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Political Working Agenda 2024 - 2027

Building Momentum for International Solidarity

The world is experiencing an epochal shift in its history. People's trust in the existing social, political, and economic systems are being eroded by failures to address the multiple crises we face today. Progressive responses and solutions have to carve its way through institutions and public life to turn the tide. As the defining issues of our time are undeniably global and interconnected, progress can only be achieved if we work together and build solidarities that transcend our national borders. Progressives need to reclaim that global cooperation, as we define it, is a force for good in the world.

To understand what is causing this ongoing shift in the global order we must understand the nature of the crises that are affecting us now and how we should as progressives address them.

Our world is now facing a crisis of security and peace with ongoing conflicts and civil strife affecting all continents. What were once considered as beyond the pale in the international community are now becoming normalized and persistent. Unresolved war and conflicts are disrupting economies and tearing apart the social fabric and cohesion of nations.

We have yet to see a decisive breakthrough on the issue of climate change and environmental degradation. Despite numerous attempts to reverse the deleterious impacts of climate change in the

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atmosphere and ecosystems, extreme changes in climate in different regions of the world continue to put at risk the living conditions of more than 3 billion people in the most vulnerable areas of the planet according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2023 Report. These most vulnerable people are often already the most marginalized in their societies and countries.

The Covid pandemic exposed systemic problems in many countries' health systems as well as their social and economic systems. The pandemic's immediate effect was to strain the economies of many countries and by extension also displaced many of the working poor leaving them in a state of precariousness. The crisis served to expose the gap between the rich and the poor. The former able to weather the pandemic or even flourishing despite of it while the latter experienced huge economic and social dislocation. This inequality also manifested on a country level with rich countries often having better access to treatment and vaccines than their poorer counterparts who had to wait months before having access to these same health services and technologies.

The economic crisis is an ever-present problem. Many of the crises mentioned here are often tied to a lack of economic justice in the world economy. The unfair access to the fruits of economic progress is seemingly a fixture and not a defect of the current global economic order. Past critiques of global capitalism have become prescient precisely because of the problems that have been warned have become reality. Despite the huge advances in the economies of many countries, people continue to feel unease and hardship in their day to day lives. In comparison, a few global billionaires have amassed wealth which dwarf the GDP of some countries. This concentration of a tremendous amount of wealth and power effectively gives them outsized power in determining the trajectory of national economies.



The world is not yet expected to be able to reverse the ongoing democratic decline. This democratic decline, characterized by attacks on media freedom and free speech, unfair elections, corruption, and machinations of political institutions by authoritarian incumbents, is persisting in all continents. Democrats have yet to thwart the gains of right-wing populists and authoritarian movements. In countries with long histories and traditions of liberal democratic institutions, right-wing populists, many of them ideological descendants of fascism, have been able to win pluralities in elections or are on the cusp of doing so. In countries with weaker democratic institutions or have only recently enjoyed civil and democratic rights, reactionary forces have either triumphed in destroying the gains of popular democratic movements or are themselves the prevailing mainstream ruling order.

In the field of advancing gender justice, we are falling short of our goals. The recent Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report indicated that we are not on track to reach the gender equality goals. Women's sexual and reproductive health rights are under assault and violence against women remain high. Such trends risk obstructing our overall goals of creating equity in our societies and gender equality.

As progressives, socialists, and social democrats, our commitment to the causes of freedom, social justice, solidarity, gender equality, and internationalism has to be manifested in our concrete and coordinated work as a political force. Our mission to transform the 21st century into an era of progress and cooperation has to gain momentum.

A new multipolar world is taking shape with ascendant powers asserting their influence and position. Multilateral arrangements that were created in the aftermath of the Second World War and during the Cold War are now taking new forms. It is in this dynamic context that we are seeing undemocratic forces taking advantage of new



spaces for their politics brought about by the apprehension and distrust with what is being framed as the West's political project. It is critical that as this new multipolar world takes shape, democratic movements and progressives actively engage and build its forces and alliances to shape this multipolar world's formation and direction, guard against threats to global security, economic injustice, continued erosion of trust and polarization, and protect against isolationist or nationalistic outlook to global affairs. These developments push us to reassess our standing engagements with both democracies and democracies in decline, current regional groupings, and ascendant powers in order to forge constructive relations with actors and institutions that can join forces for a new democratic global deal.

Our movement must enter this strategic dialogue and demonstrate progressive gains to secure a future where democracy not only survives but thrives. It is essential to strengthen our global movement and build societal alliances to guarantee that we are able to respond to challenges while safeguarding peoples' freedoms, rights, and livelihood amid the precarious conditions that are arising. For this term, we will consolidate our agenda for transformation and build momentum for international solidarity.

We will unite progressive forces and build consensus around programmatic solutions on the promotion of fair economic governance, peace and common security, sustainability and democratic resilience. We will nurture the political conditions and prioritize platforms for democratic forces to forge greater unities for the protection of human rights and freedoms in all parts of the globe especially those where it is most under assault. Our ties to trade unions, social movements and civil society provide us the opportunity to strengthen our collective progressive agenda and cross-border cooperation.



We will embark on strategic North-South dialogue and cooperation.

Internationalism must be our response to growing isolationism and nationalism. Solidarity is a core tenet of progressive movements. The ongoing wars in Europe and in the Middle East along with the growing tension between the USA and China threaten to disrupt not only our economic order but also serve to create more tensions and frictions among nations. Alongside our push for ensuring a rights-based and rules-based international order, we must endeavor to internationalize the progress our movements have made. Peoples in the developing countries deserve the same benefits and protections that the welfare states created by the successful social democratic and socialist parties and governments. We must debunk the rhetoric from the far right, build upon the insecurities created by the crisis of neoliberal capitalism, that pitting one group against another will move us forward. Our response is to emphasize the shared fate of all peoples. Any future that fosters justice, progress and sustainability can only be built on a shared commitment to realize a new global social and ecological blueprint from the Global South and the Global North. A balanced cooperation among member parties, political leaders and associate partners to answer hard questions and take up complex problems is our impetus for concrete transnational initiatives.

We will refocus our work on continuing party modernization and ensuring victories where we are.

Our political family remains the vehicle of progressive ideas and actions. Winning democratic elections is our means to carve out people-centered political spaces and carry out needed progressive policies. While the progressive movement has seen setbacks, we have seen victories are possible even in places where we are under attack for our principles. Disinformation and fake news are tools being deployed against us and our leaders especially among women. Despite these tactics, inspiring struggles driven by young progressive leadership are regaining support. Left unities and innovations campaigning are bearing fruits



among progressive camps. Clearly progressive ways toward victory are within our political spheres making the case against traditional polarizing politics of strongmen and their enablers. Our task is to proactively share lessons and strategies from these victories to contribute to progressive campaigning of our sister parties.

We will invest on building the narrative of social democracy that is relevant for our times. Our alternatives must reflect our own movement's resolve that change is not only to be aspired for but to be actualized. Our best practices and political gains attest to the viability of our ideas. We therefore, must highlight the work of our sister parties and associate partners on the ground as they combat inequality, authoritarianism, violence, and exclusion; all while showing a better way of organizing societies. The struggles and victories of our sister parties serve as concrete proof of the viability of our politics of change. We must be able to generate and amplify stories that demonstrate clarity and quality of our leadership; showcase stories of initiatives, policies and action that turn powerful ideas to realities.

By positioning ourselves to strongly influence the creation of alternatives, we are renewing the case for a global narrative that social democracy can address the challenges of the current times and able to shape the future envisioned by progressives.

We will be the defending sister parties and fellow progressives under repression. Our political community exerts its influence in upholding freedom and justice. We put substance to our words in condemning and opposing authoritarianism and populism by extending our solidarity to those activists and politicians actively fighting for our values. As we actively oppose any such authoritarian tendencies in our ranks, we actively support democratic movements that are building democratic spaces regardless of the odds and



challenges they face. Our missions, inquiries and collective voice as a political family must be relevant and deliberate.

We will actively engage multilateral and multinational organizations to influence progressive solutions. Existing multilateral organizations like the United Nations ECOSOC, Interparliamentary Union, and regional intergovernmental bodies are platforms where our efforts can be more coordinated. Our political leaders and representatives of our movements have to be present and must be supported in engaging these platforms where progressive agenda can be pursued. In doing so we must also strengthen our work in the diplomatic front in order that our voice is actively heard and reflected in multilateral processes and institutions.