



Benedicta Lasi

National Democratic Congress (Ghana)

Candidate for Socialist International Secretary General

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Saisi-Agormanya, Ghana

Dear friends,

Upon considerable consultations and personal reflection, I have decided to put myself forward for the position of Secretary General of Socialist International with the support of my party, the National Democratic Congress – Ghana.

My decision to serve our great organization as Secretary General has become necessary as we assess our role in the world in these times of extreme economic volatility and geopolitical complexities, requiring Socialist International to play a more responsive role in addressing these issues. It has become crucial for us to leverage our strength and history as an organization to drive political and socio-economic transformation toward a just and fairer world.

As Secretary General, I intend to support the vision of the President and work with the Presidium and other members of the Secretariat to advance the values of Socialist International. I further intend to work towards improving the accessibility, openness and transparency of our work as recently highlighted by Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez made the point forcefully calling for the need for some Introspection as an organization. Our assessment of our work and adoption of progressive democratic policies is key to the development of Socialist International.

The value of collaborative efforts cannot be overemphasized and I strongly believe that Socialist International must consolidate its existing partnerships with other international organizations as well as rekindle working relationships with member organizations and other international bodies to advance our work. Our increased engagements in regions such as Asia-Pacific, Africa, Europe and the Americas would significantly influence actions on issues such as human rights, good governance, and inclusive development. As a progressive movement we must embrace our diversity and strive towards the achievement of inclusivity in our work. We must work towards improving the representation of women in our activities and the organization as a whole. Together with the President and the Presidium, we must set specific targets to ensure a more inclusive Socialist International in the coming years.

Indeed, our organization stands in a unique position to remind global institutions, world leaders, and governments of the role they play in shaping the world, in ensuring equality, justice, and diversity. With our history of resistance and campaign for our social democratic ideals, we are well positioned to present a force that can protect the future and development

of the world's populations. These challenges in the next decade will test our resolve in the fight against fascism and far-right political actors suppressing social justice and inequality, free speech, and the protection of our environment.

With the current political and socio-economic challenges the world is faced with, we have a collective responsibility to work towards finding sustainable solutions that reflect our ideals of social justice, equal opportunity, eradication of poverty, and climate justice among others. In the end, it is the unflinching solidarity of member organizations and their members that will lay bare the fruits of our work. The work that will make our alliance meaningful and functional.

I am confident that my experiences as a former Vice President and Coordinator of the Africa Committee of the International Union of Socialist Youth have given me tremendous insights and a firm foundation to serve as Secretary General of Socialist International and champion our common vision of a world responsive to the needs of its people and future generations. Whether Socialists, Social Democrats, or Democratic Socialists, we have to unite around our values and campaign to fight poverty, inequality, and injustice around the world.

Colleagues, with these aspirations for progress, I call on you to support my candidacy as Secretary General of Socialist International.



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