

**184th Liberal International Executive Committee Meeting
State Representative Office for Lower Saxony
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Adopted Resolutions



<i>Contents</i>	<i>Page</i>
<i>Resolutions Proposed by Member Parties:</i>	3
To promote an intercultural society (MR, Belgium)	3
Digital Freedom (IFLRY)	4
Human Rights Council (IFLRY)	6
Climate Change (IFLRY)	8
Net Neutrality (D66, Netherlands)	10
LGBT Rights (D66, Netherlands)	12
<i>Resolutions Proposed by the Bureau of Liberal International:</i>	14
Honduras	14
Nicaragua	15
Hungary	16
Singapore	18
Thailand	19
<i>Urgency Resolutions</i>	20
Recent developments in the Eastern Mediterranean	20
The political situation in Burundi	21
<i>Presidential Statements</i>	22
Surinam	22
Upcoming Elections in Cote D'Ivoire	22

To promote an intercultural society

As proposed by Mouvement Reformateur, Belgium

Considering that new models of societies have appeared in which multiple cultures, languages and religions coexist

Considering that this diversity enriches societies, but also radicalizes identity which can lead to a clash between different cultures

Considering that two models of society are possible : a multicultural model which sees the individual primarily as a member of a cultural, religious or ethnic community, which underlines its difference while at the same time being part of the bigger common group ; and an intercultural society that puts the individual first regardless of its cultural, religious or philosophical background, where all citizens share a common heritage of fundamental values like the right to life, freedom of conscience, democracy, equality of man and woman and the separation of church and state, and all the universal human rights.

Liberal International supports the model of an intercultural society in which the state is reinstalled as the primary guardian of universal values in order to promote them as the common heritage of all its citizens while at the same time advocating cultural diversity, provided that these different cultures respect the aforementioned universal rights.

Digital Freedom

As proposed by: The International Federation of Liberal Youth

Recalling the guarantee of the right of freedom of opinion and expression, regardless of the methods of communication, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights with its guarantee of the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers,

Recalling the proposed 2008 Directive of the European Parliament and the Council concerning the EU Global Online Freedom Act, in particular its finding that authoritarian states such as Belarus, Burma, China, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam censor the internet by blocking websites and filtering search results and intimidate users of the Internet through cyber police and obliged registration,

Recognizing that the Internet is a universal space for communication and expression of opinions and ideas,

Believing that the Internet, being without political frontiers, can promote freedom and mutual understanding among all people, regardless of race, religion, geography or economic status,

Alarmed that the freedom of the Internet is under assault in many regions of the world,

Believing that the freedom of the Internet is essential to the full enjoyment of human rights, civil liberties and a free and democratic society,

Acknowledging that the restriction of freedom of the Internet and other digital communication is equivalent to the restriction of freedom of opinion and expression with other methods of communication and creates an environment of repression,

Affirming that suppression of independent thought by filtering, monitoring and censoring of websites, online content, blogs and messaging services constitutes a violation of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Stressing that all countries therefore have the obligation to guarantee freedom of the Internet,

Be it therefore resolved that Liberal International calls on all its members to be involved in promoting and protecting the freedom of the Internet worldwide, to encourage their respective governments not to export technologies that can be

used for suppression or censorship around or on the Internet, and that Internet companies be held accountable for complicity with or liability for violations to this freedom.

Be it also resolved that Liberal International calls upon governments to provide support mechanisms and tools for human rights and democracy activists in authoritarian countries that offers them safe and unanimous access to the Internet, for example by allowing such access at embassies and consulates within the respective authoritarian countries.

Human Rights Council

As Proposed by: The International Federation of Liberal Youth

Recalling that the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) has been replaced by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in 2006 to improve the credibility of the United Nations as a defender of human rights around the world;

Recalling that some of the major improvements of the HRC are the Universal Periodic Review, the opportunity for competitive elections for the membership of the HRC and the possibility to call for emergency sessions

Noting that most observers consider the structural improvements of the UNHRC to be substantial, but that its implementation by the UN members has been severely flawed;

Concerned by the lack of competitive elections for the HRC positions, which seems to be one of the main reasons for countries with a bad human rights record to still be elected into the HRC;

Similarly concerned by the vigor that aforementioned countries put into their presence in the HRC, compared to the sometimes lacklustre approach taken by democracies when it comes to defending human rights within the HRC;

Observing that the vast majority of the HRC consists of countries considered by Freedom House to be free or partly free, but that the non-free countries seem to be dominating the HRC, in particular countries like Cuba;

Noting that there have been various instances in which NGOs have been censored to express their opinion in the Human Rights Council, despite their formal right to do so;

Concerned that the lack of effort put into the HRC by democracies is a major reason why countries which have a (relatively) good domestic record on human rights, still tend to vote with non-free countries in the HRC (for example South-Africa and India);

Considering that neither all the current members, nor candidates for the next Human Rights Council abide by to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Considering that the Human Rights Council is and should be the main battleground for the international discourse on human rights;

Emphasizing that membership of the United Nations Human Rights Council should be reserved for states that respect and promote human rights, and that competitive elections between UN Members are the most realistic way to ensure that;

Emphasizing that the United Nations Human Rights Council should not be politicized by allowing members of the Council to distract attention from their own violations of human rights, as it happens with many of the initiatives by in particular the Organization of the Islamic Conference;

Strongly believing that the involvement of NGOs in the HRC procedures is a crucial condition for human rights abuses to be brought to the attention of the international community;

Be it therefore resolved that Liberal International calls on democratic governments to invest more time and resources to the Human Rights Council, in particular by encouraging countries to run in competitive elections against non-free countries, as well as by more vigorously calling for respect for human rights at the Human Rights Council;

Be it also resolved that Liberal International calls upon governments to defend the right of NGOs to objectively and independently submit facts and opinions to the Human Rights Council.

Climate Change

As Proposed by: The International Federation of Liberal Youth

Whereas there is scientific consensus established by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that the build-up of greenhouse gases from human sources in the atmosphere is causing global temperatures to rise,

Whereas such global warming leads to dangerous environmental phenomena, such as arctic shrinkage, glacier retreat, rising sea levels and an increased intensity and frequency of extreme weather events,

Whereas global warming also has a severe impact on the world economy and threatens some of the basic elements of future living conditions for people around the world,

Whereas there have been negotiations taking place aiming at concluding an international agreement that will serve as a successor to the Kyoto Protocol,

Whereas the United Nations Climate Change Conference in December 2009 (COP 15) failed to achieve this goal,

Whereas Liberal International endeavors to advance the opinion of global liberalism in this process,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Liberal International

Emphasizes the urgency of tackling dangerous climate change with an ambitious and comprehensive international agreement consistent with the objective of limiting global temperature increases to not more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels,

Calls on all parties involved to conclude, at the COP 16 in 2010 in Mexico, or at the COP 17 in 2011 in South Africa at the latest, an agreement that substantially steps up action on climate change by setting emission limits for all countries effecting an overall reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions to 30% below 1990 levels by 2020, provides for significantly increased financial resources to support necessary mitigation and adaptation policies in developing countries, such funds not to be counting against ODA obligations of developed countries, optimizes the Flexible Mechanisms, especially the CDM, to be effective tools for efficiently allocating resources so that carbon emission reductions can be achieved at the lowest possible cost, and includes aviation, maritime transport and agriculture as large sources of greenhouse gas emissions,

Stresses the importance and potential of renewable energy sources and improved energy efficiency for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the

transformation to a global low-carbon economy, and urges governments to make use of these to full capacity,

Encourages countries outside the European Union to establish domestic cap-and-trade systems as a flexible and cost-efficient means to reduce emissions, with a view to build an effective global carbon market by linking these domestic carbon markets in the long term.

Net Neutrality

As Proposed by: D66, Netherlands

WHEREAS access to the internet remains an increasingly important resource to individuals, both as consumers and citizens. As consumers, individuals gain access to digital content and any number of goods and services through ecommerce. As citizens, individuals gain the ability to both access and create conduits for discourse, debate, and creativity. The growth of a free and open internet has provided historic advances in the realms of democracy, freedom of expression, freedom of information, communication, research, innovation and economic development.

WHEREAS consumers rely upon Internet service providers (ISPs), which provide end-users access to the internet. Because many ISPs are vertically integrated with owners of basic communications infrastructure, they have the technical ability to act as gatekeepers, blocking or degrading consumers' access to certain content or limiting the types of equipment that can be attached to the network. Such behavior can severely limit the usefulness of the internet and frustrate consumers' aims.

WHEREAS around the world, examples abound of ISPs blocking content either to disadvantage competition or limit access to dissenting political views. Such incidents demonstrate the skewed incentives that result when a network access provider also has a stake in the content accessed by its customers. When the provider can selectively control access, it may select against speech or actions that it perceives as harmful to its self-interest. This may regard content, services or devices that compete with the provider's own interests; or content that the provider disfavors, such as criticism of the provider itself. These harms are exacerbated when a lack of competition prevents users from migrating away from discriminatory providers, as well as when consumers lack the ability and information necessary to discover any discriminatory practices.

NOTING THAT a neutral internet grants individuals:

- the right to attach devices of their choice;
- the right to access or provide content and services of their choice;
- the right for their access to be free from discrimination according to source, destination, or content.

NOTING THAT a neutral internet contains ISPs and communications networks that:

- do not unfairly block content or devices;
- do not deliberately degrade access for content or devices ;
- do not prioritize data according to its content, source or destination;
- do not discriminate against particular providers of content, services, or devices.

In order to promote vigorous free speech, a vibrant business community and unfettered access to all information on the internet, Liberal International:

- calls upon its member parties to take action at all levels (international, regional, national and local) to ensure that governments recognize, promote, and encourage the above-defined principles of net neutrality;
- calls upon regulators to assess the level of competition in broadband internet access, and take steps to ensure that consumers have continued access to a neutral network;
- urges regulators to prevent ISPs and network providers from engaging in unfair discrimination against content, services, or devices;
- urges ISPs to provide consumers with more information about limitations on internet service plans, as well as any network management occurring on their networks and how that management affects access to particular content, services, or devices. Such management should be limited to legitimate purposes.

“Guarantee the protection of human rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people”

As proposed by: D66 Netherlands

Recalling the resolution on the prohibition of persecutions and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation as adopted by the Liberal International Congress in Belfast (2008). We note that recent years have seen a rise of violence targeted at lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people throughout the world. Such violence is often motivated by state-sponsored homophobia. Frequently governments fail to protect their own citizens from such violence, sometimes violence can even be instigated by governments whilst holding back basic human rights to LGBT people.

Liberal International reaffirms the Yogyakarta Principles as guiding document in interpreting existing human rights in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity.

Noting that the General Assembly of the Organization of American States in 2008 unanimously adopted a resolution condemning human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Liberal International deplores the fact that during past years numerous transgender persons were murdered in Turkey. Most of these crimes go unpunished, often without proper investigation. In other cases governments fail to protect the freedom of assembly: March this year an international LGBT conference in Surabaya, Indonesia, was forced to disperse as a consequence of safety threats coming from fundamentalists. The Indonesian government failed to protect the safety of citizens and international visitors. Numerous other cases are known in which pride parades were banned and LGBT associations were forced to close down.

Expressing concern about the failure to protect citizens and defend their human rights because of their sexual orientation, happens nearly always on deplorable 'moral grounds': LGBT people would be a threat to children, families of even nations.

Noting that politicians, including liberals, around the world too often remain silent when human rights of LGBT people are not respected.

Calling on the European Union to actively protect the human rights of LGBT people inside and outside the European Union.

Furthermore, Liberal International calls upon Council of Europe member states to act in accordance with ECHR jurisprudence by guaranteeing the freedom of assembly and asks local authorities to offer sufficient protection when pride parades are organised.

Calling on UN Member States to endorse the statement on sexual orientation, gender identity and human rights as was delivered at the United Nations General Assembly in December 2008 and is now endorsed by 68 states.

Concluding, Liberal International strongly calls for the full implementation of and follow-up on the resolution "Resolution on the prohibition of persecutions and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation" (adopted at the 55th congress of Liberal International in Belfast).

Resolutions Proposed by the Bureau of Liberal International

Honduras

Congratulating Honduras on organising what was internationally deemed as free and fair elections.

Recognizing the victory of Porfirio Lobo in these elections and encouraging him to work across political divides to promote the unity of the country, supporting the work of the recently established Truth Commission.

Welcoming that LI positions on Honduras as presented by the LI delegation led by President Van Baalen in Tegucigalpa Mid November last year are now EU policy, as the EU accepts that following its democratic elections and the inauguration of the country's new President, Honduras has returned to constitutional order and negotiations for an EU-Central American trade agreement will thus be resumed.

Regretting that some European countries still do not accept these facts and the results of the elections, even while the Electoral Tribunal was able to certify that the elections were conducted according to the law. In Spain, for instance, the democratic elections in Honduras are still not recognised and the normalisation of relations between Honduras and the EU has ground to a halt.

Liberal International applauds acting president Roberto Micheletti, Vice President of Liberal International, for his efforts in guaranteeing a peaceful transition of power in the country and congratulates the Liberal candidate in the presidential elections, Elvin Santos, for the popular support he achieved and for leading a fair campaign which will make it possible for Honduras to re-unite after a politically tumultuous year. Liberal International invites Micheletti to play an active role within LI and its Latin American Network RELIAL and hopes to see a consolidation of the liberal influence in the country's decision making.

Nicaragua

Promoting and protecting democratic institutions and political parties in Nicaragua

Reiterating the rule of law and the independence of democratic institutions as one of the most important attributes of liberalism;

Recalling that Liberal International is renowned for its contributions towards liberalism, in which the promotion of political and civil rights are mandatory in order to achieve equality and freedom for the people, as well as for the progress towards democracy;

Noting that promotion of democratic institutions is still limited in a number of Latin American countries;

Emphasizing the importance of functioning and strengthening of independent democratic institutions, paying special attention to the Nicaraguan Parliament which has been constrained by the government in its democratic labour;

Highlighting the important role that political parties, which share the common cause of liberalism, could play in the furtherance of protecting and promoting democratic institutions through maintaining a democratic debate and a healthy opposition;

Be it therefore resolved that Liberal International concentrate more efforts on supporting the independent and democratic institutions in Nicaragua, reject the violent acts of the government of Nicaragua against the National Parliament and call on all its members to become more involved in the promotion and protection of the besieged opposition as well as to encourage the respective governments in Central and Latin America to be more active and effective in protecting the rights of political parties and democratic institutions and preventing any violation of them.

Hungary

Considering the result of the April 2010 Hungarian general elections, in which the far-right Jobbik party gained 17% of the electoral vote and thus 26 seats in the Hungarian Parliament. Also considering the result of the June 2009 Hungarian elections for the European Parliament, in which Jobbik gained 15% of the vote.

Recognizing the significant loss of the Hungarian Alliance of Free Democrats in the general election, who were not able to reach the required 5% threshold for entering the Hungarian parliament, thereby losing their 18 parliamentary seats..

Observing the hateful right-wing rhetoric by the Jobbik-party against Jewish and Roma minorities in Hungary.

Noting the continued existence of the Magyar Garda paramilitary force linked to the Jobbik-party.

Noting the liberal legacy and responsibility of resisting and fighting left- and right-wing extremism, intolerance and inequality around the world, and Liberal International's proven track record in this regard

Stresses its worry about the rise of the far-right in Hungary and other European countries, as well as the rise of other extremist political groups, as a result of the economic and financial crisis.

Regrets the loss of the liberals in Hungarian politics, especially now Hungarian politics is clearly lacking a strong and realistic liberal political force.

Stresses the continued importance of the liberal values of tolerance and equality, as well as respect for the rights of minorities. All are necessary and crucial components of a working liberal democracy and inclusive open society.

Rejects firmly the rise in Hungary, a European Union member state, of civilian paramilitary force Magyar Garda. Within a democratic country under rule of law the existence of non-government military and police forces is unacceptable and a threat to the inclusive society, the legal system, public order and stability. Calls for violence directed towards any specific group in Hungarian society are racist, intolerant, and unlawful and should not be accepted in a democratic state.

Condemns Jobbik's openly anti-semitic and anti-gypsy rhetoric, and calls on the party to engage in a constructive political dialogue without using ethnic groups as scapegoats for social and economic problems.

Condemns (calls for) ethnic violence against civilians by civilians or politicians in Hungary, directed towards Jews, Roma or any other ethnic group.

Calls on the Jobbik-party, the Hungarian government and the Hungarian parliament to respect the Hungarian constitution at all time, and safeguard the rights of minorities in Hungary, emphasizing the importance of tolerance and equality in the democratic Republic of Hungary.

Call for opposition unity in order to bring about democratic change in Singapore

Recalling the Liberal International position that the promotion of political and civil rights are essential in order to achieve equality and freedom for the people;

Concerned that there are several outstanding cases of criminal prosecution and police investigation against human rights activists for speaking in public and holding public gatherings in Singapore;

Concerned that there is no independent election commission in Singapore and that elections are conducted by the Elections Department which is supervised by the Prime Minister's Office;

Noting that the promotion of human rights, democracy and freedom is still limited in Singapore;

Emphasizing the important role of opposition political parties in protecting and promoting democracy, and the importance of strong cooperation between opposition parties in this regard;

Calls for launching a symposium in Singapore to unite Singaporean human rights activists and opposition parties, in order to form a strong common front for democracy and human rights in that country.

Thailand

Call for peaceful resolution of Thailand's crisis

Regretting the clash between the protesters and security forces on April 10 which resulted in casualties on both sides;

Is concerned about the recent street protests that have prompted the Thai government to declare a state of emergency;

Urges protesters to not to resort to violence, in order not to threaten the safety of Thai citizens and foreigners, and calls for all protests to be held in a peaceful and lawful manner;

Recommends holding an Emergency ASEAN with the aim of easing tension in Thailand and discussing a resolution of the political differences between the involved parties;

Calls on concerned individuals and groups to engage in an open dialogue aimed at reconciliation and a peaceful resolution of their differences, within the context of the Thai constitution;

Urgency Resolutions

Resolution on the recent developments in the Eastern Mediterranean *(reconciled version)*

Liberal International Executive Committee in Berlin:

- Deplores the use of force by Israeli commandos in stopping the flotilla carrying aid to Gaza
 - Deplores the violence caused by some activists on board of the flotilla
 - Expresses shock at the resultant deaths and injuries aboard the Turkish-flagged Mavi Marmara, and at the treatment of the crew and passengers.
- Demands the restoration of liberty of the Israeli Arabs who have been on board the flotilla
- Supports the UN Security Council's call for a prompt, impartial, credible and transparent inquiry into this violent clash between Israeli armed forces and activists to avoid immense further damage to both Israel's reputation and its security
- the inquiry must fully examine the actions of all parties, including claims of weapons possession, and establish the precise facts and responsibility for the chain of events, and report for consideration to the Security Council
- Strongly calls on the Middle East quartet, and the US government in particular, to urge all parties to return to the Road Map and observe international law.

The Political Situation in Burundi

As proposed by Dr Mamadou Lamine Bâ, President of the Africa Liberal Network; Minister for International Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs in the Senegalese Government

The 184th LI Executive Committee:

Regret the atmosphere of intimidation which marked the municipal elections in Burundi on Monday 24 May;

Recall the allegations of electoral fraud against the Burundian Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI: Commission Électorale Nationale Indépendante);

Reiterate the importance of independent democratic institutions and political and civil rights, cornerstones of a liberal democratic society;

Support the calls from thirteen opposition parties for the municipal elections to be held afresh,

Deplore the decision of the Burundian Minister for the Interior to ban opposition parties from organising meetings during the Presidential election campaign;

Alarmed by the arrest of Mme Alice Nzomukunda, President of the Alliance Démocratique pour le Renouveau-Urunani Rw'Imvugakuri (ADR); former Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi and Vice-President of its National Assembly; Resolved that Liberal International:

Condemns the interference of the Burundian Government in the election campaign;

Calls for the Minister for the Interior to repeal the prohibition on opposition campaigning;

Expresses solidarity with the detained political prisoners in Burundi;

Calls for the immediate release of all opposition leaders;

Requests that the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, urgently address this issue with the Burundian Government;

Resolves all member parties and organisations to make representations to the Burundian Government in support of free and fair elections ahead of upcoming polls

LI Presidential Statements

Statement of the LI President on Surinam

- Liberal International expresses profound concern at the outcome of the 25 May Surinam elections, which paves the way for Desi BOUTERSE to be potentially elected as President of Surinam.
- LI recalls his previous criminal record and calls on the Surinam Parliament and the citizens that a potential election of a convicted criminal as Head of State will lead towards international isolation of Surinam with possible grave consequences for the development and well-being of the people of Surinam.

Statement of the LI President on the upcoming elections in Cote d'Ivoire

Liberal International welcomes the recent meeting of Cote d'Ivoire leaders and their commitment to promptly resolve the crucial issues regarding the definitive electoral list and the date of the next Presidential elections, pending issues since 2005.

Liberal International recalls the internationally guaranteed agreements on the necessity for full restoration of democracy in Cote d'Ivoire, based on a free, open and fair vote by the Ivorian citizens. We insist that the election process is fully transparent, internationally monitored and with free access to the media for all candidates.

Liberals world-wide express strong support for former Prime Minister and LI Vice President Alassane Dramane Ouattara as a candidate that will bring development and prosperity in Cote d'Ivoire and the region.