one another will only serve to deepen problems, and is fundamentally at odds with the basic values of equal rights, freedoms and opportunities for all. In order to deepen and strengthen the work of the Socialist International on inequality, a Special Commission of the SI will be established in order to further study the problem and come up with proposals.

Corruption and Financial Deregulation

Tackling corruption and pursuing those engaged in corrupt behaviour with persistence and vigour is also a priority in the global economy. Corruption is a cancer that eats away at our societies, and the global financial collapse of 2008 laid bare the extent to which the world of finance had become corrupted. The reckless behaviour of financial institutions and their risk-taking in the derivatives markets perpetuated the crash, while the exposure of LIBOR fixing and money laundering by prominent financial institutions has only added to the public's distrust and the fundamental instability of the system has not been

solved. The SI stands for regulation of capital flows and financial institutions at a supranational and national level.

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Corruption must also be tackled at a political level. Corruption not only prevents good governance but also results in needless waste and inefficiency, because both its existence and the perception of it taint the political process and result in a loss of faith in the parties and systems by which our societies are governed.

Big data

We are now irreversibly in the age of big data, and there is much justified concern about mass surveillance and the inherent threat to privacy posed by the seemingly unfettered access that governments and corporations have to personal data. The Socialist International remains firmly opposed to unregulated invasion of personal privacy exposed by global surveillance disclosures over the last year.

The power of big data is undeniable, but it can also be harnessed for democratic accountability, especially for fighting corruption and tax enforcement. Effective monitoring of financial transactions and government spending could counter public fears of corruption in the political system. The scourge of tax avoidance and its impact on the ability of governments to balance their budgets in fact could be counteracted by the targeted use of big data for more effective collection of fiscal revenues. The ability to combat transfer pricing through base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) could also eliminate the use of offshore tax havens, and better enforce tax collection from the richest in society. National states also need the power to enact measures to control the financial power of transnational capital.

Environment

Human development is inflicting irreversible damage on the planet we all inhabit at a staggering rate, as the SI has repeatedly highlighted through the work of its Commission on Climate Change. The market economy has been proven consistently ineffective in the regulation of unsustainable demand, because neoclassical economics cannot account for severely diminishing returns.

The lack of action to date has made the situation drastic as far as climate change is concerned. Yet the solution could be beneficial both for the long-term survival of the planet and the global economy. The implementation of a global infrastructure project focused on transition to a post-carbon economy, coordinated at a high level, would be extremely effective in limiting long-term emissions and combatting climate change, and could be a source of well-paid, decent employment for decades to come.

Our priorities in the global economy do not exist dependent of each other but are deeply intertwined. Action in all these areas can lead to a virtuous circle, whereby investment in a global green infrastructure can create sustainable, well-paid, decent jobs that benefit more than the top one per cent and reduce inequality in society. Reducing inequality could in turn lead to a reduction in dependence on GDP as an isolated measure of economic success and a situation in which governments are more accountable to citizens. This accountability could in turn expand the uses of big data and thereby more effectively target tax evasion and fight corruption. The tackling of corruption will not only be economically beneficial, but also a means of combatting the vested interests that corrupt political parties and governments and have proved such an effective barrier to ambitious action on climate change.

Meeting of the Council of the Socialist International

Mexico City, 30 June – 1 July 2014

DECLARATION

INSURGENCY IN IRAQ

The recent terrorist insurgency that has swept through Iraq is a grave concern to the Socialist International and must urgently be brought to an end. Reports of mass killings and executions of unarmed prisoners have horrified our movement and have no justification under any circumstances. The Council of the Socialist International condemns without reservation the actions of the insurgent group Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), which is responsible for the recent heinous acts perpetrated in Iraq and Syria. The troubling events of the past weeks are bringing more instability to a region in need of security and democracy. Our sympathies are with the many innocent civilians who have been the victims of violence and terror, including Turkish diplomats and their families who were kidnapped by militants in Mosul.

The traumatic events of recent weeks have destabilised the governmental structure and federal government of Iraq. The Socialist International rejects the creation of an Islamic caliphate and supports calls for a government of national unity in Iraq, with the representation of all the diverse groups within Iraqi society, to search for a common way forward that protects the interest of all Iraqis, recognising the necessity that the freedoms of all groups are respected. Without guarantees of pluralism based on equal rights for all, space is created for sectarian division and extremism to grow, and it is the innocent citizens of Iraq who are suffering as a result of these divisions. The SI expresses its solidarity with its member party in Iraq, the PUK, and with the Kurdish people who are on the front line of the battle against Iraq's extremist insurgency and urges that the Kurdish people are granted their rightful voice in any discussions on the future of Iraq.

Meeting of the Council of the Socialist International

Mexico City, 30 June – 1 July 2014

DECLARATION ON THE PEACE PROCESS IN COLOMBIA

Original: Spanish

The World Council of the Socialist International, meeting in Mexico City on 30 June-1 July 2014, has addressed among the themes of its agenda the efforts of the organization to achieve peace in open conflicts. In this respect, the SI has decided to express its unequivocal support to the peace process with which Colombia searches to put an end to half a century of conflict and insurgency of the FARC.

The Socialist International calls for progress in the Peace Dialogues that have been carried out in Havana since November 2012 and trusts that these may continue to bear fruit. The International views with optimism how important agreements have been achieved to date in matters of agrarian development, political participation and the end of links with drug trafficking, and recalls that other issues of greatest importance are still pending, such as accepting responsibility in front of the victims of the conflict, and ultimately demobilization.

The International will follow with special interest the forthcoming participation of the representatives of the victims in the Dialogues for Peace and reiterates its solidarity with them. The International shares the recent declarations of the negotiators of the Colombian government and of the FARC, who in opening the way for the victims to integrate themselves into the peace process, expressed that a plural and balanced representation would be ensured for them and for the different acts of victimisation, with gender violence having a special significance. Truth, justice, reparation and non-repetition are rights and guarantees for all Colombians who have been suffering the conflict for generations.

The Socialist International supports the Colombian society and their current demands to policy-makers and social leaders for a prompt and successful conclusion of the Peace Dialogues, and will continue to support them in the construction of a post-conflict country which will effectively build peace and allow for conditions of more justice, inclusion, wellbeing and security for all Colombians.

Meeting of the Council of the Socialist International

Mexico City, 30 June – 1 July 2014

DECLARATION**DEMOCRACY IN THE ARAB WORLD**

Since the last Council we have seen the promulgation of a new constitution and presidential elections in Egypt. Nonetheless, the SI continues to be concerned by the lack of rights and freedoms in that country and the far-reaching powers granted to the military under the new constitution. In order for Egypt to flourish we call upon the new regime to allow for a broad discourse with the participation of all political organisations, acting as genuine democrats in allowing opposition and debate without restriction or persecution.

The Socialist International rejects the protest law, which has been used to restrict rights to peaceful demonstration and freedom of expression. Similarly, the recent imprisonment of journalists in Egypt is completely unacceptable and condemned by the Socialist International. Freedom of the press is a fundamental pillar of a functioning democracy and we will always stand against such persecution.

In recent months we have been encouraged by the agreement in Yemen of an institutional framework for a unified state on the basis of federalism and democracy. This process gives hope for a durable peace in a nation that has suffered many years of repression, bitterness, division and violence, showing that there is an alternative path to the atrocities recently witnessed in Iraq and Syria. Across the Middle East and North Africa the SI stands shoulder to shoulder with democrats who share our values of freedom of religion, equal rights and decent living standards for all.

In Syria, extremists have been strengthened by the oppression and authoritarianism of the regime, and benefited from the chaos and disorder resulting from the civil war in the country, which has now claimed the lives of over 160,000 people. The SI has from the beginning of the protests and uprising in Syria been on the side of those wishing to bring democracy and peace to their country, and the international community needs to support those democrats to overcome the repression and authoritarianism of the regime and the murder and terror perpetrated by fundamentalist extremists.

The only viable way forward for Syria is a diplomatic solution to the conflict, removing the power vacuum within which organisations such as ISIS are able to freely operate. The Council therefore reiterates its calls for the installation of a transitional government to pave the way for democracy, with respect for the rights and freedoms of all minorities in Syria.

The ongoing conflict in Syria and latest developments in Iraq have dramatic consequences for Jordan, a key country for stability and the progress of democracy in the broader region. Jordan is hosting more than a million refugees. With the assistance of the UNHCR, approximately 20 per cent of the refugees are living in camps, but the rest are being hosted by communities mostly in the north of the country, a situation that puts a very big burden on existing infrastructures as well as the education and health

system. Moreover, taking into account the actual situation in Syria and the level of destruction of the country, a large number of refugees will not be able to return to their homes in the near future.

To address this humanitarian issue, the international community needs to substantially increase its support to Jordan, as well as humanitarian organisations working in Lebanon, where the influx of refugees needs to be addressed in a manner which protects their basic needs and promotes stability in the country. Taking also into account that nine to ten million people inside Syria are in need of humanitarian assistance it is extremely important to secure the implementation of Security Council Resolution 2139 of the United Nations.

**MEETING OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**
Dominican Republic, 9-10 May 2014

RESOLUTION ON VENEZUELA

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in the Dominican Republic 9 and 10 May 2014, in light of the serious political, social and economic crisis affecting Venezuela and concerned by the allegations of violations of human rights in recent months,

RESOLVES

- To demand the release of all students and political prisoners, the return of those exiled, and the cessation of political persecution, guaranteeing the life and integrity of all citizens.
 - To support the dialogue initiated on 10 April 2014 between the government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the representatives of the opposition Mesa de Unidad Democrática (MUD), facilitated by the international community through the Apostolic Nuncio, representative of the Vatican and Dean of the diplomatic corps accredited in the country, and the foreign ministers from UNASUR, as agreed by both sides. The Committee also hopes that this dialogue will produce early results so that the political, social and economic situation of Venezuela can be normalized, bearing in mind that since 12 February the country has been subjected to great tensions, protest demonstrations and acts of violence with a deplorable number of dead, wounded and jailed and extensive damage to public and private property.
 - To support the creation of an Independent Truth Commission to investigate the events that have taken place since 12 February this year, in cooperation with the United Nations Human Rights Council.
 - To support the disarmament of armed groups, as an essential measure for peace.
 - To support the renewal, in accordance with the Constitution, of the expired public authorities, which are: the National Electoral Council, the Supreme Court of Justice and the Office of the Comptroller-General of the Republic.
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Meeting of the Council of the Socialist International
Mexico City, 30 June – 1 July 2014

DECLARATION ON PUERTO RICO

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International has been consistent in its solidarity with the cause of decolonisation and independence of Puerto Rico dating from the SI Congress in Albufeira in 1983 under the presidency of Willy Brandt until as recently as 23 June of this year when, in accordance with the decision taken at the Istanbul Council, the SI President, George Papandreou, appeared before the Special Committee on Decolonisation of the United Nations in support of a Resolution on Puerto Rico which was later unanimously adopted by this Special Committee.

This Resolution of the Special Committee on Decolonisation, after defining the current condition of Puerto Rico as one of political subordination and reaffirming its inalienable right to self-determination and independence, urges the United States to encourage a process that will permit Puerto Rico to fully exercise this right, and requests the General Assembly of the United Nations to examine the Puerto Rican case. The adopted Resolution, like the words of President Papandreou, also requests President Obama to release the independentist patriot Oscar López, who has been jailed by the United States government for 33 years for a crime of “seditious conspiracy”.

This Resolution of the Decolonisation Committee notes with satisfaction the three paragraphs concerning the theme of Puerto Rico and decolonization that were adopted in January 2014 by the most recent Summit of the American States and Caribbean Community (CELAC). This Resolution, insisting that Puerto Rico was born as a Latin American nation and by its political condition, according to the resolutions of the Decolonisation Committee, is a matter of interest for CELAC. The commitment to promote the end of colonialism in Latin America and the Caribbean is set out within the context of Resolution 1514 (XV) of the UN General Assembly. This General Assembly Resolution declaring the inalienable right to self-determination and independence of the peoples, known as the Magna Carta of decolonisation, is the one that the Special Committee on Decolonisation affirms is applicable to the Puerto Rican case.

Furthermore, it must be remembered that in the vote taken in November 2012 in Puerto Rico, an absolute majority of the Puerto Rican electorate gave a strong expression of rejection to the current condition of political subordination. It is now up to the United States Congress and government to feel compelled by Puerto Rico and by the international community to comply with their decolonisation obligations, collaborating with the Puerto Rican People so that they can finally vote between decolonising alternatives previously negotiated among the parties.

In view of these important developments, and particularly in moments when the political insolvency of the colonial regime has led to the collapse of its economy and the fiscal insolvency of its government, urgent new initiatives are needed in support of the vocation of the Puerto Rican People for their full decolonization.

The Socialist International, aware of its political responsibility and historical solidarity with the cause of decolonisation in general, and with Puerto Rico in particular, consequently agrees: the

creation of an SI Special Working Group to become the driving force of a concerted action necessary to achieve the adopted goals of the SI, CELAC and the Special Committee for Decolonisation, and ultimately to achieve the examination of the colonial case of Puerto Rico by the United Nations General Assembly in view of the Resolution 1514 (XV). Such examination and the diplomatic process that will necessarily precede it, will be a crucial and decisive contribution to the efforts intending to get the United States to recognize the need to set in motion a collaborative process that will culminate in the decolonization of Puerto Rico.

This SI Special Working Group on Puerto Rico will be headed by our Honorary President and President of the Puerto Rican Independence Party, Rubén Berríos Martínez and composed of representatives of the following member parties: Institutional Revolutionary Party and Party of Democratic Revolution of Mexico, Radical Civic Union and Socialist Party of Argentina, and Sandinista Front of Nicaragua.

Meeting of the Council of the Socialist International

Mexico City, 30 June – 1° July 2014

DECLARATION ON FAMILY REUNIFICATION

Original: Spanish

The Council of the Socialist International meeting in Mexico City on 30 June – 1 July 2014, expresses its concern at the human tragedy of massive migration of Central American and Mexican children towards the United States of America, which is due to poverty, social exclusion, marginalisation, lack of opportunities and wishes for family reunification and guarantees of family integrity. We are further concerned by the suffering of thousands of children in that region who are in detention after having tried to cross the border with or without their parents.

We demand that the countries of origin and host countries find a solution to this problem, taking into account the integrity and the rights of migrant children and adolescents, as stated in the international convention on the rights of the child. At the same time, we request the United Nations and CELAC to give their opinion in this respect and take the necessary measures to resolve this problem as soon as possible.

Meeting of the Council of the Socialist International

Mexico City, 30 June – 1 July 2014

DECLARATION ON ARGENTINA

Original: Spanish

The Council of the Socialist International meeting in Mexico City on 30 June – 1 July 2014, expresses its solidarity with Argentina at the unfavourable ruling regarding the demand of a minority group of holders of securities who did not accept the restructuring of the foreign debt carried out in 2005 and 2010.

This ruling seriously jeopardises the payment commitments taken by the Argentinian Republic with the 92% of the holders of securities who accepted the conditions for the restructuring process, ongoing since the aforementioned dates.

The volatility of the financial markets in the past two decades has had serious consequences for some countries, forcing them to restructure their external commitments. This situation makes essential the need to create international mechanisms of renegotiation of sovereign debts in order to reach a definitive agreement with the external creditors, to prevent the greed of small groups of speculators standing in the way of the possibilities for recuperation and compromising the development and wellbeing of the citizens.



SI calls for immediate ceasefire in the ongoing crisis in Gaza

14 JULY 2014

The Socialist International, deeply concerned about the ongoing crisis in Gaza and the increasing civilian death toll, urges both Israeli and Palestinian leaders to immediately de-escalate the crisis, to restore calm and re-establish the ceasefire of November 2012, as called for by the Security Council of the United Nations on 12 July.

The respect for humanitarian law, and in particular the protection of civilians, is fundamental, as the loss of life and the suffering that the world has witnessed in the past days is totally unacceptable.

As the Socialist International has stated on numerous occasions, lasting peace and stability in the region will only be possible through the existence of a Palestinian state living side by side with the State of Israel, both within mutually recognised and respected borders.

The launching of rockets from Gaza, where the people are forced to live in unbearable conditions, into Israel and the devastating bombing of the city of Gaza by the Israeli army are utterly deplorable. These attacks only serve to extend the suffering and loss of life, they lead to more violence, and make peace more distant.

The urgent resumption of negotiations to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict cannot be postponed any longer. It is the only way forward and in this regard the international community has a special responsibility.



Socialist International condemns shelling of refugee shelter in Gaza

24 JULY 2014

The Socialist International condemns unreservedly the assault by the Israeli Defence Force against a school used by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) as a shelter in northern Gaza harbouring refugees, mostly women and children, killing at least fifteen and leaving hundreds injured. Reports from UNRWA officials highlight that great efforts had been made to secure a window so that civilians could evacuate to safety but these efforts were to no avail.

For over seven years the citizens of Gaza have had to endure hardship and suffering brought about by Israel's blockade of the enclave. The Socialist International has seen this action as inhumane and counter-productive. It deplores the Israeli government's disregard for international humanitarian law by practicing what is in effect a collective punishment of Palestinian civilians along with the destruction of their basic infrastructure. This situation has become more acute today with thousands of Gaza citizens in urgent need of medical supplies, with over one hundred thousand people seeking refuge with nowhere to go, and with a serious shortage of water and food.

The Socialist International reiterates its appeal made on 14 July for an immediate cease-fire. It further calls on the Israeli government, in the interest of peace and security, to address the underlying causes of the conflict and to engage in negotiations with the Palestinian government to reach a two-State solution, which is the only outcome possible to achieve the lasting peace and stability which all the peoples of the region so urgently need and deserve.



SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

Conflict in Ukraine

16 SEPTEMBER 2014

The Socialist International Committee for the CIS, the Caucasus and the Black Sea, meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan on 15-16 September 2014, addressed the issue of overcoming conflicts and securing peace in the region, paying particular attention to the current conflict in Ukraine. With the participation of its member parties from Ukraine and the Russian Federation, along with social democratic parties from other countries of the region, the committee discussed and agreed upon the need for a swift end to the conflict, and issued the following declaration.

Social democracy has its roots as a movement for peace, and the Committee reaffirms that peace is a fundamental precondition for human progress and prosperity. The future of social democracy in the CIS region and elsewhere is dependent on the prevalence of peace. Military confrontation and the destruction of life is the opposite of all that this movement stands for. The Committee affirms that it is a high priority to reassess the causes of this conflict, and examine the way in which movements such as the Socialist International can contribute to bringing an end to open conflicts around us.

In Ukraine, as everywhere in the world, political considerations must prevail over military might. All sides need to recognise that peace is a result of a human commitment to resolve differences by non-military means rather than building a façade of peace based on balances of military strength and mutual threats of destruction, as was the case in the past. Such a peace requires great courage, identifying the real reasons for confrontation and the ways in which such grievances can be overcome, using compromise and negotiation to avoid loss of life and destruction.

A vital contribution of social democracy in this regard is to advance in its fundamental task of establishing modern, open and democratic nation states, continuing the historic role of social democrats as state builders.

In reaffirming the norms and principles upon which peace is based, and the new international order we have been building at the global level over the last two decades, we need to get back onto the track of regional cooperation that had been advanced in recent years, built on mutual interests and interaction. New opportunities are today open to each of the independent countries of the CIS, Caucasus and the Black Sea, both within this region and globally, as each of these states has established itself within the international community of nations. A precondition for this, here as in any part of the globe, is the respect of the territorial integrity of every country and good neighbourly relations.

The deaths of more than 3,000 people in Ukraine as a direct result of the armed conflict are a tragedy. The most immediate and pressing priority is that the ceasefire agreed in Minsk earlier this month between the parties to the conflict be upheld. Further, in our view, the other points of the agreement need to be implemented as soon as possible, with an inclusive national dialogue of particular importance, as it is the only way in which an ultimate end to the violence and long-term peace will be

achieved. The recently introduced proposal to grant greater autonomy for some regions in southeast Ukraine together with the use of Russian language in public and private life and in education is an example of the kind of initiative that will be required.

In our view, the role of all outside powers and the international community in regard to the conflict must be guided by the goal of its peaceful and swift resolution, encouraging the parties to enter negotiations and contributing to bringing about a definitive settlement of the disputes between them.

It should be recognised that at the centre of the conflict are the Ukrainians, placed on different sides of the argument, but who are all bearing its consequences, in every part of the country. The establishment of humanitarian corridors under international observation, to deliver aid, food and medical supplies to all those who are in need of assistance in Ukraine, is an urgently necessary step to alleviate the human suffering in the country.

The resolution of the conflict in Ukraine is paramount for the citizens of that country, as it is integral to restoring the basis upon which peace and stability in the region rest. The Socialist International will therefore continue to be seized of this matter and remain in dialogue with its member parties in the region.



SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

Ukrainian conflict at the centre of discussions in Astana

15-16 SEPTEMBER 2014



The Socialist International Committee for the CIS, the Caucasus and the Black Sea met on 15-16 September 2014 in Astana, Kazakhstan, hosted by its member party in that country, the Nationwide Social Democratic Party (OSDP). The agenda of the meeting consisted of three main themes: overcoming conflicts and securing peace in the region; the social democratic contribution; the role of our movement in advancing democracy and its institutions in the CIS, Caucasus and Black Sea region; and achieving openness, inclusiveness and solidarity in countries of the region – a cornerstone of the social democratic agenda.

A warm welcome was extended to participants by Zharmakhan Tuyakbai, chair of the OSDP, who noted that this was the second time the committee had gathered in his country, following on from the meeting in Almaty in 2011. Astana, he remarked, was a prosperous city, but this prosperity had not yet spread to citizens in the rest of the country. The OSDP was working for justice and democracy in Kazakhstan. Reflecting on the agenda of the meeting, he expressed his hope that the committee could find mutual understanding, in line with the fundamental objective of the SI to minimise conflict and suffering, and its tradition of open, fraternal discussions and consensus-based agreements.

The Secretary General of the Socialist International, Luis Ayala, emphasised the importance of the discussions that the committee would hold over the two days of its meeting. Recent months had seen increased conflict in the world, and as a democratic organisation we needed to approach these conflicts on the basis of the experience and views of our member parties in the different regions of the world. He stressed the social democratic commitment to peace as a prerequisite for well-being and progress, and the need for political rather than military solutions to ongoing conflicts. He also

expressed gratitude to the host party for their fraternal welcome and preparations for the meeting, wishes which were echoed by all participants.

Discussions on the theme of overcoming conflicts centred on recent events in Ukraine, particularly in the eastern regions of that country.

Dismay was expressed at the return to an era of hot wars with high numbers of casualties, describing the struggle for social justice of Maidan that had mutated into an external conflict. There was a need for respect for the territory of Ukraine, and the Ukrainian representative highlighted that there was a great willingness among the people to defend their land. The search for peace was fundamental, in conjunction with respect for human rights and national borders. Doubts were expressed over the effectiveness of the fragile ceasefire in the country and whether it would merely be a pause before the resumption of violence.

Delegates from the SI member party in Russia underlined the tragedy of people that have lived side by side taking up arms against each other. They called for an end to bombing in civilian areas and cities and the establishment of provisions for humanitarian aid to reach the affected regions. They highlighted the grievances of many citizens living in the affected areas of Donetsk and Lugansk towards the Kiev government, and considered out of place recent statements and plans by leaders of NATO countries in relation to the conflict. In line with the social democratic principles of the SI, they were committed and looking forward to a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

Further interventions highlighted that in situations such as the conflict in Ukraine, it was difficult to distinguish between fact and propaganda. Despite differences in their interpretations of the fighting and actors involved, both the Ukrainian and Russian delegations, along with the entirety of those present, agreed that for the Socialist International the first priority must be to promote peace and an end to the loss of civilian life. The citizens of Ukraine are the ones that have suffered, having firstly been failed by successive governments and lately enduring the consequences of the conflict that have been felt by people across the country, but particularly in the affected regions. Members of delegations from other countries present brought their own experiences to the discussions, and were agreed that in the effort to find common ground including in a meeting such as this between colleagues, the SI had its role to play in taking a fresh approach to the crisis independent from the actors involved in the conflict, both internal and external, with the principles of our organisation at the forefront.

Following comprehensive discussions, conducted in a spirit of honesty and openness but also of mutual respect and fraternalism, the viewpoints of all those present were taken into account in a [declaration](#) on the conflict in Ukraine adopted by the committee at the close of the meeting, outlining its position in favour of the peaceful resolution of this conflict and proposals resulting from the agreements reached by participants.

Reports presented by delegates on the national situation in their respective countries related strongly to the agenda themes of democracy and solidarity. With regard to the host country, this primarily concerned the search for space for an effective social-democratic political force in Kazakhstan. It was felt therefore, by the members of the committee, that it was important that the party participate in the SI and its activities as a reflection of the commitment of Kazaks to the values and principles of the International.

With regard to the SI member party in Russia, it had enjoyed some electoral success, while it continued to work to strengthen the democratic process to overcome reported shortcomings.

In Armenia, there has been a mobilisation of civil society and youth groups, but that has not

manifested itself in a party political way. Within the parliament, the SI member ARF-D was seeking cooperation with other opposition groups on issues of common concern.

In Azerbaijan, the party had re-established its relations with the Socialist International, in accordance with the decisions of the last Council, and was playing once more an active role in the work of the Committee, a fact that had been reflected in public opinion in the country.

The committee heard that growing authoritarianism was regrettably a feature of political life in Tajikistan, where the opposition has no leaders due to the systematic removal of official and unofficial opposition parties, under the pretence that it is fighting terrorism. Amendments to the constitution in 1999 and 2003 reduced democratic space in the country, and a state of total authoritarianism was now in existence.

Before closing, an overview of the discussions was made, pointing to the different experiences and examples with regard to the struggles of social democrats around the world to advance and consolidate political democracy, economic development with fairness, and social change. These objectives remained the fundamental commitments of the member parties of the International in the CIS, the Caucasus and the Black Sea region.

Meeting of the Socialist International Committee for the CIS, the Caucasus and the Black Sea
Astana, 15-16 September 2014

DECLARATION

CONFLICT IN UKRAINE

The Socialist International Committee for the CIS, the Caucasus and the Black Sea, meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan on 15-16 September 2014, addressed the issue of overcoming conflicts and securing peace in the region, paying particular attention to the current conflict in Ukraine. With the participation of its member parties from Ukraine and the Russian Federation, along with social democratic parties from other countries of the region, the committee discussed and agreed upon the need for a swift end to the conflict, and issued the following declaration.

Social democracy has its roots as a movement for peace, and the Committee reaffirms that peace is a fundamental precondition for human progress and prosperity. The future of social democracy in the CIS region and elsewhere is dependent on the prevalence of peace. Military confrontation and the destruction of life is the opposite of all that this movement stands for. The Committee affirms that it is a high priority to reassess the causes of this conflict, and examine the way in which movements such as the Socialist International can contribute to bringing and end to open conflicts around us.

In Ukraine, as everywhere in the world, political considerations must prevail over military might. All sides need to recognise that peace is a result of a human commitment to resolve differences by non-military means rather than building a façade of peace based on balances of military strength and mutual threats of destruction, as was the case in the past. Such a peace requires great courage, identifying the real reasons for confrontation and the ways in which such grievances can be overcome, using compromise and negotiation to avoid loss of life and destruction.

A vital contribution of social democracy in this regard is to advance in its fundamental task of establishing modern, open and democratic nation states, continuing the historic role of social democrats as state builders.

In reaffirming the norms and principles upon which peace is based, and the new international order we have been building at the global level over the last two decades, we need to get back onto the track of regional cooperation that had been advanced in recent years, built on mutual interests and interaction. New opportunities are today open to each of the independent countries of the CIS, Caucasus and the Black Sea, both within this region and globally, as each of these states has established itself within the international community of nations. A precondition for this, here as in any part of the globe, is the respect of the territorial integrity of every country and good neighbourly relations.

The deaths of more than 3,000 people in Ukraine as a direct result of the armed conflict are a tragedy. The most immediate and pressing priority is that the ceasefire agreed in Minsk earlier this month between the parties to the conflict be upheld. Further, in our view, the other points of the agreement need to be implemented as soon as possible, with an inclusive national dialogue of particular importance, as it is the only way in which an ultimate end to the violence and long-term peace will be

achieved. The recently introduced proposal to grant greater autonomy for some regions in southeast Ukraine together with the use of Russian language in public and private life and in education is an example of the kind of initiative that will be required.

In our view, the role of all outside powers and the international community in regard to the conflict must be guided by the goal of its peaceful and swift resolution, encouraging the parties to enter negotiations and contributing to bringing about a definitive settlement of the disputes between them.

It should be recognised that at the centre of the conflict are the Ukrainians, placed on different sides of the argument, but who are all bearing its consequences, in every part of the country. The establishment of humanitarian corridors under international observation, to deliver aid, food and medical supplies to all those who are in need of assistance in Ukraine, is an urgently necessary step to alleviate the human suffering in the country.

The resolution of the conflict in Ukraine is paramount for the citizens of that country, as it is integral to restoring the basis upon which peace and stability in the region rest. The Socialist International will therefore continue to be seized of this matter and remain in dialogue with its member parties in the region.



SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

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

25 SEPTEMBER 2014



Latifa Perry

On the occasion of the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly, members of the Presidium of the Socialist International and Heads of State and Government gathered for a meeting on 25 September 2014 at the UN headquarters. The main themes of the discussions were the contribution of our movement to peace and international security in face of today's open conflicts; our agenda on equality in the global economy and the establishment of an SI Commission on this theme; and defining a way forward to secure the 2015 global agreements on climate change.

The Heads of State and Government and other officials present included HE President Alpha Condé (Guinea), HE President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita (Mali), HE President Mahamadou Issoufou (Niger, SI Honorary President), HE President Jacob Zuma (South Africa, SI Vice-President), Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo (Belgium, SI Vice-President), Prime Minister Victor Ponta (Romania, SI Vice-President), former President of Finland, Tarja Halonen (SI Honorary President), José Miguel Insulza (Secretary General of the Organization of American States), Zlatko Lagumdžija (Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bosnia & Herzegovina), Igor Lukšić (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Montenegro), Arnold Nicholson (Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica), Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Namibia), Maite Nkoana-Mashabane (Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa), Ahmad Bamarni (Government of Iraq, Responsible for international organisations) and Majdi Khaldi (Representative of President Abbas, Palestine).

The meeting was chaired by SI President George Papandreou, with participating members of the Presidium comprising SI Secretary General Luis Ayala, and SI Vice-Presidents Victor Benoit (Haiti), Ahmed Ould Daddah (Mauritania), Ousmane Tanor Dieng (Senegal), Marcelo Ebrard Casaubón (Mexico PRD), Emmanuel Golou (Benin), Alfred Gusenbauer (former Chancellor of Austria), Chantal Kambiwa (Cameroon), Mario Nalpatian (Armenia), Julião Mateus Paulo (Angola), Henry

Ramos (Venezuela), Sukhbaatar Batbold (former Prime Minister of Mongolia), Miguel Vargas Maldonado (Dominican Republic), and from the SI fraternal organisations, Ouafa Hajji (SIW President) and Felipe Jeldres (IUSY President).

The need for decisive action by the international community in the face of open conflicts emerged as a strong message during discussions on the first theme of the meeting. The threat posed by terrorist organisations such as ISIS, Boko Haram or Al Qaeda affects not only the countries in which they are based and operate, but also security on a global level. Participants heard how instability in Libya, for example, had led to deterioration in security in Niger and Mali. The exchanges between participants on the most recent developments in Iraq and Syria reflected a strong and unequivocal stance against the brutal and abhorrent acts of murder committed by terrorists in those countries, as declared previously by the SI at its last Council meeting. The values of humanity and civilisation are threatened by terrorism, and it is imperative that concerted efforts are made to protect innocents in Iraq, Syria and beyond from the terrorist menace and prevent its further spread. An important perspective from within the country on the specific threats faced by Iraq was presented by Ahmad Bamarni, on behalf of the Iraqi government. A specific [statement](#) on ending terror in Iraq and Syria was issued following the meeting.

Participants endorsed the recent [declaration](#) on the conflict in Ukraine adopted by the SI Committee for the CIS, the Caucasus and the Black Sea at its recent meeting in Kazakhstan, which was an example of the ability of the SI to bring together its member parties in a spirit of honest discussion in the search for principle based agreements.

There was equally a consensus on the need for social democrats to continue with their strong commitment on resolution of conflicts, peace-building and reform of global governance, questions that are vital to improving security in an interdependent world. One such example is the need to continue the search for regional peace, as in the Middle East following the grave crisis in Gaza, in the Sahel, central Africa and elsewhere.

The spread of Ebola was acknowledged as a major threat to human life and international security for which collective responsibility needed to be taken. The meeting heard from His Excellency Alpha Condé, President of Guinea, on the impact on his country, one of the most affected by the outbreak, and called for support from the international community to find a cure for the disease and to ensure that the economic impact on the countries struck by the outbreak was minimised, as this has the potential to be as devastating as the disease itself.

The importance of equality in the global economy was strongly underlined during interventions on this theme. There is a crucial need for the SI to continue its work on this subject and to ensure that this remains a priority, despite the multitude of other pressing issues facing the international community. The meeting therefore strongly endorsed the creation of a Socialist International Commission on Equality, to be composed of senior political figures with a strong track record on the issue, and an advisory body composed of academics. The Commission, whose members are drawn from all continents, will be chaired by Elio Di Rupo, Prime Minister of Belgium, a Vice-President of the SI, and will report to the next Congress of the International in 2016. The members of this Commission, agreed by the meeting, will be announced once all those proposed have accepted.

The Socialist International has also been a firm advocate of gender equality and attendees welcomed the new 'He for She' global solidarity movement for gender equality.

Those who intervened during the discussions on the third theme of the meeting referred to the grave effects that climate change was already having in their respective countries, and its relationship to

security and human development. There was a strong consensus that this issue needed to remain at the forefront of the global agenda, in particular as climate action is fundamentally linked to development and security. An equitable and just solution to climate change will also bring progress towards greater security and equality in the world. The discussion on climate change was introduced by Teresa Ribera, Director of the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI), who summarised the challenges that needed to be faced in the lead up to the 2015 climate conference in Paris to secure substantial agreement. There was some optimism that the UN Climate Summit on 23 September, attended by a number of those present, had created momentum behind the quest for a durable accord.

The substance of the interventions from Heads of State and Government, ministers and members of the Presidium alike, underlined the importance of the interconnection between the three themes of the meeting. Peace and security, equality in the global economy and climate justice are central to the identity of social democracy today.

The meeting further concluded that there is a need to adapt the United Nations, and in particular its Security Council, to adequately deal with the multiple challenges the world faces today. This remains a crucial task, to which the Socialist International is committed to contribute.

Statement of the Socialist International
United Nations, New York, 25 September 2014

ENDING TERROR IN IRAQ AND SYRIA

From the headquarters of the United Nations in New York, where the international community has come together to stand against terror, the Socialist International recalled the declaration of the SI Council in Mexico City on 30 June-1 July 2014 on the insurgency in Iraq, which condemned the acts of the terrorist group Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS). The attacks perpetrated by ISIS have increased in their barbarism and the group now operates with disregard for national borders across areas of northern Iraq and Syria.

The whole of humanity must take a stand against the senseless murder committed by terrorists. There is a need for action in defence of life, the values of humanity and civilisation. These values are threatened by ISIS terrorism, and it is imperative that concerted efforts are made to protect innocents in Iraq, Syria and beyond from the terrorist menace and prevent its further spread.

The Socialist International fully supports the government and people of Iraq as they work to strengthen and consolidate open, inclusive and democratic institutions in that country. Furthermore, we extend our solidarity to Iraqis from all religious and ethnic groups, who have bravely taken a stand against terror in their country.

The Socialist International recognises the steps taken by members of the international community in offering support and assistance to the Iraqi people, and calls on the entire community to join in this cause. In this regard, the adoption of a UN Security Council resolution to prevent the flow of foreign terrorist fighters is a positive development.

We also reiterate the declaration of the SI Council for the need to resolve the conflict in Syria, removing the power vacuum within which terrorist organisations are able to freely operate. The Socialist International remains fully committed on the side of those who wish to bring democracy and peace to Syria, with respect for the rights and freedoms of all.



Socialist International
The President

4 October 2014

Statement by the President of Socialist International, George A. Papandreou

As ISIS forces are trying to gain control of the Syrian town of Kobani, near the Turkish border, I wish to make an appeal to the international community for concerted action aiming to prevent a humanitarian tragedy and contain the risk of further destabilization of the broader region.

In a statement adopted in New York, the 25th of September, by the Presidium of the Socialist International concerning developments in Iraq and Syria, we underlined that humanity must take a stand against totalitarian ideologies aiming to legitimize senseless acts of violence, like those committed by ISIS. We supported also the need for action in defense of fundamental values and human rights threatened by ISIS terrorism.

Urgently, there is a need to make every possible effort for efficiently protecting innocent civilians in Iraq and Syria, in parallel with political initiatives that could strengthen stability at regional level. Borders should facilitate the crossing of those at risk and at the same time prevent the movement of extremists. Also, as winter is approaching, it is vital to send adequate assistance to refugees and displaced persons .

In the mid term, it's crucial for moderate forces in the broader region, to promote large scale development programs. Increasing equality of opportunities to education is the only way for addressing the causes that enable extremist ideologies to gain ground.



Call for constitutional order in Burkina Faso

31 OCTOBER 2014

The Socialist International welcomes the decision by President Blaise Compaoré to step down from the Presidency, thus averting a deepening of the crisis in Burkina Faso. Yesterday our International had deplored the actions of President Compaoré in shutting down the government, dissolving parliament, imposing a state of emergency and announcing the creation of a transitional government to serve for the next twelve months, actions which led to increased violence on the streets of the capital, Ouagadougou, and the abhorrent attack on the National Assembly and on parliamentarians.

The International calls for the prompt restoration of constitutional rule and measures to ensure that early elections are held, allowing democracy to be respected.

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, PO BOX 67973, LONDON, SW4 4DU, UNITED KINGDOM
T: (44 20) 7627 4449 | T: (44) 7825 149 076 | E: Socialist International



SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

Socialist International envoys prevented from visiting Leopoldo López in prison in Venezuela

15 NOVEMBER 2014

José Antonio Viera-Gallo, a prominent Chilean lawyer and socialist, with broad experience in public service in his country, where he has served as a parliamentarian, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Senator, Minister Secretary General of the Presidency, as well as Minister of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Republic of Chile, accompanied by the lawyer, Professor of Law at the University of Chile and collaborator of the Socialist International Secretariat, Claudio Herrera, are in Caracas from 13 to 16 November as representatives of the SI to gain information about the circumstances under which the leader of the *Voluntad Popular* party, Leopoldo López, continues to be imprisoned along with numerous other political prisoners, and to make representations for their early release.

Today, 15 November, the SI representatives tried to visit Leopoldo López, who has already spent nine months under arbitrary detention in the Military Prison of Ramo Verde. The envoys were accompanied by the wife and parents of the detained politician.

The prison authorities denied them access under the pretext that Leopoldo López was affected by a disciplinary measure that prevented him from receiving visitors because he, together with the other political prisoners, had hit their cell bars with their cutlery in protest at the lack of resolution by the judge assigned to their case to respond to the request for freedom made by the UN Special Group on Arbitrary Detention.

While access was being requested, Leopoldo López and his comrades lifted a written sign between the bars of their cells regarding their imprisonment and exchanged greetings with their families, highlighting the infringement of their rights. In reply, the guards sounded the siren of a military vehicle to silence their voices, provoking a deafening noise.

Faced with the impossibility of entering the prison, the SI special envoy José Antonio Viera-Gallo, declared the following to the members of the media who were present:

“Irrespective of the political situation in Venezuela, the SI has sent this mission to learn first-hand about the detention of Leopoldo López, which was qualified as arbitrary by the United Nations Special Group, calling on the Venezuelan authorities to release him”.

He regretted the decision of the court judge to deny the United Nations’ request for his release, and the impossibility of making direct contact with Leopoldo López. He also pointed out that this situation is a serious violation of human rights. “There is no reason whatsoever to keep Leopoldo López in prison. The charges against him have no legal basis. Neither are there any motives to justify the refusal of visitors”.

Viera-Gallo said that it would have been desirable to have been able to express the views of the SI directly to the authorities of the Venezuelan Government, for which numerous attempts were made at

the highest level without any reply.

In addition, during their visit to Caracas the mission held meetings with the SI member parties, representatives of the *Mesa de Unidad Democrática*, the Venezuelan Episcopal Conference and other relevant actors in the public life of the country.

All these developments will be reported to the world Council of the Socialist International which will meet on 12-13 December in Geneva.

Press coverage

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, PO BOX 67973, LONDON, SW4 4DU, UNITED KINGDOM
T: (44 20) 7627 4449 | T: (44) 7825 149 076 | E: Socialist International

INDIA

International Conference: 'Nehru's Worldview and his Legacy: Democracy, Inclusion and Empowerment

17-18 NOVEMBER 2014



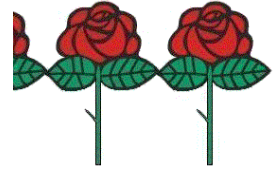
Declaration adopted at the International Conference on "Nehru's Worldview and his Legacy: Democracy, Inclusion and Empowerment" (17-18 November 2014, New Dehli)

We the delegates representing 20 countries, 29 Political Parties and organizations participating in the International Conference on "**Nehru's Worldview and his Legacy: Democracy, Inclusion and Empowerment**" on 17-18 November 2014, New Dehli, dedicated to the commemoration of the 125th Anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru, acknowledging his historical national and international contribution, and deeply cherishing the ideals of non-alignment and peace, which guided his struggle against any form of domination.

Click to read the [Conference Declaration](#) in full

Click to read the [Vote of Thanks](#)

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL



SI COMMITTEES

IMAGES (43)

IMAGES



+13

MIGRATIONS

Meeting of the SI Committee on Migrations, Catania, Italy

21-22 NOVEMBER 2014



Latifa Perry

Meeting of the Socialist International Committee on Migrations
Catania, Italy, 21-22 November 2014

DECLARATION OF CATANIA

Original: Italian

The Socialist International Committee on Migrations met in Catania on 21 and 22 November, hosted by the Italian Socialist Party.

The meeting was chaired by the leader of the Italian Socialist MPs, Marco Di Lello, with the participation of SI Secretary General Luis Ayala and delegates from socialist and progressive parties from Algeria, Angola, Bulgaria, Greece, Iraq, Italy, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Niger, Palestine, Russia and Spain. As an invited guest, Italian MP from the Democratic Party, Gennaro Migliore, candidate to the presidency of the Investigative Parliamentary Committee for the system of identification and admission of migrants, also took part in the meeting.

The Committee agreed on guidelines to shape the Charter for Migrants that the Socialist International will adopt during 2015 to provide a common platform for socialists from both the north and south of the world, amongst which are:

- the importance that migration has always played in building open societies and producing useful exchanges on the economy by the countries involved. It is unacceptable that the globalisation of the markets and goods is not accompanied by a globalised consolidation of rights.

- a migrant is first and foremost a person who has the right to be recognized with dignity. It is therefore unacceptable to consider migrants only as a tool for economic improvement. Migrants should be able to have access to education and healthcare, and to the basic rights that are essential in any democracy.

- Migrants should always have the same working conditions as the native population. Migrants cannot be exploited, in the same way, they cannot be used for unfair competition against the local workforce. We should combat against the criminal traffic of migrants.

- The respect between migrants and the population of the host countries must be mutual, it is respect for diversity, which is an absolute value and that goes both ways; in this framework, religious fundamentalism and nationalism are perverse factors that not only work against peace between peoples but also destabilize societies from within, and migrants are particularly exposed to the dangers caused by these ideologies;

- It is also evident that respect for diversity cannot inhibit the extension and strengthening of the rights that we consider universal and valid in every culture, in every country and in every age, starting with the rights of women and children; and democratic institutions must ensure the autonomy of individual freedom of expression, be it religious or secular.

- Economic and political cooperation between migrant, transit and immigrant countries is an essential factor, as migration requires a common governance.

- Freedom is for us an indisputable criteria: if migration can and should be put under rules and controls, the right of asylum must always be considered a fundamental right.

The Socialist International has always had peace and political, social and economic equality as essential goals: the solution to crises and wars, economic development and the protection of the environment are all incontestable factors in facing the problems arising from migrations. At the same time, we underline the opportunities created by migration in terms of exchanges, mutual knowledge, openness of society and increasing awareness. We reiterate our belief that we all live in one world.

The Socialist International expresses its appreciation for the courageous decision of President Obama regarding migrants in the United States of America.

Finally, the Committee recognises the efforts of the Italian authorities, and especially those of local authorities and citizens in Sicily, in handling humanely the increasing flow of migrants through the Mediterranean. In order to avoid dangerous “journeys of hope”, controls could and should be put in place at the place of origin of the migration and not at the country of arrival.

[Declaration \(PDF\)](#)

[List of Participants](#)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Extraordinary meeting of the SI Committee on Migrations

01 JUNE 2015

Meeting of the SI Committee on Migrations, Tangiers, Morocco

02-03 MAY 2014

Reform, Integration, Rights – key issues addressed by the SI Migrations Committee in Los Angeles

02-03 JUNE 2008

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST *on the migration agenda:*

Socialist International meeting in Manila 21-22 SEPTEMBER 2007

SI Committee on Migrations in *Rhodes and Marmaris* 24-25 OCTOBER 2006

EAST-WEST MIGRATION discussed at Socialist International meeting in *Chisinau* 21-22 JULY 2006

Casablanca meeting of SI Committee discusses role of migrations in *North-South relations*

27-28 MARCH 2006

MIGRATION, a *human right* 21 JUNE 2004

SI COMMITTEES

IMAGES (32)

IMAGES



LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Meeting of the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean at the OAS, Washington DC

01-02 DECEMBER 2014



Patricia Leiva, OEA

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean met in the headquarters of the Organisation of American States (OAS) in Washington DC, on 1-2 December 2014.

At the opening of the meeting, OAS Secretary General, José Miguel Insulza, welcomed the participants and the presence of the regional member parties of the Socialist International in the Hall of the Americas. He highlighted the full validity of the principles of the Socialist International, which promote the creation of societies with greater social inclusion, democracy and respect for human rights. He recalled that the OAS as well as the SI are institutions with a long history, but their current history began in the post-war era, one in 1948 and the other in 1951. He also said as an example, that the current issues of concern for the OAS and the SI “are not that different”, pointing out that the aims of both organisations are to achieve more equal societies. “Like the International, the OAS shares the objectives of an inclusive society with more solidarity, and encourages policies to support growth with employment and greater equality. The OAS looks to strengthening and deepening democracy and promotes the existence of open and transparent governments closer to their citizens”, he stressed. Finally, Secretary General Insulza recalled that he has supported the cause of socialism since his youth and reaffirmed the validity of these ideas when facing the current challenges in the region and in the world.

Also addressing the meeting during the opening, the Chair of the Committee, Miguel Vargas Maldonado (PRD, Dominican Republic), reviewed the themes to be discussed during the two days and presented his views on them. Vargas pointed out that the main challenge faced by the region in the current scenario of a slowing-down of the economy, is not only how to recover the pace of growth but how to achieve better growth, that is, how to decrease the inequalities in our societies and create opportunities for all. Referring to the challenges faced today by the democracies of Latin America and the Caribbean, Miguel Vargas underlined the importance of having more transparent government, closer to the people, open to citizens participation, within an environment of respect for legal order and rule of law.

Closing the opening session, the Secretary General of the Socialist International, Luis Ayala, highlighted the role of organisations such as the OAS and the SI, in the world that emerged after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, and particularly their commitment to democracy. He expressed satisfaction at holding a Committee meeting in the headquarters of the OAS for the first time. The hope of building a multipolar world was frozen during the period of the Cold War, but after it reached its end, new opportunities and new challenges had emerged for institutions like the OAS, with a leadership like that of Secretary General Insulza which has given a new stimulus to the organisation.

The same can be seen in other regions of the world, he added. In Africa, through its own regional organisations like the African Union, they are taking on new rules and commitments centred on democracy. Regarding Asia, Ayala spoke of his recent participation in India in the homage offered by the Congress Party to Jawaharlal Nehru, and about the similarity of principles and objectives between that political party of the largest democracy

in the world and the Socialist International. He highlighted the fact that it was not the market that was responsible for the fall of the Berlin Wall a quarter of a century ago, but the demands of the people for freedom and democracy. In Latin America and the Caribbean, he recalled the key role of social democrats during the transitions from dictatorships to democracy during the 80s and 90s, and he pointed out that the current agenda of the SI is based on respect for this democracy and on policies of consolidation of freedoms and social inclusion. In places where there exist threats or tensions, the SI has been present, sending missions or carrying out activities. The most recent example was the mission sent to Venezuela, the report on which will be presented to the next World Council in Geneva. He concluded by highlighting the commitment of the SI to the struggle against inequality whose more concrete expression has been the creation of the SI Commission on Equality, and the global efforts to reverse global warming and climate change.

During the working sessions of the Committee, interventions were heard from among others, the Vice-Chair of the Committee Elsa Espinosa (PRI, Mexico), the Vice-President of the Socialist International Victor Benoit (Fusion SD, Haiti), Francisco Rosales (FSLN, Nicaragua), Marcelo Stubrin (UCR, Argentina), Carlos Vecchio (VP, Venezuela), Gerardo Villanueva (PLN, Costa Rica), Carme Chacón (PSOE, Spain), Rafael Filizzola (PDP, Paraguay), Timoteo Zambrano (UNT, Venezuela), Edmonde Supplice (Fusion SD, Haiti), Margarita Zapata (FSLN, Nicaragua), Félix Santana (PRD, Dominican Republic); Robert Pickersgill (PNP, Jamaica), Giovanni Atalita (MAN, Curaçao), Julio Palacios (PRD, Panama), Jorge Farfán (PAP, Peru), Diva Gastelum (SIW); all of whom reflected on the current economic situation in the region and the challenges faced by democracy today in Latin America and the Caribbean. The agreements on the main points were discussed during the two days and are included in the Declaration of the Committee adopted at the end of the meeting ([see Declaration](#)).

Furthermore, during the meeting, the representatives of the political parties present reported on the situations in their respective countries. The representative of the PSOE, Carme Chacón, shared with the Committee her assessment of the current situation in Spain.

In closing the meeting, the Chair of the Committee Miguel Vargas thanked once again the participation of the member parties, underlining the importance of having met ten days before the World Council of the SI, which will allow them to report to the Council in Geneva on the achievements and challenges of the progressive political forces in Latin America and the Caribbean.

[Declaration \(PDF\)](#)

[List of participants](#)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Meeting of the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean in Colombia

28-29 AUGUST 2015

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

09-10 MAY 2014

Global politics and economy – the view from Latin America and the Caribbean

26-27 JULY 2013

Committee convenes in Porto Alegre 24-25 OCTOBER 2011

‘Energy, development and integration’ and ‘Competitiveness and equity’ focus of regional meeting in Bucaramanga, Colombia 30-31 MAY 2011

SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean meets in Buenos Aires

09-10 APRIL 2010

Latin America and the Caribbean in the global financial crisis: Meeting of the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean in Guatemala 23-24 MARCH 2009

José Francisco Peña Gómez – TEN YEARS ON

Democratic Socialism in Latin America and the Caribbean 17-18 APRIL 2008

**MEETING OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
ORGANISATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), Washington 1-2 December 2014**

DECLARATION

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, meeting at the headquarters of the Organisation of American States (OAS) in Washington DC, on 1-2 December 2014, declares:

I.- Its satisfaction at the holding of this meeting in the headquarters of the Organisation of American States, an organisation that, since its creation in 1948, has worked to promote peace, democracy, justice and security in the countries of the region, calling upon the nations of the region to maintain their commitment to and compliance with international order and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

II.- Regarding international and regional economic developments of recent months, the Committee expresses its concern at the slowdown of the economy in several Latin American and Caribbean countries, a situation that could lead to a particularly difficult situation due to the fall in prices of some raw materials which are of vital importance to some of the economies of the region.

The Committee highlights the fact that the economic policies adopted by Latin American and Caribbean states in order to strengthen their economies and give them new impetus must always be oriented towards growth for their peoples, a growth that will foster the creation of new and better employment, lead to productive investments, and that maintains and improves social policies to reduce inequality by means of a fair system of taxation and that creates the conditions for greater social and environmental justice in the countries of the region.

The Committee declares its rejection of the adjustment policies which, through cutting expenditure attempt to solve public deficits with a high social cost. The improvement of the current economic conditions in the region calls for decisive action by the States, as well as more public-private alliances and gaining the trust of their citizens.

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean reiterates its commitment to policies that promote the building of societies that are more cohesive and inclusive.

As a particular action in terms of the economy, the Committee encourages in countries of the region and beyond, the adoption of the following measures against tax havens:

The Committee expresses its commitment to combat tax evasion, both by citizens in their own countries as well as by foreign individuals and companies, by not harbouring the accounts of citizens and corporations of other countries that are looking to evade their tax obligations.

To promote national legislation and adequate international agreements to eradicate fiscal opacity wherever necessary, and to guarantee transparency so that the automatic and obligatory exchange of fiscal information among countries becomes common place.

The Committee urges the strengthening of efforts by the OECD to produce a 'black list' of tax havens worldwide, so that each country may be able to suspend or cancel double taxation agreements in the regions where these exist; and to prevent access to tenders and government assistance to companies domiciled in nations included on the list.

III.- Concerning the strengthening and deepening of democracy with open, transparent governments closer to their citizens, the Committee points out that, considering that the years of darkness and dictatorships have been overcome, democracy is today widespread and present in the region. It is a political system that, in spite of its strength, it is under great stress to achieve its true objectives.

Sometimes, legitimately elected governments find it difficult to ensure that their citizens have access to goods and services which are essential to satisfy their basic needs in matters of employment, housing, health and education.

At the same time, the Committee observes that in some countries of the region constitutional reforms have been implemented to allow the successive and unlimited re-election of their authorities. These changes to the rules of the presidential system have drawn criticism in the region, given that they may lead to abuses of public resources to ensure the continuity in power of the ruling authority, thus hindering the emergence of new leaders and preventing a truly fair democratic contest.

Furthermore, the Committee underlines that the independence and autonomy of the jurisdictional and electoral organs in the region, as well as the important role of national parliaments, are indispensable for the good functioning of the rule of law. The Committee agrees that the judiciary in each of the countries of the region has the challenge to fully and in a timely manner fulfil its function of guaranteeing its citizens' rights. Personal freedom of conscience and expression, amongst other rights, must be fully guaranteed by the legal system as this is a prerequisite for the very existence of democracy. At the same time, faced with eventual weaknesses in domestic jurisdictions as regards the protection of human rights, the Committee reiterates its commitment to the Inter-American system for the protection of human rights.

The current reality shows that national states, their systems of representation and the global markets are in frequent contradiction, which results in unrest and disagreement amongst wide sectors of the population. Therefore, the political parties present in the Committee consider it is essential to strengthen the quality indicators of democracy. The full validity of the rule of law and constitutional order is the only environment conducive to achieving the goals of the disadvantaged social sectors, which are at the heart of the concerns and efforts of the Socialist International.

Within this framework, the Committee urges its members to cooperate to promote in the countries of the region policies which are active in the struggle against corruption, for transparency and for access to public information on the work of the state.

The Committee stresses the need for its member parties to strengthen an open and

participatory government administration to bring the citizens closer to public issues and to ensure that the policies to be implemented are nurtured with citizens' participation, including them in a democratic decision-making system.

The Committees agrees:

To ratify its commitment to improving the quality of democracy, in the forms and contents of social organisation;

To promote decisive action within the region, to legislate and undertake initiatives in matters of open governance, transparency, the struggle against corruption and better citizens' participation in the work of the government;

To demonstrate the commitment of the SI political parties in the region as efficient tools for social and political change, overcoming individualistic perspectives and providential leaderships;

To reaffirm its commitment to sustainable environmental policies and practices, because the calamities, the epidemics and the pollution do not stop at the Customs checks of any country. On the contrary, they rapidly expand and will only be contained with coordinated responses implemented at a global level.

To highlight that the scope of action of its parties is global, it rests upon the representation of each one of its nations and is empowered by the regions and by the whole world. The markets, the finances and the availability of science, transcend national borders, but also politics must respond at that level in order to ensure the aspirations of the progressive political forces for a society that is more open, more fair and more equal.

IV.- The Committee supports the demands of the Haitian opposition to find mechanisms that will allow a real dialogue between the Haitian government and the opposition political parties for a global agreement that will make possible the holding of free and democratic elections as soon as possible.

V.- The Committee resolves to support the process of emancipation demanded by its member party, MAN, in Curaçao , so that the people of that nation are able to consolidate its autonomy and to continue advancing towards their full independence. Within this context, the Committee denounces the undue and unjust intervention of the Dutch government to hinder this process by means of the administrative instructions of its Governor in Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten.

VI.- The Committee congratulated the election of Tabaré Vázquez in Uruguay on the eve of the opening of this meeting, representing a democratic validation of the political programme of the Frente Amplio, which incorporates two member parties of the political family of the Socialist International.

VII.- Finally, the Committee calls for substantial progress in the negotiations which opened on 1 December in Lima on the occasion of the holding in that city of COP 20 on Climate Change, and reaffirms the Socialist International's commitment to this new impetus to achieve an agreement at the Conference in Paris in 2015. This new treaty, which must be binding for all states, is crucial to put a stop to environmental

degradation and to open the perspective of real “climate justice” and the recovery of the planet for all the species that inhabit it.
