



Draft

## **For a New Agenda for Peace and Justice**

The Progressive Alliance seeks to develop a new agenda for peace and justice. We need a progressive, global, political and economic system that puts people at the centre. We seek a progressive solution that creates peace and ends violence, that encourages hope and does not stoke fears, which offers equal opportunities for women and men, enabling them to become involved in rather than excluded from society, fostering cooperation rather than confrontation.

We have to establish that violence, war, injustice and underdevelopment seem to be the new permanent condition: Syria, ISIS, migration, Ebola, drug trafficking, Ukraine etc. These crises are, however, not an exception to globalisation; they are an unending side effect, indeed often the consequence of globalisation. The crises as they have developed in recent years differ fundamentally from the economic shocks of past decades. This is mainly due to the coincidence of diverse crises: the impact of the financial and economic crises is exacerbated by their concurrence with a comprehensive environmental crisis and a structural crisis in justice ending time and again in limitless violence – be it in the form of terrorism or civil wars. The prevailing development models, i.e. their economic and consumption patterns, cultural and societal orders are exhausted in many places.

The centremost objectives of progressive policies with a global aspiration are to prevent conflicts and create and maintain peace. As progressive forces we accept our responsibility to use our means and capabilities to foster peace and development. We must act earlier and more decisively and effectively. We are acting on the principles of understanding and international solidarity as well as joint development and security through cooperation. We are convinced that the laws of the jungle must be subordinated by the power of law and justice.

- In order to achieve peace in the world it is necessary to reinforce common interests, alliances and organisations. It is for this reason that we advocate expanding and reforming the United Nations as the supreme instance of a global order. The United Nations is the central player in keeping peace and creating peace. We do not know when and where the next crisis will erupt. We do, however, know that the ability to respond must be strengthened and the crisis-policy instruments broadened. Because women are



suffering most of violence in armed conflicts, conflict prevention and solution has to include women according to UN Resolution 1325. In addition to strengthening the structures of the United Nations we must – wherever necessary – consider the development of new international and regional regimes, for example to counteract the unbridled rearmament which is happening in many places or the ongoing climate change.

- Democratic constitutional systems can do more to resist the mounting pressures of a globalised world than can many authoritarian regimes. Democracies are more resilient because they can regulate conflicts peacefully through participation. The power of democracy is based on innovative strength and the attraction of the social model with its promises of freedom, prosperity and the rule of law. But we need to take action to promote our democratic values especially in the face of the putative promises of authoritarian regimes.
- In our minds, peace is more than the absence of war. We are convinced that permanent peace is only possible by overcoming the structural causes of conflicts such as hunger, poverty and inequality. The future constitution of the world will be primarily determined by disputes over social issues, concerning a just distribution between richer and the poorer nations and even more so by the dispute over the blatant and increasing social disparities within societies. Above all, many people's lack of access to productive and decent work and social security is an increasingly serious problem. Extreme inequality, gender inequality, corruption and lack of opportunities lead to social tensions, fanning resentments, increasing pressure on migration and increasingly jeopardising the domestic peace of many countries.

The critical question of our time is whether the 21<sup>st</sup> century will bring peace and justice to all or whether it will lead to embittered distribution struggles and raging violence. We are convinced that peace, sustainable progress and social justice are possible in a global age. And together with the majority of humankind, we are prepared to join the political fight to achieve these goals – for a new agenda for peace and justice!

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In the framework of the campaign “For a New Agenda for Peace and Justice” the Progressive Alliance will organize in 2016 and 2017 an exchange on the these topics in all major regions



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of the world and include for this purpose trade unions and the progressive civil society, as it was done in the last campaign on “Decent Work Worldwide”.

In addition to the programmatic discussion on Peace and Justice we will continue to give active support to all those who are at the risk of oppression and persecution. History has shown us: Our strength as progressive, social democratic and socialist forces is based on international solidarity.

In order to ensure that our progressive agenda becomes a political reality we need to win elections. Therefore, apart from solidarity actions and programmatic discussions we will continue especially the exchange on progressive campaigning and party organization.