



16 November 2000

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL
Maputo, Mozambique, 10-11 November 2000

Dear Comrade,

I am pleased to forward herewith for your information the documents approved by the recent Council of our International held in Maputo, Mozambique, on 10-11 November 2000.

The Council discussed as its main theme 'The Way Forward for Africa: a worldwide commitment for development, peace and democracy', and you will find among the documents the declaration on this theme.

Following discussions held at our meeting in Brussels earlier this year on a Platform for Global Progress, a work led by Felipe González, the Council adopted the final document which is enclosed.

Resolutions were also agreed on Angola, Dominican Republic and Western Sahara.

The list of participants at the Council meeting is included.

Fraternal regards,

Luis Ayala
Secretary General

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THE WAY FORWARD FOR AFRICA – THE SPIRIT OF MAPUTO

The Council of the Socialist International meeting in Maputo on 10-11 November 2000, under the main theme 'The Way Forward for Africa: a worldwide commitment for development, peace and democracy', declares, with regard to the future of the continent, its refusal to succumb to Afro-pessimism, even as it is aware that much hard work remains ahead if its hopes and those of Africa are to be realised.

The Socialist International refuses to succumb to Afro-pessimism because:

- the African people remain determined to improve their lives and those of their children and future generations, despite the enormous odds they face. The inventiveness, tenacity and cooperation demonstrated by people in everyday life - for example, by the women who are the driving force of informal economies in country after country, or by the way the people of Mozambique have persevered in building their country in the wake of disastrous floods - show that even in the worst of conditions the citizens of this continent are among the most dynamic and resourceful anywhere;
- the Socialist International itself becomes stronger and more inspired when the challenges we face are the most difficult. We did not waver during the most difficult times in the battle against apartheid in South Africa, we were resolute throughout the struggle for democracy in Eastern Europe and today, despite unfavourable developments in the Middle East, we have stepped up our efforts towards achieving peace, and
- we see with great clarity and fully recognise the enormous challenges Africa faces, a necessary prerequisite for responding effectively, and because, as a global movement rooted in every region of the world and spanning North and South, we are well positioned to help advance Africa's future. Moreover, Africa is asking not for commiseration, but solidarity, the very pillar of social democracy.

As a continent, Africa has benefited the least from globalisation and has suffered the most from the injustice of this process and, in an increasingly unequal world, particularly in terms of mounting poverty, the spread of devastating diseases such as AIDS, the loss of human resources through the so-called brain drain, and the negative impact of the weight of the external debt. All of these elements then contribute to the perpetuation of political violence and ethnic conflict, which, in turn, stand further in the way of economic and social progress.

To reverse this negative trend requires a sustained worldwide commitment, preceded by sustained efforts at the local, national and regional levels, for democracy, peace and development in Africa. These objectives must also be pursued simultaneously because the preservation of each one depends on the existence and sustainability of the other two. The commitment to achieving them, not only in Africa but everywhere, is

what binds us together in our International and is why more people each day are sharing our values.

Our commitment to democracy in Africa

The Socialist International support free and fair elections and is heartened by the spirit in which the people of the region go to the polls when they have the opportunity, but in far too many countries that right continues to be denied. The SI is also encouraged by the determination with which people defend their right to vote, even in the face of violent repression. In this sense, it notes with great satisfaction the recent victory in the presidential elections in Côte d' Ivoire of Comrade Laurent Gbagbo, President of the Popular Front, FPI.

The Socialist International, in view of the continuation of electoral fraud in certain countries and authoritarian practices in others, calls upon all its member parties, particularly those in government, as well as all other democratic forces in the world, to act with even greater urgency and firmness when democratic rights are denied. And it supports all efforts for orderly democratic change in Zimbabwe in the face of state-inspired political violence and intimidation.

The Socialist International also condemns the parody of a trial to which Alpha Condé, of the Assembly of the Peoples of Guinea (RPG), was subjected and demands his freedom. It condemns as well the decision of the government of Mauritania to dissolve the Union of Democratic Forces (UFD) and demands that this party's rights be reinstated.

The existing threats to democracy require careful monitoring not only of the vote, but also of electoral campaigns, vote counting procedures and other essential elements of the electoral process, including the existence of fully independent and neutral electoral authorities to conduct it. Whenever possible, the Socialist International will organise more election monitoring missions in Africa, because initiatives such as those have already proven to be effective in supporting the democratic process, the full and equal participation of all citizens including women and youth, the equal access to the media and the practice of democracy within political parties.

It calls on the Socialist International to offer technical support and assistance to member parties in Africa in order to work with them in developing their party structures in the context of consolidating their democratic institutions.

The commitment of the Socialist International to democracy includes:

- support for a rule of law which is fair and just and to which governments and citizens are held equally accountable. Democracy is not only about freely choosing who will rule, but also ensuring good governance, transparency, respect for human rights and the security of all citizens once those elected have taken office;
- increased vigilance and heightened efforts by our member parties, through the media and all other available channels, to ensure that

corruption, the violations of human rights and other unlawful acts are comprehensively denounced and subjected to international sanction, both by governments and competent regional and international bodies, and

- a firm belief in the universality of democracy, and the rejection of the idea that there could be some differing forms of democracy, specific to a particular region of the world, which are not based on or do not fully conform to universal democratic principles, for example, the acceptance of the alternation of power through free, just and fair electoral competition.

Our commitment to peace in Africa

The Socialist International holds a firm belief that support and acceptance of dialogue is fundamental to the resolution of any form of violent conflict. Moreover, it recognises that it is often extremely difficult to bring the two sides closer together in order to begin a dialogue, being also difficult to maintain the confidence necessary to sustain it.

It therefore calls for greater dialogue and heightened efforts on the part of international bodies - at both regional and global level, and particularly by the United Nations - in those conflicts that have proved so difficult to resolve. The Socialist International will step up its efforts and coordinate the actions of its members and of other democratic forces to ensure that the momentum towards peace in the various conflictive areas is maintained.

With regard to the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo:

- the Socialist International reiterates its strong and urgent call for the comprehensive implementation of the Lusaka Agreements, which provide for the holding of talks among the Congolese, the bringing into force of a ceasefire, the withdrawal of foreign forces, the deployment of a UN military force, a new constitution and the holding of elections, and
- the Socialist International believes that it is necessary to give more attention to the political and social forces who work towards peace and democracy in this country.

With regard to Sierra Leone:

- it welcomes the agreement signed recently in Abuja, to bring a halt to the conflict in Sierra Leone and to support the democratically elected government.

With regard to Angola:

- the Socialist International calls for greater efforts by the UN Sanctions Committee to ensure the implementation of the United Nations Resolutions on Angola and the pursuing and sanctioning of any violations.

With regard to Mauritius:

- the Socialist International supports the efforts of the Mauritian government for the immediate return of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius.

With regard to the Comoros:

- the Socialist International supports all efforts for the resolution of the crisis in this country.

With regard to the United Nations:

The Socialist International believes in the reform of the organisation in ways that will make it more democratic, give it more authority to intervene and also make it more effective through the creation of a permanent, multi-national peace-keeping force.

The Socialist International also further affirms the importance of deeper regional and sub-regional integration in the approach to conflict resolution. Earlier and more effective responses to problems at the regional and sub-regional levels can help to keep conflicts from spreading. It therefore advocates greater and more sustained efforts among its members to strengthen regional institutions on the continent, as well as their interaction with regional bodies elsewhere, so that initial intervention in areas of conflict can be carried out in a more concerted way.

Our commitment to economic development in Africa

The Socialist International supports the integration of Africa into the global economy in ways which are fair, equitable and effective, and which will enhance and increase the opportunities for all African people to benefit.

This implies a diversification of the economies of the African continent, which cannot continue only as mere providers of raw materials, risking their continuing marginalisation in the global economy.

The Socialist International therefore calls for a greater recognition of and a more substantial response to the situation of Africa. Two of our four recently initiated campaigns are concretely related to this effort. First, we are working to make the fight against poverty in Africa an urgent priority.

This is being done in a number of ways:

- by our member parties individually or in the framework of cooperation;
- using to the full the media and other channels to influence international bodies;
- coordinating the campaign with non-governmental organisations in Africa and around the world, and
- highlighting energetic governmental and popular efforts to alleviate poverty.

Everything should be done to avoid the new form of exclusion arising from the risks of digital divide, mainly by promoting considerable investment in people.

The Socialist International initiated a second campaign directly related to Africa which calls for the cancelling of the debt of the poorest countries, providing them with unrestricted market access. In Africa, the debt represents nearly 60 percent of gross national product and clearly cannot be repaid, while debt servicing is year by year causing greater suffering.

The Socialist International affirms that ending the debt burden in Africa would free funds to finance basic social services, particularly education and health. These would be used as direct investments in human resources, providing the basis of empowerment so that Africans can fulfil their potential and contribute fully to the development of the continent. Consequently, the Socialist International calls for an end to protectionist policies in developed countries that also have hindered Africa's integration into the world economy. Conditionality in structural reform programmes should take into consideration the economic and social conditions of each country and not merely financial criteria.

The Socialist International recognises, with regard to health, that even debt relief will not be enough to face effectively the spread of deadly diseases, particularly AIDS which is now taking an ever greater toll of women and children. The drugs to lessen the impact of AIDS exist but are available only at a cost beyond the reach of most Africans, creating a situation described as pharmaceutical apartheid, a situation which needs to be resolved through constructive dialogue to include discussion on intellectual property rights.

Finally, the Socialist International calls for a better structured world with a global economy that enhances the prospects for Africans and all the world's citizens, in which development can be shaped by people for people, rather than simply by markets on behalf of capital. There is a need for a global social consensus that ensures that priority status is given to specific groups at risk – women, children and older people - as well as regions that also are threatened such as Africa. This is an enormous and long-term challenge, but the Socialist International is a family and whenever anyone in our family is in pain, we come together in solidarity to ease their suffering.

PLATFORM FOR GLOBAL PROGRESS

I. THE CHALLENGES OF GLOBALISATION

1. The world today has moved into a new era distinguished by the powerful phenomenon of globalisation. The transformation of an industrial society into one dominated by information and knowledge is occurring at a pace and to an extent unprecedented in human history.

The technological revolution, including advances in biotechnology and information processing, is the driving force in this momentous process. Technological innovations and ever more sophisticated systems of communication create many completely new opportunities for the creation of wealth and economic development. This can be seen in the ways in which the globalisation of commerce and the increased flow of capital have helped to foster unparalleled economic growth in a number of countries and regions of the world, and to promote important scientific achievements in such fields as medicine and agriculture.

Nevertheless, the world continues to experience a widening of the gap between rich and poor, both within nations and throughout the different regions of the world; the emergence of new forms of social exclusion connected with technological evolution, namely the risk of digital divide; a growing concentration of financial and economic power combined with vulnerability to fiscal crises; a weakening of representative democracy and politics; continuing conflict, within as well as between nations; increasing degradation and depletion of the natural resources. And all this creates uncertainty about where this change of era is leading.

The Socialist International therefore redoubles its commitment to ensuring that globalisation works for the benefit of all the world's citizens. The goal is to link the technological revolution and the material growth which arises from it, to social advancement in a fully democratic and sustainable process—in other words, to guide global change so that it brings about global progress.

The key to our efforts, and the element which places our International at the forefront in meeting the challenges of globalisation, is solidarity. Solidarity from a material point of view, but also from the perspectives of culture, education, gender and the promotion of respect for fundamental human rights everywhere. In essence, global progress depends on global solidarity.

2. The principal aspects of globalisation are:

The globalisation of information, which, together with radical changes in modes of communication in the digital age and the drastic reductions in time and distance, has made it possible for people to contact each other virtually anywhere in the world on any matter almost instantaneously. As a result, the forces of technology and the market have been unleashed on an unprecedented scale.

The globalisation of the economy and trade, which is substantially altering the structures of commerce, investment, companies and industrial relations. New technologies are enhancing productivity and creating new types of jobs but the gains are not distributed fairly. At the same time, many jobs once considered permanent now are being made redundant and traditional concepts of employment are being undermined. In advanced societies the vital experience of shared work, cooperation and experience in a common workplace is slowly but steadily disappearing.

The globalisation of the financial system, which has brought about an exponential increase in short-term capital flows but without providing an effective regulatory framework to ensure against harmful volatility. More than 90 percent of such currency transactions are carried out in practically no time at all. Over the last decade, nations and entire regions have been subjected to a series of financial crises related to sudden shifts in capital flows. Each one of these crises has undermined economic growth, earnings and employment, while threatening to spread out of control.

3. The great paradox of the current era is that while humanity has more potential than ever for addressing the long-standing problems of inequality, hunger, disease and illiteracy, the potential thus far is being used mostly in ways that are widening rather than bridging the existing gaps. One of the challenges we face is, for example, to reduce by half in the year 2015, as agreed at the World Food Summit in 1996, the 800 million who suffer hunger today in the world, most of whom are to be found in the developing countries.

One of the more severe injustices that remains is the inequality between men and women, despite the fact that the quest for equal rights has been one of the most important and positive movements of the 20th century.

And while globalisation has led to greater prosperity for some and deeper poverty and dislocation for others, it nonetheless has brought about an ever increasing interdependence, as the impact and repercussions of migratory flows of people, financial upheaval, environmental disasters and military confrontations now spread quickly over the entire planet.

4. The fall of the Berlin Wall symbolised the political transformation of our age, closing the door on the terrible certainties of the 20th century and opening the windows of uncertain hope to the new millennium.

The end of the bipolar, bloc-oriented confrontation of the Cold War also resulted in the recovery of freedoms and the establishment of democratically elected government in many countries. But the "peace dividend" has yet to be realised for most people of the world, nor has the hope for a new international order to replace the old system based on a balance of mutually assured destruction. Instead, the world is enduring a generalised and more volatile form of disorder, with continuing threats to peace and security rooted in mounting ethnic and culturally based clashes and in aggressive, often atavistic nationalism.

Moreover, the elimination of the communist model as an all-encompassing alternative to "capitalist" democracy led neo-liberal and neo-conservative ideologues to embrace a simplistic, fundamentalist view of the world which confuses market economies with market societies and proclaims the end of any ideological debate about the nature of political economy. The neo-liberal paradigm gives little consideration to concerns about representative democracy, human rights, social justice and the environment, and views globalisation as a deregulated process of being able to do anything anywhere in order to maximise profits.

Nonetheless, in response to the neo-liberal conceit and the persistent threat of both political and economic instability, a wide and diverse array of political ideas and cultural concepts has emerged. Together they constitute a deep and growing rejection of neo-liberal fundamentalism and blind faith in markets. That, in turn, has motivated increasing numbers of the world's citizens to embrace the option of social justice through global solidarity offered by democratic socialism, social democracy, labour unions and other progressive movements. All of this has provided the foundation for the continuing reinvigoration of the democratic left. What has emerged is a vision of globalisation based a democratic world society, a new system of collective responsibility in which political considerations take priority over purely economic ones.

5. The role of the Nation State, the traditional locus of representative democracy and democratic sovereignty, is being substantially transformed and its future remains uncertain. Highly centralised structures are a thing of the past and there are now multiple discussions and efforts to determine the necessary and sufficient dimensions of the Nation State in this new era.

Globalisation has increased the power and influence of multinational corporations, manipulators of foreign exchange markets and international economic organisations at the expense of governments, voters and the democratic process. Under the neo-liberal creed, the compulsive belief in a minimalist state has gone hand in hand with an uncritical embrace of individualism and privatisation, which has led to the erosion of community spirit and the contraction of public space. Even the provision of universally proclaimed rights such as education and health care is no longer considered to be a public responsibility by neo-liberals.

As a result, the very functioning of politics during the last decade has been undermined and is shrinking. And the Nation State, with a weakened capacity to respond to transnational phenomena in an effective manner, is less able to fully represent the interests of its citizens.

In response to the new global forces, the nature and structure of the Nation State appear to be evolving in a twofold process. First, toward supra-nationality, as has been seen in regional integration through the European Union and Mercosur. Such efforts are based on a recognition that Nation States alone cannot cope with the challenges of globalisation. At the same time, however, regional integration can call into question the sovereignty of Nation States themselves as well as the authority of elected governments within them.

The second process, closely related to the diminishing capacity of governments, is toward a decentralisation of power within Nation States. It is based on demands for more efficient responses to local problems within countries, and on the increasing desire among citizens to preserve local and cultural identities against the standardising, homogenising powers of globalisation. This process is manifested in a redistribution of internal political authority with a view toward achieving greater flexibility, closer proximity to the daily lives of citizens and, in some cases, better awareness and responses to ethnic and cultural diversity. The concept of devolving power based on differing ethnic identities, however, remains controversial, even though the alternative appears to be the heightened threat of social disintegration and the break-up of the Nation State itself. Nevertheless, as the Nation State undergoes these processes, it still remains the most important frame of democracy, transparency and social cohesion.

The importance of these priceless assets, particularly now in the age of globalisation, became quite apparent during the crisis in Asia just a few years ago. They may not fit into shortsighted neo-liberal thinking that confuses cost with value. But they are essential for economic and social stability, which are important comparative advantages in the long term.

The Nation State also remains the principal entity which can ensure that markets are utilised to serve the public good, not just the interests of investors. The transformation of public monopolies into private oligopolies whose principal objective is short-term gain has thus far only increased social and economic inequalities in a number of countries. Governments therefore must provide frameworks in which the privatisation of public utilities such as telecommunications, energy and transportation is properly regulated to promote fair and effective delivery of services.

6. The era of globalisation is having a strong impact on the international landscape. Technological changes, as well as new environmental threats, the unstoppable migration of people, the renewed assertion of cultural identity and the dwindling of political autonomy at the national level, are all factors in heightened levels of disorder in the world and in the crises which arise on an increasingly transnational scale.

The post-war structures and institutions created in the context of a world organised around two blocs—whose influence and reach affected politics and security, as well as economics, commerce and finance everywhere—have now proven to be less than adequate and in some cases nearly obsolete.

The structures of the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, appear increasingly ineffective, indecisive and unable to find the resources to respond to increasingly complicated national and regional conflicts involving inter-ethnic warfare and the massive violations of human rights. The continuing proliferation of nuclear as well as conventional arms, and the increasing availability of sophisticated weaponry and high technology to terrorists and international organised crime groups, constitute heightened threats which the international community thus far has been unable to adequately address.

In the areas of economics and commerce, the World Trade Organisation has been a useful and to a large extent successful framework, but it has not been capable of achieving balances in trade between countries at different stages of development, which is one of the reasons for the continuing existence of unfair trade and consequent transfer of resources from countries in the South to those in the North. At the same time, globalisation has shifted the traditional patterns of development, incorporating regions once on the margins, but at the same time dramatically excluding other regions, which are now sinking further into poverty.

Nor has the WTO been able to ensure respect for the traditional rules of trade, as the continuation of protectionist policies—for example, the extensive use of domestic agricultural subsidies in the developed world—only worsens existing imbalances and undermines efforts to promote growth in poorer and developing countries. Social dumping then becomes more and more common as those countries struggle to be competitive and to provide employment under desperate conditions. This negative trend undermines social rights generally, particularly the rights of women and ethnic minorities.

The WTO also has not succeeded in preventing or even diminishing the exploitation of child labour and slave labour, which are among the most egregious examples of social dumping. Through our development efforts conditions must be created to help children to move out of work and into school, as well as increasing opportunities for their parents, so they are no longer dependent on their children's income.

At the same time, competition for direct investment has meant that governments have tended to tax capital less and shift the burden of direct or indirect taxation onto labour. The competitive lowering of social benefits degrades labour, lowers standards of living, increases poverty and, in the process, reduces consumer demand and limits growth.

Regarding labour rights in general, the gulf between the principles that inspire the International Labour Organisation and that body's lack of authority to enforce compliance with them is further indication of the international community's inability to effectively address the social dimension of global trade and commerce.

7. In the realm of global finance it is evident that with the exponential growth of short-term capital flows, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank are unable to adequately respond to ever more frequent financial upheavals. The problems within the IMF and the World Bank can be explained in part by the differing functions of the two institutions and by the obsolescence of many of the rules and regulations upon which they were established half a century ago. And although once there was merit in the original distinction that the IMF would be an agency for short-term balance-of-payment supports as a means of avoiding unwanted devaluation or unnecessary deflation, while the World Bank would serve as a long-term development agency, the roles have been confused since the 1980s when the Bank insisted on cross-conditionality by the IMF before it would proceed with development programmes.

With regard to environmental protection and sustainability of natural resources, it is apparent that the necessary instruments and international consensus for action continue to be lacking. The commitments that resulted from the Rio and the Kyoto summits have not been carried out, while efforts to do so have exacerbated the deep divisions between the developed world on one side, and developing nations which fear that environmental restraints will only leave them further behind in the global race for economic development.

At the same time, one of the great and tragic ironies of the global era is that while barriers against trade and the flow of capital are being lowered or dismantled, particularly between the developed and the developing world, obstacles against the movement of people are being strengthened and new ones put in place. Indeed, the freedom to transfer almost anything—goods, currencies, services, companies—is now deemed a right, except when it comes to the movement of human beings, whom many in the developed world apparently expect to remain prisoners of their fate in whatever dire situation they find themselves.

Nonetheless, the flow of people, more than 50 percent of whom are women, continues to grow. Seeking to improve their lives, or fleeing political, ethnic, religious or cultural persecution, they remain untroubled by mounting, widespread xenophobia. Moreover, it is proving impossible to deter them by practically any means. Calculating the impact on the countries where they arrive as well the ones from which they come remains no less difficult a task.

II. DEMOCRATISING GLOBALISATION

1. Throughout the history of the Socialist International, and especially in this the period of its greatest growth, our organisation remains committed to fostering and strengthening freer, fairer, more just and cohesive societies, while at the same time maintaining full respect for the individual identities, histories, cultures and different stages of development of each nation of the world.

As Willy Brandt reminded us, the members of our International—democratic socialist, social democratic, labour, and other progressive movements—have shown throughout their histories a determination to rejuvenate and adapt themselves to changes in world. Most recently in Europe, for example, social democracy has demonstrated the ability to reform its political approach to pursuing fundamental goals of liberty, peace and social justice while the so-called “real socialism” was shown to be a failure on every count.

2. The principal task today is to give a social dimension to the globalisation process and place it at the service of humanity. Expressed in other terms, the goal is to enhance the positive effects of globalisation

and to limit the negative aspects. This means that globalisation must be regulated, but in a balanced way, with the necessary balance achieved through a renewal and strengthening of governance at the levels of local authorities, the Nation State, regional organisations and international institutions.

New rules of governance, including provisions for greater citizen participation, must be established to effectively address the new and complex challenges. In particular, young people, that form the majority of the population in an increasing number of countries, must be given greater possibilities to participate in decision-making. The lowering of the minimum voting age to 18 years must be made universal. At the same time, we also reiterate our commitment to rejuvenation of politics, promoting young people to take up responsibilities and be elected to office. Democratic institutions at every level must be revitalised where they already exist and established where they are needed.

Democratic socialism was born and has grown based in part on a critical relationship with capitalism. The Socialist International recognises and respects the creative and productive capacities of the market. Democracy has always developed within market-based economic systems. But we do not demand more of the market than it can offer. We also acknowledge that there are authoritarian political systems in which markets are allowed to operate and therefore we do not confuse democracy with the market.

Further, we recognise that education, health and cultural diversity all add value and enhance the functioning of an open economy, making it not only stronger and more productive, but sustainable over time. However, markets in and of themselves cannot be counted on to ensure that these elements are provided and protected, which is why societies have proven to be more resilient and cohesive where democratic socialism has played a role in the formation of public policies.

3. We therefore reaffirm:

- that political action, rooted in the democratic and civic commitment of policy makers and elected officials, must play the central role in ensuring equal opportunities, social justice and the promotion, generally, of all the components necessary for free, stable and prosperous societies;
- that the management of globalisation requires high quality democratic participation locally, nationally, regionally and internationally for the creation and enforcement of regulations, rules and common commitments;
- that it is a political responsibility to guarantee respect for universal rights to education and a high standard of social protection including health care, as well as provisions for the care and protection of children and the elderly;
- that it is a political responsibility to defend human rights everywhere, particularly where violations of universal rights, and especially

women's rights, are rationalised with false arguments based on distorted understanding of cultural difference;

- that it is a political responsibility to regulate and ensure the proper, efficient and fair operation of services such as transport, energy, and telecommunications, regardless of whether they are publicly or privately owned;
- that it is a political responsibility to promote economic competition and growth in ways that generate meaningful employment, prevent monopolistic tendencies in the development of markets and protect the rights of consumers, and
- that it is a political responsibility to shape a new international order capable of regulating the global economy and its finances and which can guarantee peace and security by balancing respect for diversity at all levels with respect and protection for fundamental and universal human rights.

4. Solidarity is the key to the efforts of our International to form a democratic global society. Solidarity has been at the heart of our movement from the start and has placed us at the forefront in meeting the new challenges of globalisation. Thanks in significant part to our long and determined work, Europe has a Treaty which includes a strong social solidarity pact. In this same sense, our member parties and organisations are redoubling their efforts to extend such a pact globally, to form a worldwide consensus that leads to concrete agreements for addressing the social dimension of globalisation.

Solidarity is fundamentally about the struggle against inequality and it guides us, as well, in our fight for gender equality and against any form of discrimination based on national origins, ethnicity, religious beliefs or political opinion. Our efforts therefore continue to be oriented toward the redistribution, within countries and internationally, of material goods, education, health care and services for the elderly.

Further, we recognise that the granting and fulfilling of social rights requires the acceptance of corresponding civic responsibilities by citizens, that they themselves must participate actively in the improvement and protection of the common good. We therefore reaffirm the need for a balance between rights and responsibilities, between activist policies, which seek to include the greatest number of people, and universal policies which do not exclude anyone.

At the same time, we propose a new form of solidarity based on the redistribution of personal initiative and creativity and a willingness to take risks, since they have the value of creating opportunities and generating wealth for others. We believe that along with the sharing of technology and skills, the fight against poverty in today's competitive environment requires the promotion of the spirit of enterprise in economic, social and cultural endeavours. This new dimension of solidarity requires changes in social attitudes, as well as in education and training systems, so that personal initiative and inventiveness are duly rewarded. The redistribution

of the spirit of enterprise in this cooperative sense is an expression of solidarity which is directly opposed to the mercenary, anti-social individualism of neo-liberal thinking.

5. The Socialist International believes that the fundamental building blocks of a democratic world society continue to be Nation States, which include the political parties, public institutions and civic organisations and movements that channel and respond to the aspirations of a nation's people. A world without rules, regulations and concrete commitments will tend toward disjunction, and only national governments based on the rule of law can balance the centrifugal, atomising forces which can be unleashed by market forces and threaten the social cohesion necessary for any human enterprise.

Our International further advocates updating and adapting the role of Nation States, not only in terms of more effective, representative governance, but especially through enhanced interaction among countries at the regional level. The deepening of regional structures, based on common interests while respecting cultural diversity, has become critically important in the face of the cross-border nature of the problems created by today's global currents. The aim is not only to enhance the well being of individual countries through greater economic cooperation and trade, but also to develop broader, more balanced policies for achieving peace and security, environmental preservation and the equitable transfer and exchange of technologies. Europe is firmly moving toward an open, flexible form of regional integration which we support as the most appropriate way of addressing challenges which cannot be effectively met by Nations States acting on their own. We also support the regional integration currently being developed, at different stages, in other parts of the world from Latin America to Africa and Asia.

Stronger relations between states within geographical regions, in turn, strengthen the foundation for deeper cooperation at the world level, particularly through the United Nations whose work remains essential to the prospects for global progress. The challenges today, nevertheless, demand a new world order, with more effective multilateral instruments to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts. As a concrete step toward accomplishing that task, the Socialist International supports the proposal for democratically increasing the number of permanent members of the UN Security Council and will strive for a restrictive use of the veto. Such a measure will contribute to the democratisation of the United Nations overall, while making the Security Council more representative of the new global reality.

In its continuing effort to promote global solidarity as part of the foundation for a new world order, the Socialist International therefore:

- reiterates in the strongest terms that there cannot exist any justification for genocide or ethnic cleansing, nor impunity for dictatorial regimes which systematically violate universal human rights. In this context, we reaffirm our support for the creation of the International Criminal Court created by the Treaty of Rome, and the right to 'intervention on humanitarian grounds', always within the

framework of international law, as an integral part of the struggle for democracy and human rights;

- remains committed to assuming all necessary political initiatives, within nations as well as international institutions, in order to support a total and worldwide abolition of the death penalty. A society which justifies legalised murder cannot but promote murder;
- calls for cancelling the debt - both bilateral and multilateral - of the world's poorest countries and providing them with unrestricted market access. The coming generations in these countries must be free of this overwhelming burden, while present ones can utilise the added resources to fight poverty and finance services including health, education and local development;
- pledges itself to work for the reduction and progressive elimination of extreme poverty, making a priority the struggle against poverty in Africa. This fight must be waged at the national, regional and international level, strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation, implementing better methods of disbursements of assistance, while at the same time improving the developing countries capabilities to absorb aid funds and initiate development projects of benefit for those most in need. In this context, special attention should be given to job creation in the countryside and town alike, to the improvement of social services and bettering the nutrition of children and vulnerable groups. Some 70 per cent of the poor are women, a fact which must be taken into account in the preparation of measures to eradicate poverty, and
- supports the adoption by the World Trade Organisation of a social clause combined with a new system of preferences favourable to less developed countries. The social clause would, at minimum, forbid forced and child labour, embrace equal opportunities for men and women and guarantee full trade union freedoms including the rights of free association and collective bargaining.

III. MANAGING GLOBALISATION

1. Globalisation is a powerful force which can promote growth and development. But the destructive turmoil which has struck the global economy on a number of occasions in recent years with truly transnational consequences underlines the need to resolve a crucial paradox: that trade and financial markets now are global, but governance and regulation are still mainly national.

A fundamental challenge, therefore, is to restructure the present imbalance between the ascendant power of financial markets and the diminished power of governments to hold them to account. So that financial markets serve people rather than master governments, we need to ensure that they maximise employment and general welfare while

minimising risks to the environment. Markets need rules of the game which can promote positive outcomes for all. In a global economy the challenge can only be met by globalising regulation itself, based on the fully cooperative and coordinated efforts of Nation States and the international community.

In this regard, our actions must be focused on three interrelated tasks:

- to reduce the continuing risks of financial instability and global recession, and to provide support for countries which already have been harmed or are particularly at risk;
- to improve coordination of economic and social policies at the international level in order to ensure more sustainable growth and development and greater social cohesion, and
- to reform the international framework for financial and economic regulation, including the respective roles and functions of the IMF and the World Bank.

2. The general framework for providing support to developing and transitional economies must be re-examined, re-directed and certain actions taken, including:

- the placing of stronger emphasis, both at the national and global levels, on transparency, adequate fiscal supervision and accountability, and adequate minimum standards for financial operators;
- the massive power and volatility of foreign exchange markets need to be countervailed by further increases in IMF contingency funds to deter speculative attacks and to support emerging markets in the developing and transitional economies. The example of Brazil not long ago shows the importance of such intervention. However, IMF support programs should not have to result in deflation, devaluation and further deregulation of local economies in need of assistance, and
- in specific cases, not least to avoid costly bailouts, capital controls should be temporarily adopted under restricted conditions specifically with regard to short-term speculative flows. Limits should not be applied on long-term portfolio investment and direct capital investment.

3. Proposals for a new approach to development assistance:

The poor have in large part paid for structural adjustment policies, reinforced by cross-conditionality between the World Bank and the IMF. At the same time, trickle-down rarely occurs while income and wealth tend to be shifted upwards. To break this cycle means taking bold measures to reduce poverty through a global programme of direct

expenditures on health, education, nutrition, housing and sanitation for those most in need in both the less and the least developed countries.

Such a programme should start with a careful assessment of specific local conditions in order to prepare adequate and appropriate aid projects. Social investments, once they are made, should be monitored and subject to conditionality: successful projects would be extended through further funding; unproductive programs would not be; and the misuse or misallocation of funds would be subject to penalty.

Part of the reason for the low level of institutional investment in many developing countries is the internal weakness of their own financial intermediaries and the associated risk. In a number of countries this could be offset by strengthening local institutions in cooperation with the multilateral agencies. In particular, institutional investors are attracted to public bond issues at a time when stock markets are declining or stagnant. It is in this sense that the World Bank should be a major player in the issuance of development bonds which could co-finance a range of diversified investments in less developed countries. To offset the credit squeeze and strengthen business capacity, the bank also should introduce a Global Venture Fund to co-finance venture capital markets for small and medium firms in developing countries.

Further proposals with regard to development assistance:

- all projects undertaken by the World Bank should be consistently and thoroughly subject to environmental conditionality, i.e., that each project be planned and carried out in ways that preserve and protect the environment;
- in promoting economic development, more emphasis should be placed on expanding domestic markets and demand and on meeting the basic needs of populations rather than focusing simply on export-led growth;
- to launch new priorities for international cooperation aiming to use progress in information technologies and in genetic engineering in order to create new solutions for development problems;
- to write off the debt of Highly Indebted Countries;
- trade deficits should be expected and accepted, up to a certain limit, in the cases of developing countries which are pursuing investment in the social sector and which should be exempted from financial conditionality by international institutions, and
- to enhance the social dimension in the design of the stabilisation policies carried out by the IMF; the recently created Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility is not enough.

4. Proposals for coordinating economic policies to promote sustainable growth:

Steadily expanding demand is essential for sustaining growth. As stressed in the preamble to the WTO treaty, trade liberalisation and the opening of markets in developed countries need to be complemented by promoting demand to achieve full employment. The further opening of the economies of developed countries must be encouraged, avoiding social dumping. Free trade should also be fair trade.

To promote fair trade, the WTO should adopt a system of preferences favourable to less developed countries, combined with the adoption of a social clause, forbidding forced and child labour and guaranteeing equal opportunities for men and women, trade union freedoms and collective bargaining rights.

Still, the central responsibility remains with the developed countries, in their own interest and in the global interest. They are the core of the world system. By their economic policies they determine global demand. Their role in defining global long-term interest rates should be to sustain a virtuous cycle between savings and growth and to trade off the continuing low risk of inflation against the greater risks of underproduction and unemployment.

Several governments already understand that the principal danger now is not inflation, but deflation, depression and growing unemployment. To ensure against such threats, and with the aim of increasing employment, alleviating social exclusion and improving the general public welfare, it is necessary:

- to reduce interest rates and to ensure that the exchange rates of the major currencies either are stable or can be adjusted in a coordinated way;
- to increase investment in both infrastructure and human resources, utilising new financial instruments for public-private partnerships in investment;
- to expand investment in the social sector, including health and education, as well as urban renewal and protection and enhancement of the environment;
- to focus supply-side policies on process and product innovations, on upgrading services in meeting social needs and on strengthening and expanding skills during the retraining of unemployed workers, and
- to pay special attention to the basic education of low-skilled workers in order to promote their employability.

5. Proposals for reforming the international framework for financial and economic regulation:

International financial institutions were created more than a half-century ago in a macro-economic context that has drastically changed. They are not equipped to deal with the challenges that the world, particularly the developing countries and transitional economies, faces today. This should be remedied through a substantial review of the functioning of the Bretton Woods institutions, with developing countries playing a major role in the discussion and implementation of reforms.

In considering adjustments and improvements to the Bretton Woods framework, both governments and the multilateral institutions themselves must have as priorities the promotion of sustainable global growth and development; the promotion and reinforcement of social rights and the common welfare; the preservation and enhancement of the environment; and the regulation, transparency and accountability of financial markets at the global level.

This approach requires a new balance between collective security and individual responsibility, a balance which would provide a basis to:

- define and enforce a code of conduct among operators in financial markets and sanctions for 'moral hazard';
- organise a world-wide system for monitoring financial and economic risks, including the international exposures of investment banks, hedge funds and other institutional investors;
- establish and strengthen mechanisms for greater transparency in the operations of offshore financial institutions as part of the overall effort against the use of such entities for money-laundering by corrupt individuals or groups, or by drug traffickers and other international criminal organisations;
- increase the Contingency Fund of the International Monetary Fund and define a new allocation of Special Drawing Rights in favour of developing countries and countries in transition;
- introduce in the IMF a system whereby there would be a moratorium for creditors and lenders during a liquidity crisis which allow both sides to adopt consolidation agreements which would avert large capital outflows from countries under severe financial pressure;
- improve the political accountability of the IMF, the World Bank, the WTO and the International Labour Organisation and, in particular, transform the IMF Interim Committee into a Political Council with decision-making rather than consultative powers, as foreseen in Article XII, Section I of the Articles of Agreement;
- encourage economic, financial and political integration at the regional level, both to strengthen cooperation between countries and to facilitate the consistency of macro-economic coordination;

- promote a policy dialogue and closer cooperation between the IMF, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the WTO and the International Labour Organisation, and
- encourage the International Labour Organisation, with its unique tripartite structure, to strengthen efforts to promote workers' rights, more and better employment, appropriate social protection and social dialogue for sustainable growth and investment.

To achieve such a new system of collective responsibility requires a stronger, more effective institutional framework. The Socialist International therefore supports the creation of an Economic Security Council within the UN framework, as a way to better coordinate international economic policy and to address global issues such as the stability of exchange rates and international capital flows, the avoidance of fiscal competition and action on global programmes to reduce unemployment and stimulate economic recovery. This forum is also required to increase the cooperation of international financial institutions within the UN framework. Negotiations for the creation of such a body should involve relevant partners of both developed and developing countries.

The form of the proposed Economic Security Council should involve relevant partners of both developed and developing countries and should build on recent events such as the UN Millennium Summit and the meetings of the G-20. A new structure along these lines would be both more representative of global realities and constitute a manageable forum for the exercise of collective responsibility.

IV. FOCUSING ON FOUR SPECIFIC ISSUES OF GLOBALISATION

1. Women and the Challenge of Globalisation

The contributions of women and the full recognition of their perspectives on the world are essential to moving forward on the road of global progress.

The negative aspects of economic globalisation - increasing inequality, environmental degradation and the undermining of traditional social bonds - have affected people in a dramatic way. Women constitute the majority of the disadvantaged. They are the least qualified and skilled as a workforce, have the least opportunity for ownership of property and are often subjected to cultural customs and rules which expose them to exploitation.

The structural adjustment programmes which reduce social benefits and expose people to the negative effects of the globalised system of production and commerce, make women more vulnerable as they remain responsible for basic subsistence and raising children.

Nonetheless, women have proven to be extraordinarily creative and active within the narrow sphere of community life. But for many, immersed in the daily struggle for survival, it remains difficult to take part in the broader task of redefining policies and advancing proposals that would improve women's lives. At the Beijing Conference and at subsequent other international forums, emphasis was placed on the urgent need for women to take part, on an equal footing, not only in furthering respect for their rights but in addressing all the challenges that have resulted from globalisation. Women need to take part in the definition of how cities must develop, how to improve education and how to better organise daily life in general. That will only be possible if power is shared more fairly between women and men so as to better respond to the challenges of our time.

The Socialist International also advocates the development of a new social contract to supersede the way relations between men and women have traditionally been governed. The changes taking place in terms of global markets and the role of the Nation State cannot be seen as separate from the evolution of the family and the implications of the growing access for some women to education and salaried employment. The gender factor is having a profound impact globally.

Moreover, a substantial percentage of the wealth of any country continues to be produced by the hidden, unpaid labour of women. Such labour is not recognised within the traditional social contract, which has defined the status of worker based on the concept of a patriarchal family structure. This has left women marginalised and with few or limited rights. We therefore envisage a new contract in which social welfare is a fundamental right, irrespective of one's position in the family, and in which women, on the basis of the universality of such rights, can grow as people in the new realities and different regions of the world.

At the same time, we believe that as globalisation is altering the traditional structures of employment and the workplace, the family but also economically independent women must play an increasing role in strengthening the bonds of socialist solidarity, so that it can become a new crucible in the promotion of equality, justice and democratic learning. It is therefore appropriate that women, who have always been essential to the maintaining of social cohesion, are taking the lead in envisaging and constructing new family models in which the rights of every member, particularly children, are respected, and which could become true nuclei of solidarity and progress in the new global landscape.

The issue of culture is of particular importance in our approach to women and globalisation. We appreciate the creativity and the potential benefits for human development that stem from cultural diversity. But we also continue to fight diligently against the use of cultural differences to justify the subjugation of women or the infringement of any of their rights as human beings. Multiculturalism can be accepted only when in tandem with full respect for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The role of the family is a responsibility for both women and men. The modern family is also a single mother or single father with children. All kind of families must have their space and be accepted. The goal is equality where women and men together take responsibility for their

children, and to transform women's issues into common concerns. The SI cannot accept violence against women and children. Nor can it accept trafficking in women. Women in poverty should not be used as goods to be traded.

2. Globalisation and the Environment

Nature and environmental resources are a necessary foundation for human welfare and advancement. Environmental policies are therefore not a burden, but a necessity for ensuring that economic development and growth are sustainable.

In this era of globalisation, the greatest environmental challenges include: the accelerated depletion of natural resources, climate changes caused by global warming, the hole in the ozone layer, the diminishing variety of species, the destruction of agricultural land and ground water, toxic pollution and excessive consumption, all of which threaten the very basis of life.

The Socialist International therefore is in agreement with the United Nations in the belief that environmental concerns and development are inseparable, that we must create societies that can eradicate poverty and prosper only within the limits that nature sets and that environmental preservation is a task that transcends national boundaries.

We therefore stress the role of UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) and other UN organs which play an important role in developing and implementing environmental initiatives, and believe that the UN must become an even more central actor as a facilitator and promoter of international environmental work. Particularly important in this regard is the formation and strengthening of alliances between the UN and the private sector and civil society at the international level, and the enhancement of democratic debate on the environment within countries, across borders and between regions.

The issue of environment is one of the most important questions for the future and for the SI to tackle. The climate changes must be seriously and urgently dealt with. The flooding and catastrophes that have affected many countries lately, have generated multiple problems. The young give special emphasis to environmental issues. The SI must address these challenges in a progressive way, with a radical approach to new solutions.

The Socialist International views as especially important the efforts to reduce the emission of climate-altering gases into the atmosphere. The task is to achieve a broad consensus for establishing a new generation of binding legal instruments on the national as well as regional and global levels.

Specifically, the International calls for the full implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, which includes a commitment to reduce emissions in the industrial countries by at least 5 percent during the period 2008-2012, based on 1990 levels. The Protocol provides for a fair sharing of the

burden among countries. The time to act is now, as the emission of greenhouse gases has greatly increased since 1990 and the costs of reduction have risen accordingly.

We believe that the industrial countries have a particular responsibility to reduce emissions, but less developed and poorer countries must contribute to the effort as well. The commitments that countries have made today concerning emissions simply are not enough. The SI therefore advocates cooperation between both developed and developing countries on reducing emissions, with the wealthier countries contributing the necessary transfer of knowledge, technology and financial resources.

The Socialist International also stresses the importance of protecting biological diversity and advocates that it be placed far higher on the overall environmental agenda. Everyday several species disappear from the earth. We therefore call on all countries to respect the commitments made as part of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The so-called 'Rio+10' process has the aim of reviewing what has happened since the Rio Conference in 1992, evaluating the work that has been done thus far, and determining strategies for following up. The International re-emphasises that the connection between the environment and development is the fundamental component in this process. We therefore call on the international community in all its forms - public, private and civic - to work toward a 'Rio+10' anniversary that culminates in a major global gathering, held in a developing nation, to ensure that the momentum of the international environmental effort can be maintained.

3. Globalisation and Cultural Identity

The importance of reconciling cultural identity and global change can be considered from a number of perspectives. There is, for example, the role of the mass media in the new information society, one of the most significant aspects of the technological revolution. This is a concern not only because of the limiting of opinion and opportunities for expressing alternative points of view due to the increasing concentration of media in the hands of a small group of transnational corporations. It is also worrisome with regard to the process of cultural homogenisation, in which the distinctions between different peoples, customs and traditions are blurred and cultural diversity becomes diluted amid the spread of market-driven uniformity.

The information society and the technology upon which it is based does hold the potential for providing channels through which to promote better understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity as a resource in the effort to narrow the gap in human development. For that potential to be realised, however, there needs to be in the media greater oversight and contributions from groups and institutions, public and private, whose approach is based on more than commercial interests.

It is notable that in the field of ecology, bio-diversity is considered one of the great strengths of nature, something that promotes growth, creativity and sustainability and is therefore a principal focus of environmental

preservation efforts. Yet when the issue of cultural diversity is addressed, it is frequently related to mounting fears about a "clash of civilisations," a perspective which tends to view cultural diversity less as an asset and more as a threat. Today, in fact, rather than differences being explored and embraced, in many places the world instead is witnessing an increase in exclusion based on ethnic and cultural distinctions, with the most extreme form being the phenomenon known as ethnic cleansing.

At the same time, there also are legitimate concerns that the idea of cultural diversity is being manipulated in some countries or regions as the basis of flawed arguments for rejecting universal values such as democracy and free expression, or as a cover or excuse for the violation of rights of women, who, in truth, share equally in the universality of fundamental rights regardless of race, creed or economic status.

There is no doubt that the world is undergoing a reconfiguration following the end of the bi-polar, Cold War order, and that as a new order struggles to emerge there are and will be clashes based on cultural or national identities. Some analysts and political groups, unfortunately, seem to be resigned to the idea of a permanent form of friction and conflict, that such differences cannot be overcome.

We in the Socialist International, however, believe that efforts to bridge differences through greater understanding, learning and cooperation can succeed, as long as there is the will, free of arrogance and fear, to persevere during even the most difficult periods. Peace and mutual security in the era of globalisation depend on mutual respect for different cultures.

Unlike in previous times, the principal armaments of the 21st Century must be dialogue and knowledge.

4. Globalisation and the Migration of People

Migration, driven by new forms of violent conflict, economic globalisation and growing imbalances between richer and poorer regions of the world, is increasing and will become one of the major social and political problems of the new century.

While migration can be beneficial, it can have destabilising effects in both receiving countries and countries of origin. Migration also can fill low-paying job positions in industrial nations, but it can depress wages and working conditions in developed nations and undermine worker solidarity. It can help satisfy mounting demand in the developed world for skills required by the information economy, but can lead to considerable brain drain in poorer countries.

In general, the process of European integration shows that mutual economic and social progress requires not only the free movement of capital and goods but also the free movement of labour. The mobility of labour, if properly regulated and organised, is therefore necessary for a balanced world economy that benefits everyone.

Social democrats recognise, first and foremost, the human dimension of migration. Attaining certain social rights may be linked to such criteria as establishing legal residence, but fundamental human rights must be respected for everyone, no matter where they travel or reside. A socialist policy therefore is based on a comprehensive approach, requiring a set of international rules both fair and compassionate.

Given the accelerating flows of people and the increase in abuses against them, the Socialist International supports the drafting of a Charter for Migrant Workers that spells out their rights, including the right of due legal process for those who have entered countries without authorisation. The Charter also would set out the rights and responsibilities of receiving nations, including poorer countries also greatly affected by migration, such as in Africa, which should receive international assistance in creating programmes for migrant integration.

Such a Charter, to be adopted by the UN and specialised agencies such as the ILO, would seek to enhance international cooperation, the key to effective management of migration. In this regard, because of the connection between flows of people and the global economy, governments should incorporate trade and development issues into bilateral and multilateral efforts on migration. Enhanced cooperation would include finding ways to better use remittances in job-creating ventures in countries of origin to help alleviate conditions that compel migration in the first place.

With regard to immigrant admission policies, there must be firm adherence to the principles of the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees. Temporary protection policies should be designed for others seeking safe haven, particularly during periods of mass influx. Beyond questions of asylum, there also should be allowance for family unification, with priority given to the reunification of nuclear families without limits or quotas.

Policies regulating high-skilled migration should provide incentives for foreign students and workers to invest in their home countries so as to enhance the benefits for both countries of origin and destination. In addition, admission policies should balance the interests of business seeking access to global labour markets with the interests of domestic workers in gaining protection against unfair competition.

Programmes for lesser-skilled seasonal workers should be formulated, taking into consideration not only the objectives of increased economic benefit but also the need to combat illegal immigration, using to this end policies of economic cooperation between the countries and regions of origin and destination. Visa and border controls must always have regard for migrants' dignity and human rights. Likewise, efforts should also be made at both the regional and global levels to eliminate smuggling and trafficking of human beings. In particular, sanctions should be applied to employers that purposefully hire unauthorised migrants, with special focus on those who violate labour and immigration laws.

Democracy is weakened when significant population sectors are marginalised. Therefore, in receiving nations, governments and the private sector should promote economic, social and civic integration of

migrants through literacy and language programs and basic skills training, with special attention given to immigrant children. Efforts to combat racism and workplace discrimination should be enhanced, and the business sector encouraged to recruit immigrant workers. Crimes committed against immigrants because of their race, religion or nationality should be vigorously prosecuted. Legal and administrative barriers to citizenship should be reduced, and programmes developed to facilitate the participation of immigrants and new citizens in the civic, social and cultural life of their new countries.

RESOLUTION ON ANGOLA

Original: English

The Socialist International Council meeting in Maputo, salutes the Angolan people, as well as the Angolan government, on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of its independence.

The Council expresses its satisfaction for the general amnesty announced by President José Eduardo dos Santos on this occasion, as a positive measure towards general reconciliation for all Angolans.

The Council appeals to all Angolan citizens to work towards full integration in the constitutional and democratic institutions of the country, as well as their participation in the effort of material reconstruction and development.

RESOLUTION ON THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Original: Spanish

The Council of the Socialist International, meeting in Maputo, Mozambique, on 10-11 November 2000, congratulates the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) and President Hipólito Mejía, for the splendid victory in the first round of elections last 16 May, vindicating the struggle for freedom, democracy and social justice of the Dominican people and of José Francisco Peña Gómez.

The Council salutes the victory of our member party, the PRD, and President Hipólito Mejía, wishing them success in the difficult task ahead of the new government with the fiscal situation it has inherited, the servicing of the debt and the cost of petrol.

RESOLUTION ON WESTERN SAHARA

Original: English

With regard to Western Sahara, the Socialist International expresses its deep concern at the constant postponement of the referendum on self-determination and reaffirms its resolution adopted by the Council in Brussels in April 2000, calling on Morocco and Polisario to cooperate fully with the United Nations and its special envoy James Baker.

The SI calls on Morocco and Polisario to open a political dialogue beyond the eventual agreements that could be made in present negotiations. In this context, the SI remains supportive of all United Nations initiatives.

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Eduardo Siteo
Geovane Massingue
Adelino Cossa
Carlos Mucareia
Zefanias Chiconela
Paulo Ivo Garrido
Carlos Machili
Nelson Saúte
Ofélia Tembe
Delfina Mugabe
Emílio Manhique
Fernando Songane
Joaquina Oreste
Julieta Langa
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