

## **CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

### **Speech by Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, President of CHP at the Council Meeting of the Socialist International**

**11 November, 2013 - Istanbul**

Dear Friends,

It is a great honor and a pleasure for us, the Republican People's Party to host the Council Meeting of the Socialist International.

It is also a pleasure for us that a meeting at this level is held in Turkey. Welcome to Istanbul, where continents, peoples, cultures, and ideas meet!

As the season changes from fall to winter in Turkey, we will be discussing regional problems and the global economy for the next two days, with hundreds of comrades joining us from different parts of the world, in whose faces I can see that they share our excitement for establishing a better, fairer world.

CHP, having been struggling for decades as the spokesperson of the labouring masses, has endorsed the universal principles of social democracy and has fused them together with its own principles.

CHP, who has been one of the active members of this distinguished institution since 1976, has been taking over various responsibilities within the framework of the Socialist International; defending justice, democracy, freedom, equality and pluralism against oppression and inequality - not only in Turkey, but also in our greater region and in the world.

I also should mention with great pride, that CHP has benefited from the Socialist International's transformative role while engaging in these efforts.

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CHP also attaches great importance and priority to the conservation and the strengthening of the universal structure of the Socialist International; which is the largest leftist, social democratic and progressive organization in the world.

Dear Friends,

In recent years, the world has been undergoing a major process of change.

With the impact of globalization, the ideas of equality and freedom are rapidly spreading, and people around the world are expressing their demands on all occasions, the demands that shake the oppressive regimes.

However, this great transformation has taken a form that is too violent and turbulent in certain regions, and war and conflict have come up as an obstacle before progressive demands.

Turkey is geographically nearby, and politically in the midst of the geography where most of these conflicts are taking place, the Middle East.

The process of the Arab Spring, which was welcomed with great expectations, currently bears witness to worrisome adverse developments. The ongoing conflicts in Syria, Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen and Iraq are posing a threat to the peace, stability and wealth of our region.

The democratic struggles of our region are currently facing three significant problems.

The first problem is about extreme groups and reactionary forces. These groups and forces are engaged in an endeavor to block the popular demands for equality and freedom.

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The second problem concerns ethnic, religious and sectarian faultlines in the region. These faultlines are being stressed everywhere, creating instability. Moreover, issues such as gender inequality, international migration and modern slavery bring about an additional negative impact on political, social and economic stability.

This situation might hinder the flourishing of democracy in our region.

The third problem is that, the possibility of foreign intervention, and especially foreign military intervention, might provide legitimacy to oppressive regimes and encourage extremist groups.

These threats to peace, stability and wealth of our region and the obstacles before the struggle for democracy confer significant tasks and responsibilities on the Socialist International.

The International must uncompromisingly oppose forces that are oppressive, as well as opposing the politics of violence; and must firmly throw its weight behind the conflict-resolving role of diplomacy.

The Socialist International must play an active part in conflict zones, as well as before the United Nations and other international institutions to support progressive forces. The Socialist International must put its weight behind endeavors aimed at resolving the conflicts through political and diplomatic methods.

There is a significant opportunity ahead of us for playing such a part. This opportunity is the Geneva II Conference that aims to end the ongoing war in Syria.

Getting into dialogue with the parties involved in the conflict and actively contributing in the Geneva II process concerning Syria, where chaos and violence prevail, shall demonstrate the Socialist International's capacity and power in the resolution of conflicts.

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In this context, the Working Group on Syria, a decision about the creation of which was given in the previous Council Meeting, needs to be activated.

The common principles that we have endorsed which illuminate the way in our march towards an enlightened future, and our diversified experiences of struggle in our home countries provide us with the necessary background for resolving the current crises in the Middle East and North Africa through a progressive, democratic and pluralist understanding.

Dear Friends,

Although a long time has passed since the start of the global economic crisis, the crisis still continues to show its impact in different intensities.

Neoliberal economic policies, which are based on the assumption that markets will never fail, have caused millions of people all over the world to pay enormous prices for the failures of the markets.

The Global Economic Crisis has caused the unemployment of hundreds of thousands of people and the spread of inequality and poverty.

The global economic order prioritizes not the society but the finance sector and the large corporations while trying to resolve its crises; and continues with its way, crushing the people under its wheel, until the next crisis.

In other words, the global economic system casts to individuals no role other than the role of customer and consumer.

Under the justification of global competition, salaries and standards of living constantly deteriorate, organized society and organized labour are weakened, the distribution of wealth gets further out of balance, and rising unemployment, especially for the youth, becomes an ever greater problem. These issues are still the poignant problems of our age that need to be considered with attention.

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Dear Friends,

Global issues can only be overcome through global coordination and cooperation. Although limited steps have been taken after the global crisis, the problems of representation and legitimacy concerning important international institutions such as the IMF and the United Nations have not been resolved.

Unless justice is provided in the representation of developing and rising economies within these institutions, it will not be possible to provide effective solutions to global problems.

Another issue worthy of attention is the serious and widespread unwillingness towards bringing limitations to the excesses and exorbitance of markets and towards making the necessary regulatory and supervisory policies for such limitations.

The Socialist International must strongly defend a world where people produce, and fairly share what they produce; a world where people are wealthy.

No policy is sustainable unless it takes the individual human being as its focus.

The basic pillars of the socialist and social democrat understanding of the economy need to be made up of the following: Policies that target growth in production and in employment; a sustainable and environment-friendly development approach; a fair allocation of resources; a strong and organized society; and an accountable state.

I would like to remind you that the greatest threat to our age is the global inequality which fuels extremist tendencies.

We need to approach the processes of integration between national economies through the lens of the principles that constitute the infrastructure of the Socialist International.

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We need to raise the voice of the popular demands for a better and fairer utilization of the world's resources; and we must develop concrete policies responding to these demands.

Dear comrades,

The economic and political problems that we are facing necessitate the rise of social democracy.

I believe that in our century, social democracy and socialism will write down the guidelines in solidarity for an order in which individuals will not become victims of crises, an order which will not loot and pillage the nature, an order which will bring an end to ethnic and sectarian conflict!

And this shall be the greatest social discovery of our century!

I would like to end my speech with a quote from Willy Brandt;

Willy Brandt says:

“Peace is more than the absence of War.

A durable and equitable peace system requires equal development opportunities for all nations.”

Welcome again. I wish you a successful meeting, and greet you all with solidarity and respect.