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Resolutions

as adopted by the 55th Congress of Liberal International, Belfast 15-18 May 2008

Resolution *The World Today*

Asia

The Congress of Liberal International congratulates the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD) for its international conference on Migration held in March in Thailand and applauds its role in spreading the norm of liberal agendas and policies in the region.

Liberal International warmly welcomes the establishment of the ASEAN Charter in November 2007 which commits ASEAN members 'to strengthen democracy, enhance good governance and the rule of law, and to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.' The Congress urges the members of ASEAN to implement the principles set out in the Charter and to promote human rights and democratic ideas in the region.

The Congress welcomes the innovative micro-credit scheme conducted in Bangladesh, as practical measures to empower its citizens, in particular women, to improve its economic status. Liberal International strongly urges the Bangladesh government and international community to continue investing on education and encouraging the participation of the women in politics and the promotion of women's rights.

This Congress denounces the oppression of the people of Burma by the military dictatorship and in particular condemns: the continued persecution of ethnic minorities; the brutal suppression of political and religious dissidents; the widespread use of forced labour; food insecurity and severe deterioration in health standards, especially amongst women and children; the reckless destruction of rain forests; and the continued detention of Aung San Suu Kyi. We deplore the ineffectiveness of the UN's interventions and the connivance of the Chinese Communist government with the military junta. We welcome the signs that indicate that other ASEAN states are critical of the dictatorship and we stress that all democratic governments should be vigilant and not only protest when the junta's crimes appear on television.

We refuse to recognize the legitimacy of any constitutional proposals produced by the National Convention so long as it does not include the NLD and other political parties, and we urge the National Convention to present a road map to democracy that genuinely reflects the wishes of the Burmese people instead of consolidating the military's stranglehold on power;

Liberal International strongly condemns the assassination of Benazir Bhutto, the former Prime Minister of Pakistan and Laureate of the Liberal International Prize for Freedom in 1989. We welcome the return of democracy in the country. It is essential for the coalition government in Pakistan to work towards a democratic society for its people.

The Congress expresses its grave concern regarding ongoing violence in Tibet and calls for the Chinese leadership to work towards a peaceful reconciliation through dialogue with Tibetan representatives to ensure stability in the region and demands the respect for human rights in China as a whole and Tibet in particular. If China does not change its policy of brutal repression

in Tibet and does not start with a dialogue with the Dalai Lama, international political leaders, including heads of state and government and cabinet ministers, should consider not to be present at the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games in Beijing later this year.

The Congress calls for China to conduct peaceful cross-Strait talks with Taiwan on the basis of mutual respect and benefit, in order to resolve differences which have strained relations between the two sides.

Liberal International also demands the Chinese government to respect opinions of people in Hong Kong, to implement fully its international obligations and to organise direct elections of the Chief Representative in Hong Kong by 2012. The LI calls for a continued dialogue with the Chinese leadership, and stresses the importance of democratically elected leaders raising demands for an end of the human rights violations, the immediate release of political prisoners and respect for individuals' and media's freedom of expression.

Liberal International notes with concern the increasing nature of tragic civilian casualties in the whole of Sri Lanka and urges a return to dialogue by all parties and improvement in the human rights situation to which greater commitment is required on all sides.

Liberal International notes with concern the regulations regarding the right of freedom and right of assembly imposed by the Singapore government. Discouraging the citizens in Singapore or opposition parties from participating or holding peaceful protests and public hearings does not portray Singapore as a democratic country as it wants to present itself.

The Congress of Liberal International urges the government of Philippines to tackle the problem of corruption. The government has to fight corruption at all levels of government and serve as an efficient administration for its people.

Congress strongly condemns the unilateral land grabbing policy of the Cambodian government and the continued use of political intimidation and the unfair treatment of opposition parties in Cambodia. The Congress urges the Cambodian government to ensure a free and fair national election in July 2008 and halt the violent evictions in the country to ensure its people to live under proper conditions and protection.

Congress condemns North Korea's leader's use of Nuclear weapons as a threat and urges both leaders of North Korea and South Korea to engage in constructive dialogue for the peace and security of Northeast Asia and the World. The Congress also notes with grave concern the communist government's gross violations of human rights and demands that North Korea's government improves its human rights record.

Liberal International acknowledges the emerging economic development in India and as the world's fast-growing largest democracy. The role of India is vitally important in promoting a democratic values in the region. The Congress also urges the Indian government to utilize its economic prosperity and further deepen its democracy.

Africa

Liberal International continues to support the African Liberal Network and its aim to strengthen liberal democracy in Africa by helping and encouraging African liberal parties and by observing elections throughout the continent.

A sine qua non condition for the African continent to become prosperous is that economic development must be accompanied by good governance, multiparty democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and fight against corruption.

Liberals believe that quality education is one of the crucial keys for self-empowerment of the individual and social mobility, political development, and economic growth. Liberal International

encourages African governments and the international community to put more efforts and investments into Africa's education system.

Liberal International congratulates the peace agreement reached in Kenya between President Mwai Kibaki and top opposition leader Raila Odinga. Liberal International believes the agreement to have an important role in promoting peace and stability in the region after the post-electoral conflict and calls on all signatory parties to respect the agreement.

Liberal International congratulates the peace pact between Sudan and Chad meant to end cross-border rebel attacks in a region that includes Darfur. Congress notes the importance of the agreement in reaching peace and stability on the Sudanese-Chadian border and calls on all signatory parties to respect the agreement.

The Congress deplors the violence and the grave human rights violations in Darfur and urges the international community to stay vigilant in ensuring the realization of human rights in this region. Deployment of the African Union peacekeepers must be swift and efficient in order to avoid further human suffering. We are deeply concerned by the consequences of the unconstructive role that China has been playing in the crisis in Darfur, Sudan.

Liberal International is concerned by the alarming security and political situation in Chad and urges the government to respect human rights, the rule of law and democratic principals.

The Congress urges that apply international pressure is applied to encourage democratic change in Equatorial Guinea in order to increase the country's political and social stability. Further, LI supports sending an international mission to the May 2008 Presidential elections to be held in the nation.

Liberal International calls for the depoliticization of the Congolese army and its police, and urges the Congolese government to reinstitutionalize freedom of expression and freedom of press. The eradication of corruption on every government level and within the security forces in DR Congo is absolutely essential, nationally, provincially and locally. LI also urges liberals to continue to fight together against the systematic pillaging of natural resources in DR Congo and in Africa in general, that continues to impoverish the African people. At the same time, we encourage all parties to work on the implementation of the peace accord that is aimed to put an end to the violence and bloodshed in Africa that has claimed hundreds of thousands of innocent civilian lives.

Liberal International condemns the exclusion of international observers based on nationality for the 2008 presidential elections in Zimbabwe. Free, fair and transparent elections, accompanied by peaceful transition to power, are one of the cornerstones of an established democracy. The grave situation in Zimbabwe, such as the economic mismanagement, repeated human rights abuses and harassment of the democratic opposition, can be reversed only through open and democratic governance, based on the rule of law. We urge the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to personally travel to Zimbabwe and call for the election results to be released and respected. Furthermore, LI calls for the neighbouring countries and especially South Africa to unequivocally condemn Robert Mugabe's flagrant interference in the democratic process.

Concerned about the spread of armed conflicts, Liberal International calls on the international community and parties involved to invest in the development of democracy and human rights in order to prevent ethnic and religious conflict across the African continent (such as in Sudan or the recent events in Kenya).

Congress having noted the use of child soldiers demands that all countries uphold the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child immediately and without delay.

Europe

Liberal International welcomes the signing of the Lisbon Treaty aimed at reforming some of the European Union structures to be more effective, transparent and closer to the citizen. LI hopes that the ratification of the Treaty will be prompt and smooth thus fulfilling processes initiated with the Treaty of Rome in 1957. The Congress welcomes the full membership of Bulgaria and Romania in the EU as of last year. LI believes that the reforms foreseen in the Lisbon Treaty will ensure that future enlargements of the Union with the Western Balkan states and the other aspirant countries will be not only possible but also successful if the candidate members are able to meet the Copenhagen criteria.

Further, LI expects member states to work towards a closer vision in the field of common foreign and security policy with areas such as border control subject to the control of the Union and not of individual states. In order to be a credible international actor, the Union must function in these areas as a single entity not as a variety of independent actors.

The Congress welcomes the introduction of the support by the European Union to the European political parties and European political foundations. The existence and support of European legal subjects will be an important contribution to the strengthening of the democratic principles on EU level and will increase the involvement of the citizens in the European integration processes. LI commends the work of the ELDR Party and the ALDE Group in the European Parliament for their important role on the entire European continent and expresses strong support for the 2009 European elections.

Liberal International congratulates the former Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstad for his visionary and liberal leadership of his country throughout the years, as well as in the 9-month-long period after the elections when the Belgian political elites struggled to create a new coalition government. In this period Belgium became a clear example that a state with strong and functioning institutions and good leadership can overcome any political turmoil.

LI emphasises that Serbia's place is in the European mainstream and institutions because a large majority of the Serbian citizens share the same values as the citizens of the EU and NATO member states.

The Congress expresses the hope that the Serbian government will adopt a pro-EU approach and will begin the process of EU accession, while at the same time creating a democratic system based on liberal democratic values and transparency.

LI would like to further highlight recent problems in Serbia, including the destruction of the headquarters of the Liberal Democratic Party of Serbia and use such acts as examples of the progress that still must be made.

LI calls upon the governments around the world to join the ever increasing number of countries who have supported the independent state of Kosovo, as declared in February 2008. Conducted fairly and legally, according to the Ahtisaari plan, this declaration of independence is a unique case. It is not a unilateral declaration of independence and should not be seen as such. It follows the protocol of international law as applied by the United Nations

The further expansion of NATO as guarantor for the regional stability is strongly supported by the Liberal International. The invitation extended by the NATO summit to Albania and Croatia is a welcome decision. However, we express deep concern that the Greek veto Macedonia's membership could provoke negative consequences in the region. Macedonia should be admitted to NATO without additional conditions that would jeopardise its identity and the right to exist. LI is convinced that the integration in NATO of the other aspirant states like Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro and Ukraine will contribute towards further democratisation and stabilisation of the European continent. If they meet the criteria for the Membership Action Plan (MAP) and subsequently membership which is a matter between NATO and applicant countries in which Russia has no stake. The Russian so-called 'Near Abroad' principle should not be recognized.

Liberal International condemns the regime of Alexander Lushenko of Belarus for its continuing campaign of repression (especially, but not limited to, the suppression of the political freedom of the youth and student activists). LI remains concerned about democratic deficits; electoral flaws; the persistence of human rights violations. Congress must fully support the actions of independent, liberally minded political activists (as exemplified by the 2007 LI Prize for Freedom Laureate Aliaksandr Milinkevich).

Liberal International is concerned about the political and economic situation in Moldova, one of Europe's most impoverished nations. LI calls on the communist government to continue in its reforms, in the hopes of one day joining the European Union and to continue to work to implement aspects of the European Neighbourhood Policy in attempts to join the Union.

The Cyprus issue must be quickly resolved. LI expresses regret that a lot of time has been wasted to resolve the issue. While acknowledging the positive climate that exists within the Turkish community on the island, LI calls on both sides to resume talks under UN auspices in order to bring the end to the decades of division on the island.

LI calls upon the Congress to support the efforts of the Organisation for Cooperation and Security in Europe, and specifically their attempts to monitor elections in several countries. Their actions help to ensure a transparent democratic process, especially in the countries that belong to the Commonwealth of Independent States.

LI would like to call to the attention of the Congress the fact that if the electoral process in every European nation is by no means fully democratic and transparent then organisations like the OSCE and the Council of Europe must be given the international support required to intervene in political terms. The recent Russian election, which virtually restricted OSCE observers, was marred by barring the opposition candidates from participating in the elections, skewing media coverage of the candidates and police action against protestors. LI urges the Congress to apply the appropriate pressure required to ensure electoral watchdogs can perform their mission to ensure the protection of the democratic rights of citizens, as well as the domestic and international security. The aim must be to have truly representative governments all over Europe and around the world.

Americas

Liberal International urges the release of all foreign detainees from Guantanamo Bay. LI finds the continued use of cruel and unusual torture methods in the US as fully unacceptable. LI urges the United States to bring conditions of detention in Guantanamo Bay into conformity with internationally recognized legal standards, to uphold article 4 and 5 of the Third Geneva Convention and to release those non-combatants who are not charged with crimes immediately. International rules should be developed on the status of combatants who are not covered by the Geneva Conventions on prisoners of war.

LI expresses relief at the departure from power of the decades-long Cuban dictator Fidel Castro and continues to urge for a true democracy in Cuba. We hope that the appointment of Raul Castro will lead to increased transparency, democratic values, and a government that can be held accountable, but it remains to be seen if his rhetoric will translate into a rightful democracy.

LI believes the heavy sentences imposed against non-violent Cuban dissidents-whose sole crime is to hold opinions that differ from the government's and to have contacts with American diplomats- are unjustified and draconian. These arrests are deplorable, and we insist that the Cuban government releases these dissidents immediately. Unless corrected, the recent actions of the Cuban government will only undermine efforts to expand contacts between Cuba and the international community.

LI condemns the actions of FARC and the conflict between Ecuador and Columbia. There is no doubt that the government of Ecuador has failed to halt the spread of FARC beyond their borders,

which has caused numerous violations of individual liberties among Columbians. Ecuador's failure to prevent the activities of this guerrilla group has threatened the democratic institutions of Columbia. Liberals everywhere must appeal to both countries to facilitate a dialogue.

LI is concerned with the continued spread of nationalism and populism in Venezuela under the Chavez regime and the rest of Latin America. Currently Hugo Chavez is leading the charge towards left-wing populism in Latin America. Liberal International is aware that the resurgence of populism is a problem that affects seriously Latin America and the only way to face it is through the collaboration of civil society and private investors. The leaderships of Bolivia and Nicaragua are threats to democratic governance.

Middle East

People living across the Middle East continue to suffer from oppression from authoritarian leadership denying them the freedom of speech, the freedom of religion, the rule of law and democratic principles. Liberal International calls for leaders across the region to legalise political parties, civil society and societal movements, non-governmental and other organisations allowing them to fully participate in transparent, free and fair elections to the end of building pluriform democracies across the region.

Liberal International regrets the decision of governments across the Middle East to officially protest the use of the freedom of speech by democratically elected representatives in Western nations who criticize religion. We believe in the fundamental freedom of religious beliefs for every individual, but we also undisputably defend the right of any individual to express themselves freely about whatever topic. Liberal International calls on its members to defend the freedom of expression as one of the most vital human rights which in democratic and free societies can only be limited by independent courts on the basis of the law. Given the separation of state and religion, the freedom of religion is, like the freedom of expression, a vital human right within the limits of the law and can never be used to curtail the freedom of expression as such.

Liberal International urges the leadership of Iran to withdraw its support for Hizbullah, to unequivocally stop enriching uranium and meet all demands of the international community to provide transparency about its nuclear programme, and to allow for free and democratic elections that can be monitored by independent international observers.

Liberal International believes the conflict between Israelis and the Palestinians can only be solved through peaceful means, and that only the Israelis and Palestinians themselves can find a resolution for the conflict. We deplore the recent surge of violence in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Liberal International states that Israel has a right to self defense as a sovereign state against daily terrorist attacks directed especially against the civilian population. Israel has a right to act militarily to stop those attacks for which Hamas terrorist regime in the Gaza territory is especially responsible, but this military response should not exceed what is essential for its self defence. Israel should refrain from enlarging or sustaining settlements outside the 1967 borders, and to accept the desire of the Palestinians for their own independent state.

Liberal International urges Palestinians to stop indiscriminate grenade attacks on Israeli towns and cities as well as terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians and Jews and Jewish institutions around the world, and urges them to accept the existence of the state of Israel and respect its legitimacy as a home for Jews.

Resolution on the prohibition of persecutions and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation

the Liberal International Congress,

- whereas international and regional human rights instruments affirm the dignity of all human beings, their equality and prohibit discriminations,

- whereas LGBT rights are human rights, as provided by the Yogyakarta Principles drafted by a committee of international human rights leaders,

- whereas persons are still executed, criminalized, persecuted and discriminated around the world on the basis of their sexual orientation,

- whereas in 7 states homosexual acts are still punished with death penalty, in 77 States these are criminalised and punished with prison sentences, while some States sponsor hate campaigns against LGBT persons, which are often led by public or religious figures,

- whereas all over the world persecutions and discriminations enacted by non-state actors take place in the society, and that the lack of anti-discrimination laws or societal support vanish all possibilities for individuals to look for a remedy,

- whereas in a growing number of States and supra-national bodies equality for LGBT persons is promoted through progressive legislative changes such as State recognition of same-sex relations, while homophobia is fought through education and legislative measures prohibiting discriminations;

- whereas liberals support human rights and individual freedoms in all spheres of life, notably from illegitimate intrusions from authorities in their private life,

1. asks its member parties to take action at all levels (international, regional, national and local) to ensure that :

a) State persecutions and discriminations based on sexual orientation, such as laws providing for death penalty or criminalisation of homosexual acts, are urgently reviewed and repealed;

b) third actors persecutions and discriminations based on sexual orientation are prosecuted and punished by the authorities, while human rights and LGBT equality campaigners and defenders are protected and supported, for instance when publicly demonstrating;

c) equality for LGBT persons is promoted in the public sphere through anti-discrimination measures and programmes, education and media campaigns;

d) asylum is granted to persons that flee persecutions and death on grounds of their sexual orientation;

e) coordinate at the international level actions to promote equality and to condemn and pressure those States that persecute and discriminate against LGBT persons; promote a UN initiative aimed at adopting texts on the prohibition of persecutions and discriminations based on sexual orientation and rights of family reunion are extended to same-sex couples.

f) adhere to the International Day against Homophobia that is celebrated in a growing number of countries on 17 May.

Resolution on the freedom of speech

The congress of the Liberal International convening from May 15-17th 2008 in Belfast, Northern Ireland:

Reaffirming the importance of freedom of expression, as guaranteed under international law through numerous human rights instruments, notably under Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 3 of the Oxford Manifesto

Considering that the individual freedom to express oneself is among the most fundamental principles of liberalism, as outlined by great liberal thinkers such as Voltaire and John Stuart Mill, also and especially when disagreeing with others

Emphasizing that freedom of speech is an inherent aspect of democracy and that suppressing or ex-ante confining this right weakens democratic societies; the decision to express an opinion rests with the individual holding that opinion, recognizing that there are legal limits to the right to freedom of speech but that these legal hurdles should be as low as possible.

Considering that the freedom of expression serves to protect all expressions of religion and life principles, especially those of minorities.

Recognizing that, according to the UNDP 2007 annual report and The Wall Street Journal Index of Economic Freedom 2008, adhering to the principle of freedom of expression and other democratic principles create favorable conditions for economic development and prosperity of citizens

Also concerned that some governments have used repercussions against countries of citizens that have exercised their right to freedom of expression as an argument to discourage individuals from expressing their opinion instead of using the tumultuous responses worldwide as an opportunity to underline the importance of the freedom of speech and urge countries worldwide to embrace this principle.

Also concerned that religious fundamentalists have cynically encouraged such repercussions as a gross overreaction to publications of opinions which they could and should ask its member parties to:

- a. Consider this resolution as a statement of liberal parties worldwide to promote and defend the right of each individual to speak, write and express themselves freely on any issue of their choice
- b. Maintain discussion on freedom of expression with those who are trying to limit it about the value and importance of this right for democracy and economic development
- c. Urge their governments to refrain from imposing further restrictions on the freedom of speech in circumstances of uncertainty and to remove any existing legislation which imposes undue restrictions on the freedom of speech
- d. Urge their governments to commit themselves to promoting solidarity with countries upholding this right to their own detriment (e.g. in the case of boycotts) while not tolerating countries that restrict the freedom of expression of their own civilians as a pre-emptive measure.
- e. Urge people to use their right of freedom of speech responsibly
- f. Urge all governments not to discourage or use pressure of any kind against the exercise by any persons (whether their own citizens or not) of their right to freedom of expression.

Resolution on climate change

The UN's Climate Panel (IPCC) has concluded that climate change is happening, that it is man-made and that it will have grave consequences for life on earth unless global emissions of greenhouse gases are significantly reduced the next two to three decades, and by 75 to 90 per cent before 2050. The EU has set itself the task to reduce carbon dioxide emissions before 2020 by 20-30 per cent. The Stern Review concludes that the benefits of strong and early measures to fight climate change are far greater than the costs of doing nothing.

Inaction, on the other hand, is both risky — since we do not know all the consequences of the rapidly rising temperature — and will also make it more difficult to prevent climate change and adaptations to the rising temperature. Inaction may thus cause irreversible changes in living conditions on earth, and may provoke calls for stronger measures that disregard liberal principles and democratic rights.

Those who emit greenhouse gases must pay for it, i.e. the polluter-pay-principle should guide liberal policies in this field. The market is a powerful tool to achieve this, and it is therefore necessary to both include climate costs in different economic activities and stimulate innovative energy-efficient production methods. This calls for such measures as carbon tax and a global emissions trading system. The establishment of an international system for trade with emission rights is an important measure to reduce global emissions. The Liberal International calls for all governments to contribute actively to this.

The Liberal International believes that climate change must be solved through a global climate agreement that includes both the major emitters — like Europe and North America — and the fast rising emitters — like China and India. Such an agreement must also put a price on carbon emissions and result in emission reductions in line with the recommendations of the IPCC.

Through their rise in prosperity over the last 200 years, traditional “industrial countries” have caused most of the climate change we are trying to stop. Consequently, industrial countries must be willing to bear a major part of the costs to prevent climate change, to initiate research and development, to invest in better practices, and to take the lead in international negotiations. Since a majority of the world's population lives in the non-industrial world, and has not been part of the global rise in prosperity, the industrial countries must show that it is possible for all countries to decouple growth in emissions from economic growth, rising living standards, and social development. To achieve this it is necessary to fully develop all possible ways of producing renewable and carbon-free energy.

Liberal International calls upon all governments to play a proactive role in the international efforts to pave the way for EU's an international objective of 30 per cent, and aim for emission commitments - both at home and abroad - corresponding to a 30 per cent reduction in the global emission of green house gases by 2020 compared to the 1990 level.

Resolution on food prices

Congress notes with concern the rapid rise in agricultural commodity prices worldwide and the disproportionate effect this is having on the poor, particularly in the developing world. However, Congress is also concerned that the response to increasing the supply of agricultural commodities is already threatening important carbon sinks as well as biodiversity and that sustainable solutions are required.

Congress believes that a significant part of the problem is a result of a combination of lack of action and inappropriate policies by governments in both developed and developing nations and that neither security nor sustainability of food supplies can be ignored.

Congress recognises that:

part of this price rise is due to the abandonment of export subsidies by the developed world and that price levels below the cost of production were unsustainable in the long term.

much of the recent price rise has been due to increased demand driven by a change of diet in many developing nations as a direct result of increased wealth.

production costs have also risen due largely to the increase in energy prices and the resultant rise in fertiliser prices.

much of the price rise is due to poor harvests across the world limiting supply.

concerns about climate change and fuel security have led to an increase in the use of agricultural land for non-food purposes

export subsidies have damaged the agricultural industries in developing and export orientated nations and left them less able to respond to current shortages.

Congress therefore calls for Liberal International's member parties to press at both national and international level for:

An end to the trade-distorting biofuels subsidy for maize in the USA.

An immediate end to set aside in the EU, as proposed by the current CAP "Health Check". Introduction and promotion of energy efficiency and conservation measures to reduce the demand for fuels, thereby reducing the amount of land diverted from food production to biofuels.

An end to price control measures that artificially reduce prices to farmers, as these will only serve to reduce production incentives, thus reduce food supply and ultimately drive prices even higher.

A re-emphasis of aid programmes of all the world's major aid donors (particularly the USA and EU) on food production, storage and related infrastructure, with a view to stimulating sustainable agriculture in developing nations.

The World Bank to support and promote efficient lines of credit for small farmers in the developing world combined with advice and training to enable them to invest in making their farms more productive.

The establishment of robust, internationally recognised certification criteria for biomass and biofuels, based on significant carbon saving and protection of natural habitats.

An urgent international agreement to protect important natural habitats and carbon sinks from clearance for food production or other purposes.

A concentration of research and development efforts on efficient and sustainable means of food and bio-energy production.

Efforts should be concentrated on second-generation biofuels, such as ones made from waste or from agricultural by-products

An evidence-based approach to the adoption of new technologies by all governments.

Resolution on overcoming conflicts

Considering all the previous resolutions of the Council of Human Rights of the UN and the dispositions that appear in the instruments of humanitarian right about the protection of the civil population

Considering the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women CEDAW

Considering resolution 1325 of the Security Council of the 31st October 2000, related to women, peace and security

Considering that resolution 1325 recognises the disproportionate effects of war and armed conflict on women

Considering that resolution 1325 stresses the importance of women's roles in preventing conflicts and of their full involvement in peace talks and political and socioeconomic reconstruction

Considering that all forms of violence in zones of conflicts, committed against the civil population affect particularly women and children, infringing seriously the humanitarian international law, especially the dispositions of the Agreements of Geneva of 12 August 1949

Considering that there exists serious worry for the persistence of conflicts in many regions of the world

Considering that for women, mutual understanding, peaceful co-existence and non-violence in resolving differences are naturally deeply rooted in their consciousness and are inviolable principles of human rights

LI notes that:

Women, who are the main civilian victims of conflicts and wars, have to be empowered and made part of conflict management.

Women have to participate in diplomacy, conflict resolutions, post-conflict peace-building, conflict prevention, debates and activities in all public and civil institutions at all levels worldwide.

Women, who take part in conflict prevention, post-conflict resolution and in all forms of peace-building, have to be provided with mentoring programs and funding, so as to be able to perform the mentioned activities properly.

Administrations, institutions on the national and international level, have to include peace-building budgets in their public finances.

Women, taking part in conflict prevention, post-conflict peace-building, conflict resolution are to be provided with appropriate measures of security to prevent harassment or violence against them.

Partnerships and networking between women's organizations is very important to strengthen women's presence in peace-building.

LI calls on all stakeholders:

Countries, governments, international, regional and national institutions and corporations, parties, NGO's and the whole civil society to implement resolution 1325 by striving to set up consolidated National Action Plans on conflict prevention management, conflict resolution and post-conflict peace-building, aiming to guarantee systematic attention for, and recognition and support of, the role of women in these situations.

Resolution on the global population crisis

The 55th Liberal International Congress,

Noting that

(1) The human population of the world, currently about 6.7 billion, is more than double what it was in 1960, and is continuing to increase at a rate of an extra 1.5 million people per week;

(2) This rate of increase threatens the sustainability of the world's resources;

(3) Population increases can enslave people in poverty;

(4) Reproductive health conditions are the leading cause of death and illness in women of childbearing age worldwide; and at least 200 million women want to plan their families or space their children, but lack access to safe and effective contraception;

Recalling that the 54th Liberal International Congress in Marrakech, 2006:

(A) Reaffirmed the absolute imperative at the beginning of the 21st century to raise the living standards of the extreme poor, in particular that half of the global population which struggles to survive on less than \$2 per day,

(B) Reaffirmed its commitment to the eight Millennium Development Goals that were adopted by 189 nations during the Millennium Development Summit in 2000, which include the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, the education and empowerment of girls and women, the improvement of maternal and child health and ensuring environmental sustainability;

(C) Recognised that some cultural or religious practices in society hinder the contribution of women;

(D) Recognised that excessive population growth places enormous strains on agricultural land and available nutritional and environmental resources;

(E) Commended both freedom of choice for individuals and equal treatment of all citizens and residents, and non-discrimination;

Believing that:

(a) In order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, especially the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, population growth and sexual and reproductive health and rights also need to be addressed;

(b) In particular, the present rate of consumption of the world's resources is at odds with the Seventh Millennium Development Goal, namely environmental sustainability;

(c) It is vital to reverse the trend towards a burgeoning human population of the planet if real progress is to be made on the Millennium Development Goals, a better quality of life is to be shared by all, and the threats of worsening violence, epidemics and starvation are to be lessened;

(d) Parents have the human right and the freedom to choose to plan their families and thereby improve their health and quality of life, but there is an unmet need for education, family planning and reproductive health services;

(e) Where such unmet need exists, unwanted pregnancies can be obstacles to gender equality and subsequent social justice, economic growth and environmental sustainability;

Calls upon Liberal International's member parties to urge their governments:

(1) To especially promote the education of girls and women;

(2) To provide full access to comprehensive family planning and sexual and reproductive health services to all those who wish to access these services;

(3) To defend and advance gender equality and to eliminate all forms of discrimination, coercion and violence against women.

Resolution on climate change

The 55th Congress of Liberal International notes:

That according to an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report published on 2 February, 2007, it is now 90% certain that human activities since 1750 have warmed our planet.

- That while every possible attempt must be made to mitigate climate change, the reality is that a certain amount of warming has already been locked into the climate system due to emissions that have already occurred;

Further noting:

- That concern is growing that many communities and ecosystems will have little time to adjust to changing conditions;
- That economic losses due to extreme weather events are already being experienced, and are likely to increase in the future;
- That the World Health Organization estimates that climate change is already responsible for 150 000 deaths annually;
- That the worst effects of climate change will be felt most acutely in the developing world, particularly in Africa;
- That climate change threatens both food and water security in the developing world;
- That the climate change effects will hamper many countries' ability to attain UN Millennium Goals;

Further noting:

- That Adaptation refers primarily to measures that lessen the vulnerabilities that arise as a result of the negative effects of climate change.
- That while mitigation is mostly a global issue, adaptation is a local or regional issue, and therefore adaptation needs will be different in different parts of the world.
- That those countries or communities with the least capacity to adapt are the most vulnerable to climate change;
- That the costs of adapting will be between US\$ 28 -- 67 billion per year by 2030;
- That currently the Adaptation Fund, set up using funds from a levy on Clean Development Mechanism Projects, is estimated to be worth only US\$ 36 million per year, and is expected to rise to no more than US\$300 million per year by 2012. Hence, there is a significant funding gap, as the Adaptation Fund in its current manifestation will contribute only 1% of the funds required to help the world adapt to climate change that is already likely to happen.

Hereby Resolves:

- That Adaptation to climate change in conjunction with sustainable development receive the same emphasis as mitigation in a post-2012 climate agreement;

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- That the funding for Adaptation by developing countries be funded primarily by developed countries who are responsible for the majority of human-induced climate change;
 - That developed countries consider committing to compulsory financial payments to the Adaptation Fund based on their respective abilities to pay.

That funding to developing countries for Adaptation measures be in addition to existing development aid;