



ten ways to make a better world

quick points towards social globalisation

The Social Globalisation document for the Congress is a more detailed idea of the challenges we face in addressing the issue of globalisation. This document condenses the essence of the larger document into ten areas, ten ways to make a better world by making the process of globalisation a social one.

1. We affirm a global society.

There is only one humanity and we need each other.

2. Globalisation must not mean only a global marketplace.

Social Globalisation means taking the necessary steps towards sustainable development, social responsibility, the economic welfare of all, gender equality and good governance.

3. We must deepen the understanding and exercise of democracy.

Democracy is being tested locally, regionally and nationally, in terms of both the level of participation from the public and the faith of the people in the legitimacy of our current forms of democracy. Social movements as well as the anti-globalisation movement contribute to a new understanding of democracy, but at the same time have difficulties adjusting to a representative political model. The ILRS must contribute to deepening the understanding and exercise of democracy, and together with the Socialist International take part in the long process to rebuild and revitalise good governance in our global institutions.

4. Sustainable development is the real quest in building a better world.

It must be possible to develop progress in our world without ruining the ability for the coming generations to enjoy it, as well as to make their own progress. We must also find a method to pay back the deficit we already have. In this present capitalistic era, we must begin to calculate the consequences of our choices for nature and human life as part of our overall measurement of success or failure.

5. Human rights issues are now central to the agenda of globalisation.

The conditions of modern life confront the former sovereign independence of a state. The world today can not simply accept a cruel leader oppressing his people. Intervention from the international community can be necessary if genocide or even minor risks are at stake. Humans have fundamental rights — affirming those rights is the responsibility of the entire world. That involves the ability of nations to distribute education, and to create the possibility for individuals to reach their goals for personal development. The future welfare of working people is totally dependent on how well a country can prepare its citizens, especially the young, to claim their rights as producers and consumers when dealing with the economic challenges of a global society.

6. Reducing poverty is inseparable from all other political goals.

Challenged by reality and the UN Millennium goals, the national and international efforts aimed at poverty reduction are right at the centre of our politics and the global agenda. Poverty reduction is a question of money, but it is as much a question of attitudes, and providing the tools for a sustainable future. It involves our entire society; nationally, regionally and internationally.

7. Multilateralism and peace must take priority over previous conflicts.

The idea of a clash of civilizations will not benefit anyone. In fact, we support the idea of an alliance between civilisations. As global citizens we say that there is only one humanity. There can be no peace without justice, and without peace there can be no justice. It is also true that there can be no peace without development and a search for equality. In this respect the role of the UN regarding peace, security and development is crucially important and must be respected and upheld. We also ask for the abolition of nuclear weapons worldwide.

8. Markets must be regulated to serve human needs as well as wants.

The international market is a reality. With that reality comes the need for regulations not only within nations but also globally. We must organise markets so that they allow equal access for all to that market, while at the same time giving enough space for an immature economy to be gradually included in the global marketplace. In our analysis of the world economy, the working sector must be seen from different viewpoints. In the short run; from basic needs — from hand to stomach — one must accept the informal (or black market) sector when it is used by people for their very survival. In the long run however, the goal must be to include those informal activities in an open and formally recognised area of the economy. That is necessary for regulation, protection, personal safety, and — for the sake of the sense of community within a society — for taxation and openness in the economy.

9. People need to have democratic control over their own resources.

We are now facing very decisive privatisations of things that have been more or less understood as 'free lunches'. Of special concern is the outsourcing of water and water pipe infrastructure to international companies, which has taken this issue to a critical point. These changes have been seen in developed countries as well as in transitional and developing countries. On the one hand there is a need for nations to attract investment; on the other hand there is a definite risk at having one's most necessary resources in the hand of foreign companies and out of one's own democratic control. It will be necessary to exclude these fields from the market and regulate them in a more socially and sustainable responsible way.

10. A true global society is a tolerant society.

A multicultural society with a variety of faiths is not something which will occur automatically, but rather needs conscious work on melting all the different roots together in a new tolerant society. We will not accept any negative etiquette of groups of people; not from secular people towards religious people, nor from the believer towards the secular or other believers. Freedom of religion is at the foundation of modern society. However, religious freedom is not unlimited; the limits must take into consideration both the common values and human rights within the (secular) society, and the sacred elements of different faiths. We want to express our search for a unity in diversity as a common understanding that human is spiritual.