



**ACTIVITIES AND STATEMENTS
OF THE
SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL**

**From the Geneva Council in June 2018 to the
Santo Domingo Council in January 2019**



Meeting of the SI Council at the United Nations in Geneva 26-27 June 2018



The Council of the Socialist International met at the United Nations in Geneva (UNOG) on 26-27 June 2018 in order to discuss social democratic responses to issues of the utmost global significance. The agenda included three main themes: 'The contribution of social democracy to the resolution of conflicts and to international peace and security', 'Overcoming challenges to democracy around the world to secure freedoms and rights for all', and 'Responding with our values and principles to migration globally and to the current plight of refugees'.

The Council was opened by SI Secretary General Luis Ayala, who underlined that the agenda was focused on themes that were a key priority for socialists and social democrats. He outlined that multilateralism was a core value of the SI and an indispensable tool for resolving conflicts. Social democratic values had also been central to the establishment and strengthening of democracy in many countries, and he urged action to combat the rise of populism, nationalism and authoritarianism, which was threatening the advances of previous years. He also noted that migrants were more and more demonised despite the positive role of migration in human prosperity, regretting the lack of solidarity from the richest countries on this issue.

Michael Møller, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, greeted all participants, saying it was a great privilege and pleasure to welcome them to the Palais des Nations. He reflected on the state of the

world at a time when it was fashionable to diagnose a demise of the global order, outlining the challenge of defending and reinvigorating multilateralism. Throughout his address, the Director-General highlighted the importance and potential of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as an action plan that everyone could get behind. He considered that answers to the challenges of the day began with unity and solidarity, core values of the SI that were shared by the United Nations.

In his opening speech, the SI President George Papandreou described the sense of urgency within the movement, confronted with many injustices in societies, deep inequalities in the global economy, the growing concentration of power and wealth and facing the monstrosity of those who used fear and violence to gain power and achieve their goals. He reflected that multilateralism and cooperation were being undermined by the new US administration, making space for anti-solidarity movements and extreme nationalism. The role of social democracy was to stand up to the rise of the far right, showing that there was a different way and he called on delegates to infuse their politics with passion and imagination to this end.

Under the first main theme, contributions were heard from a number of members of the SI Presidium, and delegates directly involved in on-going processes of conflict resolution. These exchanges underlined the need for a rules-based international order, and for efforts to build confidence between countries where a risk of conflict existed. A number of the declarations later adopted at the close of the meeting reflected these discussions on international peace and security. These included a declaration on conflict resolution in Africa, a declaration on the Palestinian Question, a declaration on the Kurdish people, and a declaration on the Korean Peninsula.

The second main theme of the Council was introduced by former president of Chile Ricardo Lagos, who gave a special address on challenges to democracy. He considered in particular that current trends were pointing to a world without any global order in which it would become difficult for democracy to prevail, in particular as populism grew in strength in countries previously known for their strong democratic values. One answer proposed was to make democracy a more horizontal system and an instrument of change as a way to restore confidence in institutions. Lagos noted that these challenges were identical in the developed and developing world, and that above all, democrats everywhere needed to live up to the deeds of their ancestors and be brave. These sentiments were echoed during further interventions on democracy made by delegates with wide-ranging experiences on the subject, from countries where democracy was well-established to those where it is almost completely absent. A declaration on overcoming challenges to democracy around the world was later adopted.

Omar Barboza, President of the Venezuelan Parliament (National Assembly), who was specially invited to the Council to address the critical situation in his country, explained how millions had left Venezuela due to a humanitarian crisis caused by corruption, repression, censorship and a lack of respect for human rights, and called for new, free presidential elections with the presence of impartial international observers. The Council echoed these calls in a resolution on Venezuela. The Council further articulated a position on the situation with regard to democracy and human rights in specific countries, adopting a declaration on Nicaragua and a resolution on Djibouti. A special declaration of recognition for the achievements of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita of Mali and of support as he stands for re-election in July 2018, was adopted.

Interventions on the third theme, "Responding with our values and principles to migration globally and to the current plight of refugees," included emotive and heartfelt expressions, as successive delegates underlined their support for people on the move in the world today. There was recognition among all that migration has played a vitally important historical role in the development and prosperity of humanity, and continues to be a positive phenomenon. Many speakers touched on the way that language was used to divide migrants into different categories with implicit hierarchies, such as refugee or economic migrant, immigrant or ex-pat. The Council would later adopt a declaration on global migration and the plight of refugees, underlining the fundamental and inalienable human rights of all migrants and the central and positive role of migration in human history.

A report was delivered by the chair of the Ethics Committee, Arianne Fontenelle (PS, Belgium), on the work of the committee. There were currently 41 applications for membership under examination. The Council approved the proposals of the committee to upgrade to full membership the MLPC of Central African Republic and to upgrade from observer to consultative status the Komala Party of Iranian Kurdistan. It agreed to admit the Rasanbleman party of Haiti and the Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan as new full member parties; the PPSF of Palestine and the CPP of Ghana as consultative parties; and the SDPS of Serbia and MSD of Kosovo as observer members. Regarding adherence to the SI's Ethical Charter, the Council decided that the Ethics Committee would undertake an investigation of compliance by the Fusion of Social Democrats (FSDH, Haiti), and that in the case of the member party in Benin, the chair of the Africa Committee would voluntarily suspend his activities and the next meeting of the regional committee should resolve the question of the chair.

Maurice Poler (AD, Venezuela), delivered his report as co-chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, reminding member parties of the need to meet their financial obligations to the SI, both to maintain their status and voting rights within the organisation and in order that the SI could continue to deliver a full programme of activities and meet the ambition of its members.

It was agreed that the final composition of the SI Committee on Gender Equality will be confirmed on the occasion of the annual meeting of the SI Presidium to take place at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York in September this year during the high level segment of the General Assembly.

Concluding the Council's discussions, the SI Secretary General touched on remarks made during the sessions in reference to the SI being the legitimate organisation of the social democrats. He highlighted that the SI held its legitimacy as long as it was consistent with the values and principles that identify our movement, and as long as it was democratically self-governed and financially self-sustained by its members, guaranteeing its autonomy and integrity. The Council, he said, had offered us a route to follow and a mission to move forward our conclusions.

DECLARATION ON OVERCOMING CHALLENGES TO DEMOCRACY AROUND THE WORLD

The Socialist International Council, meeting at the United Nations in Geneva, considered the historical role played by socialist and social democratic parties in the establishment, consolidation and defence of democracy. For most of the last half-century, unprecedented advances have been made, with member parties of the Socialist International among the primary architects of democracy in their respective countries. However, in the last decade the threat of a regression in democratic rights has emerged, and the Council considered the emerging and enduring challenges to democracy, and how they might be overcome.

The Council:

Reiterates that democracy is the foundation of a free, just and prosperous society, and that the members of the SI, as social democratic political parties, are defined by their fundamental commitment to democracy and its advancement.

Recognises that as social democrats we cannot take democracy for granted in any of our countries, in particular where democratic rights were acquired relatively recently. It is vital to guard against a regression to previous undemocratic systems and practices and to counter the threat posed by anti-democratic forces.

Considers that the current wave of populism that has emerged around the world, in particular right-wing populism, represents a major danger to the hard-won freedoms that SI member parties hold dear.

Recognises that a significant source of the disillusionment that has contributed to the rise of populism is rooted in an ineffective and unjust response to the global financial crisis that began a decade ago. This relates in particular to austerity policies, the effects of which are still being felt and have had most impact on those who bore least responsibility for the crisis.

Calls for coordinated international action to address the new threats posed to democracy by unaccountable corporations that are able to exercise power and influence over the electoral process and by the rapid spread of influential misinformation on social media.

Underlines the importance of cooperation and solidarity across international borders in offering support to those struggling to establish, consolidate and defend democracy. In this regard the collective strength of the Socialist International can be exercised to great effect, making use of our global network of activists, party members and elected representatives to mobilise in defence of democratic rights and freedoms.

DECLARATION ON GLOBAL MIGRATION AND THE PLIGHT OF REFUGEES

The SI Council considers that migration has played a central and positive role throughout human history, as our ancestors have moved to different regions of the planet in pursuit of opportunity, freedom and a better quality of life. These are people who have contributed to the development and advancement of their places of arrival through their talents and endeavours, shaping the countries of the world as we know them today.

The Council rejects attempts to portray migration in the 21st century as a negative phenomenon, and the associated demonization of those who move across national borders. Social democratic parties oppose the anti-immigration rhetoric of the populist right, which merely creates scapegoats rather than offering solutions to the realities of the day.

The commitments made by the SI Council on migration are grounded in the SI Charter for the Rights of Migrants, adopted by the Council at the United Nations in New York in 2015. This document, which all SI member parties are committed to uphold, underlines the fundamental human rights of all migrants, based on respect for human life and basic liberties.

The Council considered current trends in global migration:

The death of thousands of migrants in the Mediterranean Sea in recent years as they attempt to cross into Europe is a human catastrophe on a devastating scale, and a source of great shame for humanity. At a time when solidarity, compassion and assistance to fellow inhabitants of this planet are required, anti-migrant rhetoric from populist parties have created a situation in which more concern has been shown for keeping migrants out than human life. In this regard, the Council is extremely concerned by the position recently adopted by the governments of Italy and Malta in turning away ships requiring assistance having rescued people from the waters of the Mediterranean. The Council is also concerned about the lack of coordinated-policy response at the European level, where the populist and nationalistic forces are imposing their migration policies characterized by border closings and xenophobia. These movements of people require a human response, rather than an attempt to make the outer borders of Europe impenetrable, and the Council applauds actions of the Spanish socialist government of Pedro Sánchez, SI Vice-President, which has given these people a safe haven.

The emergence last year of clear evidence of the selling of humans as slaves in Libya was a shocking and abhorrent demonstration of complete disregard for the human rights of migrants who had in many cases been taken unwittingly into the country by human traffickers under false pretences. Special attention to women and children who are often victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation. Migrants are among the most vulnerable in society and are particularly prone to exploitation and mistreatment. In this context it is a positive step for the defence of human rights that the UN has recently imposed sanctions for people on six Libyans responsible for a transnational smuggling network and brutal treatment of migrants.

Populist parties have successfully exploited the issue of migration in order to win electoral success, and it is vital for social democratic parties to respond. All political parties must listen to legitimate concerns of the electorate, but social democrats have a moral and political obligation to defend the

human rights of migrants and the contribution they make to their country of arrival. Those who seek to blame migration for economic difficulties, a lack of social cohesion, unemployment and other problems in society do so because they do not want to look for solutions but only to stop migrations. In contrast, seeking appropriate, just and sustainable solutions to the consequences of global migration flows are at the core of social democracy.

It is equally vital to counter misinformation, in particular the narrative that the developed world is under siege from mass migration. Approximately 85% of global refugees are hosted by developing countries, which themselves are in many cases facing severe economic and societal challenges. Nowhere is this more true than in Africa, which hosts more refugees than any other region of the world yet is often portrayed as the source of the global refugee crisis.

The Council condemns the policy of separating predominantly Latin American migrant children from their parents and their placement in detention facilities instituted by the current US administration. Such treatment is fundamentally cruel and a clear violation of the human rights of these vulnerable children, many of them extremely young and at risk of severe trauma as a result.

The Council recalls its previous declarations on the Rohingya people and urges continued attention to the plight of those forced to flee Myanmar and seek refuge in neighbouring Bangladesh. It reiterates its calls for an end to persecution and human rights violations against the Rohingya, underlines the right of all Rohingya to be able to return to their homes with guarantees of security and urges the international community to maintain pressure on the leadership and government of Myanmar.

The number of forcibly displaced people in the world today is greater than at any stage since the Second World War. This includes both cross-border refugees and internally displaced persons, and is an indication of the wider impact of conflict, terrorism and climate change on vulnerable populations. The Council underlines that no action to resolve the global refugee crisis can succeed without also addressing the underlying causes of the flows of people across international borders. This will require concerted action on conflict resolution, peace-building, sustainable development, democratisation and tackling climate change. These are the defining challenges of this era, and cannot be resolved by any one country alone. At the heart of responses to global migration and the plight of refugees is therefore the principle of multilateralism.

Migration is a question that we must address with humanity and with the courage of our convictions as socialists, in the name of solidarity, respect and social justice. We cannot accept simplistic categories of legal (asylum seekers, refugees, etc.) versus illegal migrants (all the others, economic, environmental), allowing the populists to define who is in and who is out. We must restore legal channels of legal migration also for non-forcibly displaced people. We must establish stable relations with the countries of origin and transit for a joint management of the migration flows, helping them in their development processes and building democratic institutions that are respectful of human rights.

DECLARATION ON CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN AFRICA

The Council of the Socialist International, meeting at the United Nations in Geneva on 26-27 June 2018, discussed the contribution of social democracy to the resolution of conflicts and to international peace and security.

Conflicts in the world destroy lives, impede development and cause the forced displacement of civilian populations. The resolution of conflicts and push for peace must therefore remain fundamental social democratic principles, which the SI and its member parties seek to advance at all times. Peace is of course a prerequisite for personal security, development and a high standard of living.

In this context, the Council considered the vital work of conflict resolution in Africa, a continent where the SI has a long history of working for peace and security. It recognised that several SI member parties are actively engaged in a number of peace building and conflict resolution efforts.

The SI has consistently encouraged regional cooperation in the Sahel to combat terrorism and reinforce security, and the Council reiterates the support of the SI for the G5 Sahel task force. Though the terrorist threat remains in the Sahel, thanks to coordinated action by regional governments it has been contained.

With respect to Western Sahara, the Council expresses its support for the Secretary-General of the United Nations and his newly appointed Personal Envoy in their efforts to achieve a political, peaceful, fair and lasting solution, mutually acceptable for both sides in the conflict, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. This process should lead to face to face negotiations of the parties.

The Council recognises the determined and persistent efforts in the region of the Great Lakes by countries of that region committed to peace. The International Conference for the Great Lakes Region has been an important forum for working towards a durable and negotiated solution that will bring peace and stability to the DR Congo, Central African Republic, Burundi and Sudan, where terrorist groups and rebels have left a trail of destruction and death.

The SI is following with interest the evolution of the situation in Libya and expresses its support to the actions of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and his deputy, for a political solution involving all Libyans and starting with the organisation of elections in order to establish legal institutions.

The SI is following with great attention the dramatic and worrying evolution of the crisis which is affecting the Anglophone populations of the north-west and south-west of Cameroon and reiterates its exhortation to President Paul Biya to urgently find appropriate solutions to put an end to this dangerous crisis before the situation deteriorates in the whole country.

Meeting of the Council of the Socialist International
United Nations, Geneva, 26-27 June 2018

DECLARATION ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION

The Council of the Socialist International, meeting in United Nations, in Geneva, on 26-27 June 2018, held discussions on the theme of international peace and security and reflected on the prospects for peace in the Middle East, - Recalling its previous declarations of the SI, in particular the SI Councils in New York in June 2010, in Istanbul in November 2013, in Geneva in December 2014, in New York in July 2015, and in Geneva in July 2016:

The Council:

Reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the right to their independent State of Palestine on the June 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, and reaffirms its commitment, in accordance with international law, to bringing a complete end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian state that started in 1967 in order to achieve the two- state solution, as two sovereign and democratic states for all their citizens and a just solution to the issue of Palestinian refugees on the basis of the UN resolution 194;

After more than 25 years of failing to achieve peace through the bilateral peace process, we believe that the time has come for the international community to (collectively) meet its responsibility under international law to bring an end to the occupation of the Palestinian State and all impediments to the exercise by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination;

Recalling our 2011 Athens Council declaration on the Middle East, whereby we called for the recognition of the State of Palestine, the SI members reaffirm their commitment to:

1. Support the immediate unconditional recognition of the State of Palestine on the borders of the 4th of June 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital.
2. Support a greater international role through an international conference that will include various international actors from different regions in order to push for a just and lasting peace based on international law for Israel and Palestine, including complete ending the occupation that began in 1967;
3. Support a total end of all settlement activities including in East Jerusalem, the immediate end of destruction of homes and the deportation of Palestinians and to end all forms of racial discrimination and apartheid;
4. Encourage the non-violent approach at all levels and by all parties and demand the immediate cessation of all forms of violence by the Israeli occupying power and settlers against the Palestinian non-violent resistance;
5. Demand the immediate release of all the Palestinian prisoners especially the elected members of the Palestinian legislative council, minors and administrative detainees;

6. Since the SI's last statement on April 2018, the number of Palestinian civilians attacked by Israeli Occupation Forces has risen sharply with the killing of over 130 unarmed Palestinians and injuring of over 6,000 including children, journalists, first aid paramedics, women and men. The Council strongly condemns the illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip by Israel, as well as the use of lethal weapons by Israeli military forces against peaceful non-violent protesters, and call the Israeli Government to immediately lift the siege on the Gaza Strip and allow free the movement of the people. The SI affirms its support to the United Nations General Assembly resolution (A/ES-10/L.23) that calls for "guaranteeing the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in the Gaza Strip".

7- Calls all governments and civil society organizations to activate Boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against the Israeli occupation, all the occupation institutions, and the illegal Israeli settlements including the total embargo on all forms of military trade and cooperation with Israel as long as it continues its policies of occupation and Apartheid against the Palestinian people.

8- The SI Council further calls on the US administration to reconsider its positions that are favouring Israel, including moving their embassy to Jerusalem. We regret the US decision to withdraw from the Human Rights Council, as it did previously from the Paris Agreement on climate change and UNESCO.

9- The SI Council would like to reiterate its solidarity with the progressive forces in Israel and Palestine, including human rights defenders and civil society organizations that have been victims of a vicious campaign by the Israeli government. At the same time, the Council express its solidarity with the Palestinian citizens in Israel that continues to live under a system of institutionalized discrimination and strongly condemn the approval of racist laws, including the Citizenship Law.

RESOLUTION ON THE KURDISH PEOPLE

The SI Council considers that the Iranian regime is able to easily escape the consequences of its actions, knowing that the nuclear programme overshadows other topics such as solidarity and human rights. We expect the International community not to help the Iranian regime to become even more powerful in suppressing opposition.

Right now the Iranian people reached a point where they cannot tolerate poverty, inflation and corruption any longer and are in the streets asking for the Iranian regime to pay attention to the Iranian people instead of interfering in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen and providing economic support to them instead of taking care of its own people. The SI offers its support to the people of Iran in general and Kurdish people in particular in their struggle for democracy and human rights.

In Iraqi Kurdistan, the SI supports the implementation of the Iraqi Constitution and resolving all the outstanding issues between the federal government and the Kurdistan Regional government in a peaceful manner. We call upon the Iraqi political parties and the future new federal government to make arrangements which reflect a true participation of the Kurds in the new government based on a partnership, consensus and balance. We call upon both governments in Baghdad and Erbil to stabilise the situation in the disputed territories and allow a joint administration in order to prevent ISIS and similar groups from exploiting the post referendum tensions in the areas for their own advantage and to protect the rights of the Kurdish people and other ethnic and religious minorities in these areas.

We send our congratulations to the People's Democratic Party (HDP) which recently gained major votes in the elections in Turkey. We demand the immediate release of the president of the HDP, Selahattin Demirtas and of all the political prisoners that are illegally detained in Turkish prisons.

The Turkish government should allow the political dialogue to be resumed and needs to return to the process of finding a peaceful solution to the Kurdish question.

In Syria, the Socialist International supports a fair solution for the Kurdish people, so as to guarantee the unity and sovereignty of Syria within the framework of decentralized governance, according to the model of democratic federalism.

As far as Afrin is concerned, we support the safe, stable and dignified return of the people of Afrin, under international supervision and the end of the Turkish occupation in the region.

In line with the commitment of the SI to the cause of the Kurdish people, the Council decides to re-establish the SI Committee on the Kurdish Question.

DECLARATION ON NICARAGUA

Original Spanish

In view of the latest violent events in Nicaragua and the growing polarisation of the social, political and entrepreneurial forces in the country, the member parties of the Socialist International:

1. strongly condemn the deaths of more than 212 people, a responsibility of the State of Nicaragua due to the excessive use of force by the police, vigilante groups and third party armed groups, as established by the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, IACHR, in their report dated 21 June 2018;
2. take note of the efforts made by the Government of Nicaragua, the FSLN, and all parties involved in the National Dialogue, urging them to redouble their efforts to achieve a permanent and lasting negotiated solution as soon as possible, away from violence, ensuring the safety of citizens and full justice, which are essential for social stability and the economic progress of the whole society;
3. encourages the bringing to fruition of what has already been agreed by the parties involved, with an official invitation of the Government of Nicaragua to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and to the European Union to accompany the efforts of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (HRIC), of the OAS and its commissions of assistance, to civil society, and a commission of experts, to investigate the events that have taken place in the country since 18th April;
4. urge the Verification and Security Commission that has created the Dialogue to carry out its functions to achieve the cessation of "all forms of violence and threats wherever they come from in the national territory and an implementation plan as soon as possible for the removal of the tanks" and "to enhance the maintaining of an environment of peace and security" and
5. encourage compliance with the agreements of the National Dialogue to invite the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Luis Almagro, to come to the country and explain in plenary session the scope and contents of the agreements on electoral and institutional matters that have been signed and are being put into effect with the Government of Nicaragua.

DECLARATION ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA

Recalling the statement issued by the SI from the UN Headquarters in New York in September 2017 and the declaration on North Korea of the SI Council in Barcelona in November 2017, the Council took note of the latest developments in relation to the situation on the Korean peninsula.

In line with the fundamental commitment of the SI to peace and dialogue, the Council underlined the necessity of seeking a political solution to the tensions.

The Council expresses its full support for the peace diplomacy policy pursued by the Social Democratic Party of Japan, rooted in the unique situation of Japan as the only country that has suffered the terrible destruction of nuclear weapons. Japan should proactively engage as the guarantor of denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, working for the stability and peace of northeast Asia.

The possession of nuclear weapons by North Korea cannot be recognised in the interests of regional peace and security. The Council supports initiatives to create a nuclear weapon-free zone in northeast Asia, which would encompass Japan, North Korea, South Korea and Mongolia. The verifiable denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula in a peaceful manner is a prerequisite for lasting peace and stability in northeast Asia, and the Council welcomes recent steps towards reconciliation between North and South Korea.

There is now the opportunity to bring an end to the Cold War structures that have persisted in East Asia, by normalising relationships of both the United States and Japan with North Korea. This improvement in relationships could in turn bring about the implementation of economic assistance and a future in which the whole of the Korean peninsula enjoys peace and prosperity built on mutual trust and confidence.

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DECLARATION ON MALI

The SI Council recognised the progress made in Mali during the five-year term of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, recalling that he was elected at a time when the country was in a multi-dimensional crisis. This had seen the Malian state collapse following an invasion of the northern regions by rebel and jihadist forces, and a military coup d'état.

Over the last five years, the government of Mali has addressed the priorities of peace and reconciliation by concluding a treaty with armed rebel groups, increased the strength of security forces in the fight against terrorism, revived the economy, promoted gender equality and the participation of women in society, increased the living conditions of Malians, and reduced poverty.

The SI Council expresses its wholehearted support for President Keita as he stands for re-election on 29 July 2018. The Council has full confidence in the measures put in place by the Malian government to ensure the transparency and credibility of the electoral process, including the adoption of a new electoral law in April with the support of both the majority and the opposition.

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RESOLUTION ON VENEZUELA

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International, at its Council meeting held on 26-27 June 2018 at the United Nations in Geneva, observes with concern the conflict of powers in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, where the Executive Power attempts by illegal means and contrary to the Constitution to curb the attributions of the National Assembly which was democratically elected by the Venezuelan people and is representative of the peoples' sovereignty.

Once again, the Socialist International extends its solidarity to the Venezuelan people in their struggle to recover the effective validity of democracy in that country.

The Socialist International shares and supports the conclusions reached by the Council of the European Union regarding the electoral process that took place in Venezuela on 20 May 2018, expressing that "the election and the results lack credibility because the electoral process did not grant the necessary guarantees for the holding of integral and democratic elections". The SI also shares the appeal made by the 28 states of the European Union for new presidential elections to be held in accordance with internationally recognized democratic norms and the Venezuelan constitutional order.

The International emphatically rejects the massive violation of human rights in Venezuela, the lack of separation of public powers, the politically motivated persecutions in the country and the existence of more than 400 political prisoners, including the leader of a member party of our organization, Leopoldo López.

Finally, the SI reiterates its recognition of the Venezuelan National Assembly as the legitimate representative of the country's popular sovereignty elected by a great majority on 6 December 2015, and whose mandate is in force until the last day of the year 2020.

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**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DEMOCRACY
AND OF THE MRD IN DJIBOUTI**

Original: French

The members of the Socialist International, gathered at the United Nations in Geneva on 26-27 June 2018 for a meeting of the SI Council, follow with great concern the situation in Djibouti, the denial of democracy, repeated violations of human rights and bad governance which have persisted in the country since its independence in 1977.

The government has still not implemented the political agreement signed with the opposition on 30 December 2014 following the post-electoral crisis of February 2013. Consequently, the parliamentary elections held on 23 February 2018 were neither free nor democratic and were therefore boycotted by the credible opposition.

Similarly, the main opposition party in Djibouti, the MRD, is a victim of denial of justice and had its existence threatened, hence the complaint it filed on 21 November 2017 with the United Nations Human Rights Committee in Geneva.

SI cannot remain indifferent to this situation which, if left unresolved, could end up in a serious crisis and worsen instability and insecurity in Horn of Africa and on the banks of the Red Sea.

Consequently, the SI urges President Ismael Omar Guelleh to:

-end repression, human rights violations and denial of democracy,

-implement the political agreement of the 30 December 2014 and to thereby put in place the democratic reforms such as the creation of an egalitarian Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) and the implementation of a status for the opposition, conditions that are necessary for the holding of free and fair elections,

-restore the rights and legality of the MRD and to stop the arbitrary refusal and legality of opposition parties and civil society organisations such as the Djiboutian League for human rights (LDDH).



Meeting of the Council of the Socialist International Women in Geneva

28 June 2018

The Secretary General of the Socialist International, Luis Ayala, participates in the meeting of the Socialist International Women in Geneva.



SI Secretary General, Luis Ayala, with Ouafa Hajji, President of the Socialist International Women





SI welcomes the peace deal between Eritrea and Ethiopia

10 July 2018

The Socialist International warmly welcomes the signing of a peace agreement by Eritrea's President Isaias Afewerki and Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, bringing to an end the state of war between the two countries that has persisted for two decades. Although a ceasefire had previously been reached, the border dispute at the centre of the conflict had been unresolved until Prime Minister Ahmed announced in early June that Ethiopia would fully accept the terms of the comprehensive peace agreement of 2000. The war, which lasted two years between 1998 and 2000, claimed 80,000 lives.

This accord will have a profound and positive effect on the lives of the people of both Eritrea and Ethiopia, a process which has already begun with the resumption of telephone communications between the two countries for the first time since 1998. Both governments have also expressed their desire to open "a new era of peace and friendship", with the opening of embassies, development of ports and resumption of flights between the neighbouring countries.

Choosing diplomacy, compromise and reconciliation is never straightforward, but this historic joint commitment to a shared future means that both countries will be able to enjoy the benefits of enhanced political, economic, social, cultural and security cooperation. As the Socialist International has outlined on many occasions, without peace there can be no development, no prosperity, and the objectives of democracy and social justice demanded by people all over the world cannot be achieved.

Eritrea and Ethiopia have shown that with effective leadership and a common will, peace is always within reach, achieving a great success for their two nations that will also benefit the Horn of Africa region and the continent as a whole. This positive example of conflict resolution could become a catalyst for wider peace building efforts, and the SI will continue to work with its member parties and others to promote peace and conflict resolution, which are fundamental social democratic principles and objectives.



SI Secretary General in Mali for Presidential elections

28 July 2018

The Secretary General of the Socialist International, Luis Ayala, was present in Mali for the closing of the election campaign, and to witness the voting process on the election day itself. At the close of the campaign on Saturday 28 July, the SG participated in a meeting of leaders from different regions, including all the leaders of the political parties which make up the “Ensemble pour le Mali”, which supports the candidacy of Ibrahim Boubacar Keita (IBK) for President of Mali. Addressing the gathering, the SI Secretary General underlined the significance of the election of IBK resulting from a large mobilisation of the people of Mali to consolidate democracy, secure peace, and to continue advancing the commitment of the SI members in Mali for justice and solidarity.



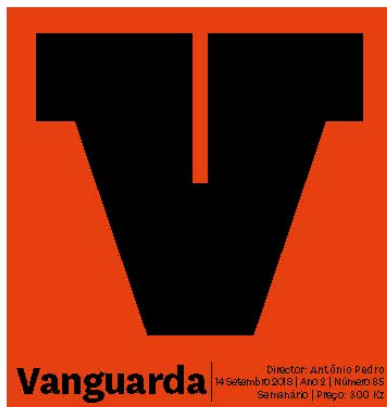
*Bokary Treta,
President of the
RPM and head of
the election
campaign, with the
SI Secretary
General and party
leaders*





SI Secretary General in Angola for the 6th extraordinary Congress of the MPLA

8 September 2018



The Secretary General of the Socialist International, Luis Ayala, attended the 6th extraordinary Congress of the MPLA in Angola.



Vanguarda, Angola



Iran

Ramin Hossein Panahi

10 September 2018



The Socialist International is deeply saddened to learn of reports emanating from the Iranian Public Prosecutor's Office that Ramin Hossein Panahi, who had been sentenced to death for his alleged membership of Komala, was executed by the Iranian regime on 7 September, despite numerous appeals by the international community and human rights organisations.

The SI had drawn attention to the plight of Panahi and supported the campaign of the Komala KPIK, an SI member party, for his release. It is reported that Panahi was executed along with two other prisoners, Zaniar and Loghman Moradi, following a flawed trial. The SI denounces these acts in the strongest terms and sends its heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and to the members of the KPIK.



SI condemns Iran's missile attack against Iranian Kurds in Iraq

10 September 2018

The Socialist International expresses its outrage and condemns the missile attack carried out by the Islamic Republic of Iran over the weekend against the headquarters of two SI Iranian member parties, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP-Iran) and the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI), located in Northern Iraq.

The headquarters of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP-Iran) was deliberately targeted while its central committee was in session with senior leaders, resulting in the tragic deaths of 16 of its members and the injury of close to 50. The Iranian regime also targeted the headquarters of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI) and nearby refugee camps in Koya. The Socialist International conveys its deepest sympathy and condolences to the family and comrades of those killed in the attack, and its solidarity with those injured.

This targeted onslaught against the Iranian Kurds over the weekend began with news of the execution of three Kurdish political prisoners by the Iranian regime, including Ramin Hossein Panahi of the SI member Komala Party of Iranian Kurdistan (KPIK), whose plight the SI had previously drawn attention to and who was subject of numerous appeals by the international community and human rights organisations.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has violated the national sovereignty of a neighbouring country, targeted innocent civilians and contravened international law. The Socialist International calls on the entire international community to unequivocally denounce these unacceptable acts.

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

27 September 2018



Pedro Sanchez, George Papandreou, Luis Ayala

The Presidium of the Socialist International held its annual meeting in conjunction with the high-level segment of the UN General Assembly at the United Nations headquarters in New York on 27 September 2018. The members of the Presidium, along with invited heads of state and government and a number of ministers from SI member parties, focused their exchanges on the key issues for the global social democratic movement at the present time. The agenda for the meeting included the current international situation and global challenges that arise for the social democratic movement; emphases and priorities to ensure that the multilateral system effectively secures peace and sustainability and respect for freedoms and rights for all; and how to reinforce the foundations of our global society in these troubled times.

The SI President George Papandreou, opening the meeting, expressed concern over attacks on the multilateral system by proponents of radical nationalism around the world. While such forces were more concerned with looking for scapegoats than coming up with solutions, social democrats needed to give their alternative view, in a strong endorsement of the multilateral actions needed to deal with climate change, to achieve the SDGs and to increase fairness in the world. Luis Ayala, SI Secretary General, said that multilateralism had been central to the vision of our movement to gain and maintain peace, and therefore

the SI has been among the strongest supporters of the UN. Nationalism and populism were a great challenge, both for the UN, which had today an ever more important role in the world, and for the members of the SI who, with their values and principles of freedoms, rights and social justice, had been the architects of new democracies in different parts of the world.

The contributions made by the heads of state and government present were a ringing endorsement of the importance of multilateralism in the face of the challenges faced by the whole planet, and a firm rejection of nationalism and isolationism. President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita (Mali) and President Mahamadou Issoufou (Niger) both reflected on the challenges faced by their neighbouring countries and the Sahel region, and the need for a common front against terrorism and a more peaceful world. The resolution of conflicts and securing peace remain vital tasks that can only be achieved through international cooperation, a fact that was raised by Prime Minister Pavel Filip (Moldova) in relation to his party's desire to secure peace in a challenging neighbourhood.

Multilateralism was also highlighted as a vital tool in the context of global development, and Prime Minister Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh (Mongolia) stressed the importance of the SDGs and the right to development in a sustainable way, noting the sustainable 2030 vision of his government. The value of economic cooperation in ensuring prosperity and welfare for the people of the world was underlined by Prime Minister Duško Marković (Montenegro), who also reflected on the electoral success of his party based on the values it shared with the SI.

The President of the Spanish Government, Pedro Sánchez, outlined how his new government embodied the common values and principles of the SI, leading the way among OECD countries on gender equality, making green government a priority and addressing the migration crisis with a focus on human rights. He participated in exchanges with SI vice-presidents on issues of concern, giving his perspective on migratory policy and the plight of unaccompanied minors, the crisis in Venezuela, the challenges posed by the current US administration and prospects for forthcoming European elections.

The Presidium also discussed the future work of the International, having received a mandate from the previous Council to determine the final composition of the newly established SI Committee on Gender Equality. The Presidium welcomed and endorsed the names put forward by the SI President, agreed in coordination with the SI Secretary General and the SIW President, respecting the crucial principles of regional balance and equal gender representation. The first meeting of the committee would be held at the time of the next SI Council meeting. The SI Secretary General later reported to the Presidium that he had received a number of offers to host the forthcoming Council meetings, with the issue of timing and the order in which these meetings would be held to be resolved in the coming weeks. He noted that it was very positive news that the next four Councils could be held in different continents: Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America.

Following the exchanges and concerns raised by a number of vice-presidents on particularly pressing issues, the Presidium approved the release of statements on Venezuela, on Nicaragua, on the Middle East and on Libya.

The heads of state and government present for the meeting were President of Mali Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of Niger Mahamadou Issoufou, Prime Minister of Moldova

Pavel Filip, Prime Minister of Mongolia Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh, Prime Minister of Montenegro Duško Marković and President of the Spanish government, SI Vice-President Pedro Sánchez. The members of the SI presidium that participated in the meeting included George Papandreou, SI President; Luis Ayala, SI Secretary General; SI Vice-Presidents Victor Benoit (Haiti), Elsa Espinosa (Mexico), Eero Heinäluoma (Finland), Janira Hopffer Almada (Cape Verde), Chantal Kambiwa (Cameroon), Shazia Marri (Pakistan), Rafael Michelini (Uruguay), Mario Nalpatian (Armenia), Julião Mateus Paulo (Angola), Nabil Shaath (Palestine), Bokary Treta (Mali), Ex-officio SI Vice-President and Foreign Minister of the Dominican Republic Miguel Vargas, and SI Honorary Presidents Mustapha Ben Jaafar (Tunisia) and Tarja Halonen, former President of Finland. Also attending the meeting were Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission; Kalla Ankourao, Foreign Minister of Niger; José Condugua Pacheco, Foreign Minister of Mozambique; and Hélène Marie Laurence Ilboudo Marchal, Minister for women, National Solidarity and Families, of Burkina Faso.

Statement of the SI Presidium on Venezuela
United Nations, New York, September 2018

Original: Spanish

In view of the continuation and deepening of the crisis that affects Venezuela, the SI Presidium reiterates its concern at the degradation and sustained deterioration in the living conditions of the Venezuelan people. The resolution of the current situation will only be possible within the context of the normal functioning of democratic institutions and the full respect for the rights and freedoms of the Venezuelan people. The SI has denounced the constant and serious violations of human rights, the repression, the existence of political prisoners and of exiled citizens. Today, it speaks out once more to demand the release of all political prisoners and respect for all the freedoms and all the rights of all Venezuelans.

The humanitarian emergency that confronts Venezuela is the main reason behind the daily migration of thousands of people in search of a way to overcome the distressing and precarious conditions being suffered by the Venezuelan people. The solidarity extended by the neighbouring countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region to these Venezuelans contrasts with the reality in other continents and must be duly appreciated.

The normalisation of the democratic process in Venezuela will need the full restoration of and respect for the powers of the National Assembly, a sovereign public body with democratic legitimacy. The exercise of the constitutional powers of the National Assembly, a key player in the Venezuelan constitutional order, is the central pillar to design a transition towards democratic normality in the country. The Presidium reiterates its full confidence that the SI member parties in Venezuela will continue to work in search of an appropriate peaceful political way out, leading to the holding of fair and free elections, allowing the recovery of democratic coexistence in the country.

Statement of the SI Presidium on Nicaragua
United Nations, New York, September 2018

Original: Spanish

The Presidium reiterates the condemnation expressed at the last Council meeting of the Socialist International over the responsibility of the authorities of Nicaragua for the growing number of victims, the political polarisation and the violent confrontations that have occurred in that country for more than five months. These occurrences, far from being resolved through a process of dialogue which today is halted, have left more than five hundred dead, thousands wounded and hundreds of political prisoners.

The Presidium considers unacceptable the serious human rights violations that have taken place in Nicaragua during the last months and also condemns the responsibility that lies with the police force, vigilantes and other armed groups, which must be duly established and sanctioned. In order to restore and advance a true dialogue, this should be inclusive and be carried out within a peaceful framework, as has been recently expressed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Practices such as the indiscriminate and excessive use of force against protesters and the judicial persecution of the political opposition must end. All political prisoners must be immediately released.

The SI considers unacceptable the hostility shown by the Nicaraguan government towards regional and international bodies which have been involved in the current situation in accordance with their mandate and competence. To declare that the actions of the OAS and the United Nations are interventionist, reveals an outdated view of the relations between sovereignty and human rights. The Presidium calls on the government of Nicaragua to ensure the free and full functioning of international institutions in the country. Finally, the SI expresses its grave concern over the thousands of Nicaraguans who are fleeing their country and ending up mainly in Costa Rica, aggravating the Central American migration crisis.

Statement of the SI Presidium on the Middle East
United Nations, New York, September 2018

The SI Presidium, during its annual meeting at the UN Headquarters in New York, expressed its concern about the lack of international initiatives to move forward the process to achieve a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and made an urgent appeal for statements of support for a two-state solution to be turned into concrete steps toward freedom, justice and security for all.

In the current international political context of increasing threats to global security, the need to bring about a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has taken on more importance than ever, and the Socialist International will continue to be a vocal advocate of all efforts to advance the Middle East peace process. For many decades, our organisation has worked in pursuit of a two-state solution with a peaceful future for both Israel and Palestine, together with its member parties in both countries.

The SI Presidium:

Reiterates the call of the SI for immediate recognition of the State of Palestine on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, and its commitment to defend the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and statehood;

Supports the important work of UNWRA for the benefit of Palestinian refugees, and urges all countries to honour their financial commitments to this UN agency;

Reiterates its solidarity with the progressive forces in Israel, including SI member parties, that support full equality for all Israeli citizens regardless of their religion or ethnic origin as well as the establishment of the two-state solution based on international law and UN resolutions;

Recognises the right of civil society to endorse non-violent measures to secure the implementation of international law in the Palestinian territories, insofar as such measures are not intended to delegitimise the State of Israel but to bring an end to occupation and implement the two-state solution;

Calls upon the Israeli government to immediately end its institutional discrimination against its Palestinian, Christian, Muslim and Druze citizens by nullifying all laws that discriminate, including the citizenship law and the recently approved "Nation-State Law of the Jewish People", that denies the right to self-determination to all non-Jews living under Israeli control.

The SI Presidium reiterates the organisation's commitment to peace, democracy, justice and solidarity and the need to confront the divisive populism and nationalism that are becoming more prevalent in the world. This includes an unwavering commitment to peace and security for Israelis and Palestinians, and to working for equality and an end to the Israeli occupation and illegal settlements and the full recognition of the State of Palestine.

Statement of the SI Presidium on Libya
United Nations, New York, September 2018

The Presidium of the Socialist International learned with great concern of the recent violations of the ceasefire agreement in Libya, signed by armed groups in Tripoli on 4 September under the auspices of the United Nations. The Presidium fully supports and encourages the efforts of the United Nations to ensure that this agreement is respected. The development of an inclusive political process leading to the establishment of new, legitimate institutions through the adoption of a constitution and to the holding of credible, transparent elections, would free the Libyan people from the cycle of violence they have been suffering and would contribute to peace and progress in the whole region.



Mexico

SI Secretary General meets with new President of Congress,
Porfirio Muñoz Ledo

4 October 2018



The SI Secretary General meets with Porfirio Muñoz Ledo, President of the Congress of the Union, LXIV Legislature of Mexico, who was elected on 1 September 2018 by the new majority formed by the Movement of National Regeneration, MORENA

SI meeting at the 139th IPU Assembly

15 October 2018



An SI meeting during the 139th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva was held on Monday 15 October 2018, providing a platform for parliamentarians from SI member parties attending the Assembly to exchange views on issues figuring on the agenda of this assembly of the IPU and to share information both on their national situations and on issues of particular concern. Chaired by the SI Secretary General, the meeting was attended by parliamentarians from SI parties in Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Burkina Faso, Chile, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Guinea Bissau, Hungary, Iraq, Italy, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Niger, Palestine, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Venezuela, and a representative from the Global Fund.

From the opening remarks, a recurrent thread in the discussions was the need to reaffirm the values and principles of social democracy, faced with the current surge in nationalism, populism and the ultra-right, the undermining of democracy in different countries around the world, and the threats to peace. This was perceived as an age of uncertainty driving citizens towards the right, to which the left's response was crucial. Climate change was highlighted as a challenge to every form of human life and required answers too. It was

necessary for parties of the left to join forces and be the leaders on this question, as on the defence of human rights.

In advance of the vote by the IPU Assembly on the emergency item, participants engaged in exchanges on the items that had been presented for adoption. There were expressions of concern and solidarity regarding the situation in Venezuela and its dire effects on the Venezuelan people; regarding the plight of Palestinian refugees following the US's decision to cancel aid to UNRWA; and in regard to the search for peace in the Sahel region, where the countries and their peoples faced terrorism, destabilisation and the consequences of migration. It was also noted in this context how closely inter-related were the fates of Africa and Europe, as the success of terrorism in one could directly affect stability in the other. The meeting reiterated an appeal for solidarity with the Sahel, most of the governments of which were headed by members of the SI.

There was broad support for the UN's Global Compact on Migration due to be formally adopted in December. Participants underlined the need to unite in fighting racism and xenophobia, and the fact that migration was a global phenomenon which today affected not just one country or region but all of them across the globe, as could be seen throughout Latin America, Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. A deepening of solidarity was required, as well as a focus on the root causes which needed addressing. Among the root causes cited were failed states such as Haiti, Venezuela or Libya, conflicts such as in Yemen, the dire situation affecting the Palestinian people, the increase in terrorism and massive economic hardship. The migration phenomenon was perceived as a common challenge which required joint solutions, recognising the rights and needs of migrants, including refugees and internally displaced persons. The role of the SI was seen as important to express a common position globally and to highlight the humanitarian response.

During the session, participants had the opportunity to raise latest developments and matters of concern within their respective parties, countries or regions. There were many expressions of appreciation of the SI for the support extended to their parties and gratitude for such meetings which were so important in enabling them to share views and experiences with other members of the SI family.

Concluding the meeting, the SI Secretary General spoke of the need to focus on the issues that really matter today. We needed to underscore the values of social democracy, the unqualified principle that "We are the left", and that we stand for solidarity, equality and justice. This was crucial to counter the prevailing tide of egoism and self-interest, and to preserve our democracies and prioritise the needs and interests of the people.



Parliamentary delegation from Mongolia headed by SI Vice-President and former Prime Minister S. Batbold in London

31 October 2018

Socialist International Vice-President and former Prime Minister, Sukhbaatar Batbold, heading a delegation of members of Parliament held discussions in London with the Secretary General of the Socialist International.



From left to right: Mr N Uchral, Member of Parliament of Mongolia, Mr D Lundeejantsan, Member of Parliament of Mongolia, Chairman of Standing committee on State Structure, Mrs M Oyunchimeg, Member of Parliament of Mongolia, Chairwoman of Standing committee on Petitions, Luis Ayala, SI Secretary General, Sukhbaatar Batbold, SI Vice-President and former Prime Minister, Mr Ya Sanjmyatav, Member of Parliament of Mongolia, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Mongolia, Mr N Tulga, Ambassador of Mongolia to the UK



Socialist International

'A global call for a sustainable world society – before it's too late'

Despite the efforts of the United Nations and many governments, international organizations and civil society movements against climate change, recent data prove that if we don't intensify our action it will be too late.

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), at its most recent meeting, stated that *there is only a dozen years for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5C, beyond which even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people. Urgent and unprecedented changes are needed to reach the target, which is affordable and feasible.*

On the eve of the forthcoming COP24, which opens at the beginning of December, we, leaders of the largest global progressive political family, the Socialist International, are launching an appeal to increase multilateral cooperation on this crucial challenge for humankind, and to deploy more intensive action at all levels.

The Socialist International has for years been active in identifying the multi-faceted dimension of the fight against climate change. Through the work of its 'Commission for a Sustainable World Society' the SI has also outlined needed policies, such as a global tax on CO₂ (and other greenhouse gases).

We are committed and active in bringing about a revolution in thinking, policies and lifestyles, to address these new challenges. Creating a new paradigm in how we act, how we produce, and how we consume. This mind-shift requires the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to become part of our basic education curriculum, professional training and R&D, as well as our policy decisions.

It is crucial the SDGs be implemented if we are to fight poverty and illiteracy, secure peace, protect human rights, manage population movements, and guarantee just, sustainable societies for generations to come.

Key to the success of this sea-change is social justice, equality and a healthy, cohesive, participative society which respects the dignity of all.

We deplore conservative and populist circles around the world who systematically undermine the efforts to combat climate change. Their motives coincide with the powerful oil and gas industries that vehemently lobby against any regulation that might undercut their profits while protecting the environment. We call on all to oppose conscious efforts to distort scientific facts and minimize the catastrophic risks of global warming.

The Sustainable Development Goals are a cornerstone for a wider Global Social Contract. A Social Contract that can unite our planet's governments and peoples at a time of heightened discord, through common goals that promote responsible cooperation and regulation.

The social impacts of Climate change are associated with a great number of risks, amongst them, financial risks which need to be assessed in future investment.

Social partners, civil society and citizens need to rise to the challenge of social responsibility, integrating the efforts for low carbon societies into their daily lives.

We call on social partners and civil society to unite in our common efforts to implement the SDGs.

We are committed to be front runners in the fight for a more humane, sustainable planet!

30 November 2018

Signatories

(In alphabetical order)

H.E. Mahmoud Abbas President of Palestine, Chairman of Fatah

Hon. Samuel Ofose Ampofo Chairman of the National Democratic Congress, NDC, Ghana

Araz Alizade Leader of the Social Democratic Party of Azerbaijan, SDPA

Isabel Allende Vice-President of the SI, Senator, Socialist Party, PS, Chile

Johnson Asiedu Nketiah Vice-President of the SI, National Democratic Congress, NDC, Ghana

Almazbek Atambaev Chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan, SDPK

Colette Avital Vice-President of the SI, Meretz, Israel

Luis Ayala Secretary General of the Socialist International

Omar Barboza President of the National Assembly, President of A New Era, UNT, Venezuela

Sükhbaatar Batbold Vice-President of the SI, former Prime Minister of Mongolia, Mongolian People's Party, MPP

Mustafa Barghouti Leader of the Palestinian National Initiative, PNI

Mohamed Bazoum President of the Party for Democracy and Socialism of Niger, PND-S-Tarayya

Mustafa Ben Jaafar Honorary President of the SI, Ettakatol, Tunisia

Victor Benoit President of the Social Democrat Assembly for the Progress of Haiti, Rasanbleman, Vice-President of the SI

Davor Bernardić President of the Social Democratic Party, SDP, Croatia

Rubén Berríos President of the Puerto Rican Independence Party, PIP, Puerto Rico, Honorary President of the SI

Jorge Bom Jesus President of the Movement for the Liberation of São Tomé and Príncipe/Social Democratic Party, MLSTP/PSD

Yury Buzdugan Leader of the Social Democratic Party of Ukraine, SDPU

Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas Honorary President of the SI, Mexico

Carlos César President of the Socialist Party, PS, Portugal, Vice-President of the SI

Ousainou Darboe Leader of the United Democratic Party, UDP, Vice-President of The Gambia

Ahmed Ould Daddah President of the Assembly of Democratic Forces, RFD, Mauritania, Vice-President of the SI

Sher Bahadur Deuba President of the Nepali Congress Party, former Prime Minister of Nepal

Elio Di Rupo President of the Socialist Party, PS, Belgium, Vice-President of the SI, former Prime Minister

Ousmane Tanor Dieng Secretary General of the Socialist Party, PS, Senegal, Vice-President of the SI

Samuel Doria Medina President of the National Unity Party, Bolivia

Mohamed Hadj Djilani First Secretary of the Socialist Forces Front, FFS, Algeria

Colum Eastwood Leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, SDLP, Northern Ireland

Álvaro Elizalde President of the Socialist Party, PS, Chile

Turfan Erhürman Leader of the Republican Turkish Party, CTP, Cyprus

Andres Esono Ondo Secretary General of the Convergence for Social Democracy, CPDS, Equatorial Guinea

Elsa Espinoza Vice-President of the SI, Institutional Revolutionary Party, PRI, Mexico

Khelil Ezzaouia President of ETTAKATOL, Tunisia

Olivier Faure First Secretary of the Socialist Party, PS, France

Robert Fico Leader of the Social Democracy Party, SMER, Former Prime Minister of Slovakia

Rafael Filizzola Leader of the Progressive Democratic Party, PDP, Paraguay

Mizuho Fukushima Vice-President of the SI, Social Democratic Party, SDP, Japan

Fofi Gennimata President of the Movement for Change, Greece

Gerardo Giovagnoli Secretary of the Party of Socialists and Democrats, PSD, San Marino

Pedro Miguel González Secretary General of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, Panama

Ouafa Hajji President of the Socialist International Women

Tarja Halonen Honorary President of the SI, Former President of Finland

Eero Heinäluoma Vice-President of the SI, Finnish Social Democratic Party, SDP, Finland

Janira Hopffer Almada Leader of the African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde, PAICV, Vice-President of the SI

Brendan Howlin Leader of the Labour Party, Ireland

Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana Vice-President of the SI, SWAPO Party, Namibia

Bernal Jiménez Vice-President of the SI, National Liberation Party, PLN, Costa Rica

Walid Jumblatt Leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, PSP, Lebanon

H.E. Roch Marc Christian Kaboré President of Burkina Faso, Leader of the People's Movement for Progress, MPP

Chantal Kambiwa Vice-President of the SI, Social Democratic Front, SDF, Cameroon

H.E. Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta President of Mali

Ukhnaagiin Khürelsükh Prime Minister of Mongolia, Chairman of the Mongolian People's Party, MPP

Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu Leader of the Republican People's Party, CHP, Turkey

Albin Kurti Leader of the Movement for Self-Determination, Vetëvendosje, Kosovo

Driss Lachguar First Secretary of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces, USFP Morocco

Ricardo Lagos Former President of Chile, former Special United Nations Envoy on Climate Change, Chair of the SI Commission for a Sustainable World Society

Rasim Ljajić Leader of the Social Democratic Party of Serbia, SDPS

Pia Locatelli Vice-President of the SI, Italian Socialist Party, PSI, Italy

Pere López Leader of the Social Democratic Party, PS, Andorra

Carlos Lupi President of the Democratic Labour Party, PDT, Brazil, Vice-President of the SI

Ahmed Majdalani Leader of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, Palestine

Carlos Maldonado President of the Radical Party, PR, Chile

Hrant Markarian Chairman of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, ARF, Armenia

Shazia Marri Vice-President of the SI, Pakistan People's Party, PPP

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Julião Mateus Paulo Vice-President of the SI, MPLA, Angola

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Heraldo Muñoz President of the Party for Democracy, PPD, Chile

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Cemal Özyiğit Leader of the Social Democracy Party, TDP, Cyprus

George Papandreou President of the Socialist International, former Prime Minister of Greece

Peter Phillips Leader of the People's National Party, PNP, Jamaica

Vlad Plahotniuc Chairman of the Democratic Party of Moldova, Vice-President of the SI

Henry Ramos Secretary General of the Democratic Action Party, Venezuela, SI Vice-President

Antti Rinne Chairman of the Social Democratic Party, SDP, Finland

Jesús Rodríguez Vice-President of the SI, Radical Civic Union, UCR, Argentina

Pedro Sánchez President of the Spanish Government, Secretary General of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, PSOE, Spain, Vice-President of the SI

Tiémoko Sangaré President of African Party for Solidarity and Justice, Adema-PASJ, Mali

Nabeel Shaath Vice-President of the SI, Fatah, Palestine

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Mikalai Statkevich Leader of the Belarusian Social Democratic Party (Narodnaya Hramada), BSDP, Belarus

Sandra Torres Leader of the National Unity for Hope, UNE, Guatemala, Vice-President of the SI

Bokary Treta President of the Assembly for Mali, RPM, Vice-President of the SI

Zharmakhan Tuyakbay Chairman of the Nationwide Social Democratic Party, OSDP, Kazakhstan

Miguel Vargas President of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, PRD, Dominican Republic, Vice-President of the SI

Faysal Ali Warabe Leader of the Justice and Welfare Party, Somaliland

Svetlina Yolcheva President of the Bulgarian Social Democrats, PBSB, Bulgaria

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Chair of the People's Pakistan Party, PPP

Martin Ziguélé President of the Movement for the Liberation of the Central African People, MPLC,
Central African Republic



Mexico

Inauguration of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador

1 December 2018



On the 1st of December 2018, the newly elected President of Mexico, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, of the National Regeneration Movement (Movimiento de Regeneración Nacional), MORENA, was sworn in as the 58th President of Mexico. The Socialist International Secretary General Luis Ayala was among the invited guests at the inauguration ceremony.



Marrakesh

Intergovernmental Conference on the Global Compact for Migration

10-11 December 2018



"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights"

The Intergovernmental Conference, which convened under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly on 10-11 December in Marrakesh, Morocco, was opened by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. At the Conference, 164 countries formally adopted The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), which sets out a common, comprehensive approach to international migration that directly affects some 258 million people who now live in a different country to the one they were born in. The Socialist International was represented at the conference by its Secretary General, Luis Ayala.



In Memoriam



Wim Kok
Former Prime Minister of the
Netherlands and former Vice-President
of the Socialist International

1938 - 2018



Maria Jonas
Secretary General of the
Socialist International Women,
1985 – 1995

1940 - 2018



Kofi Annan
Secretary General of the
United Nations, 1997 – 2006

1938 - 2018

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

from the Geneva Council in June 2018 to the Council in Santo Domingo in January 2019

June 2018

Meetings of the SI Ethics and Finance Committees in Geneva

Meeting of the SI Presidium in Geneva

Meeting of the SI Council at the United Nations in Geneva

Participation in the meeting of the SIW Council in Geneva

July

Participation in the Symi Symposium in Rhodes, Greece

Participation in the closing event of the election campaign of IBK in Mali

Observation of the Presidential elections in Mali

September

Participation at the MPLA Congress in Luanda, Angola

Attendance at the inauguration of HE President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita of Mali

Meeting of the SI Presidium and heads of State and Government at the United Nations in New York during the high level segment of the UN General Assembly

October

Meeting in Mexico with the newly elected President of the Congress of the Union, LXIV Legislature of Mexico, of the new majority conformed by the Movement of National Regeneration (Morena)

Meeting with the SI Vice-President from Mexico

Attendance at the 139th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva

Meeting of SI member parliamentarians attending the 139th Assembly of the IPU in Geneva

November

Meetings with members of the leadership of the Finnish Social Democratic Party in Helsinki

December

Attendance at the inauguration of Andrés Manuel López Obrador as the new President of Mexico

Attendance at the UN Inter-Governmental Conference to adopt the Global Compacts on Migration held in Marrakesh, Morocco

Meeting with SI Vice-President Pedro Sánchez, President of the Spanish government, in Madrid

January 2019

Meetings of the SI Ethics and Finance Committees in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Meeting of the SI Presidium in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Meeting of the SI Council in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

