

**Mr LUIS AYALA, Secretary General
SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL**

Podgorica, 3 June 2020

Dear Luis,

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Democratic Party of Socialists and in my own name I would like to use this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for the interest you expressed regarding Montenegrin response to the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Such an approach you took confirms the vision of our International: to build better future for the mankind through closer cooperation in various fields, determined to defeat the pandemic - our common enemy at the beginning of 21st century - as soon as possible.

Corona Free status is now a symbol that makes Montenegro recognizable all around the globe. Montenegro is the first country in the region of the Western Balkans and in Europe that was able to declare the end of the epidemic according to the WHO rules and practices. We successfully completed the first stage of the fight. It was the fight for the highest value – human lives. State bodies and the entire Montenegrin society have shown an enviable level of responsibility in dealing with this new challenge. More than 20000 people were tested in Montenegro, which is a high percentage given the small size of our population. All the tests we used were PCR tests. Montenegro registered 324 diseased persons, which is 0.005% of our population. We managed to cure 315 persons and we had 9 deaths, including 6 patients with comorbidities. We have succeeded thanks to our partnership with citizens, good coordination of the state institutions on all levels and in cooperation with other stakeholders in the society who gave their contribution in the fight against the invisible and unknown enemy. We owe immense gratitude to our international partners who helped us stop the spread of the pandemic through various types of cooperation, donation of medical and protection equipment, air transport, provision of medical, scientific and technological knowledge, and

exchange of practices. We are now in the second and not less difficult stage of dealing with the crisis. It is the stage of trying to ensure recovery of our economy, keeping the jobs, and mitigating social problems that have an impact on our citizens' standard. Health challenges led us to the economic and existential uncertainty that we have to respond to using all the potentials our society has.

National response is of vital importance, but it is completely clear that in the long run multilateralism is the best weapon in the fight against this crisis, just like against any other global threat.

COVID-19 pandemic put the entire planet to a serious test, being the most difficult challenge for the health of mankind and for the global stability and development. We are to face a demanding period where we have to work together on addressing the consequences of the crisis.

It is precisely in the circumstances of this kind that our parties, linked by common programme goals, should show with determination that we want and can open new political perspectives that will help us seek common answers to the challenges, preserving in that the fundamental values of Western democracies. I want to assure you that in that endeavour you can always count on full support of the Democratic Party of Socialists and Montenegro.

Please accept the assurances of my highest esteem and warm regards.

Milo Đukanović

**Gospodin LUIS AJALA, generalni sekretar
SOCIJALISTIČKA INTERNACIONALA**

Podgorica, 3. jun 2020.

Dragi Luis,

Uvaženi prijatelji,

U ime Demokratske partije socijalista i u svoje ime, koristim priliku da Vam najiskrenije zahvalim na interesovanju koje ste izrazili povodom odgovora Crne Gore na pandemijsku krizu. Takav pristup potvrđuje vizije naše Internacionale da u izgradnji bolje budućnosti za čovječanstvo uspostavljamo bližu saradnju u različitim oblastima, u namjeri da što prije savladamo pandemiju, zajedničkog neprijatelja na početku 21. vijeka.

Corona Free status je prepoznatljiv simbol Crne Gore širom naše planete. Crna Gora je prva država u regionu Zapadnog Balkana i u Evropi, u kojoj je proglašen kraj epidemije u skladu s pravilima i praksom SZO. Uspješno je završena prva faza borbe za najsvetije vrijednosti - za ljudske živote. Državni organi i crnogorsko društvo u cjelini pokazali su zavidan nivo odgovornosti u suočavanju sa ovim novim izazovom. U Crnoj Gori je testirano preko 20000 ljudi, što je visok procenat u odnosu na broj stanovnika. Sve su to bili PCR testovi. Registrovano je 324, ili 0,005% oboljelih, od kojih je izliječeno 315. Bilo je 9 žrtava, od kojih su 6 imali i druge bolesti. Uspjeli smo zahvaljujući partnerstvu s građanima, dobroj koordinaciji državnih institucija na svim nivoima, i u sadejstvu sa svim drugim akterima društva koji su dali doprinos u borbi sa nevidljivim i nepoznatim neprijateljem. Neizmjernu zahvalnost dugujemo i našim međunarodnim partnerima s kojima smo kroz različite vidove saradnje, donaciju medicinske i zaštitne opreme, avionski transport, pružanje podrške u vidu medicinskih, naučnih i tehnoloških znanja i razmjenu praksi, uspjeli da suzbijemo širenje pandemije. Danas smo u drugoj, ne manje teškoj fazi prevazilaženja krize, u pokušaju oporavka naše ekonomije, očuvanja radnih mjesta i ublažavanja socijalnih problema koji utiču na standard naših građana.

Zdravstveni izazovi uveli su nas u ekonomsku i egzistencijalnu nesigurnost kojoj moramo odgovoriti ukupnim društvenim potencijalom.

Nacionalni odgovor je od vitalnog značaja, ali je potpuno jasno da dugoročno multilateralizam predstavlja najbolje oružje u borbi protiv ove krize, kao i drugih globalnih prijetnji.

Pandemija COVID-19 je cijelu planetu stavila na ozbiljna iskušenja, predstavljajući najveći izazov za zdravlje čovječanstva, ali i za stabilnost i razvoj u svijetu. Očekuje nas zahtjevan period u kojem moramo zajednički raditi na otklanjanju posljedica krize.

Upravo u ovakvim okolnostima naše partije koje povezuju zajednički programski ciljevi treba da pokažu odlučnost da želimo i možemo otvarati nove političke perspektive, što će pomoći u traženju zajedničkih odgovora na ovakve izazove, čuvajući pritom temeljne vrijednosti zapadne demokratije. Želim da Vas uvjerim da u tome možete računati na punu podršku Demokratske partije socijalista i Crne Gore.

Molim vas da primite izraze mog najvišeg uvažavanja i srdačne pozdrave.

Milo Đukanović