

Template for Resolutions for DSA's 2015 National Convention

Use this template when proposing a resolution; if you do not, the Resolutions Committee will ask you to put your resolution into this template. In advance of the convention, the committee will work with one or two lead contact people to clarify resolution language or to combine resolutions of similar content. This negotiation will streamline our work at the convention.

Deadline for submission is October 25, 2015

Email to resolutions@dsausa.org

TITLE: NPC Resolution on DSA's Relationship to the Socialist International and Our Broader International and Foreign Policy Work

NAME(S) and LOCAL(S) OF THOSE PROPOSING THE RESOLUTION WHO WILL SERVE AS LEAD CONTACTS:

National Political Committee (NPC), Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)

EMAIL ADDRESS(ES) OF THE ONE OR TWO LEAD CONTACTS:

2013dsanpc@googlegroups.com

jschw@temple.edu (Joseph Schwartz, chair NPC Steering Committee)

PHONE NUMBER(S):

607-592-8255

DO YOU TEXT?

yes

FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS FOR DSA: What, if any, limited local and national resources would we devote to this issue or to educational activities? For example, if possible, please how much would this cost and how much staff time to you imagine this proposal taking?

The resolution does not mandate any additional financial commitments to those presently devoted to international work; staff time would depend on what type of foreign policy and international work the organization decides to do after the two year organization-wide discussion of our orientation towards international and foreign policy (including whether to remain in the Socialist International or not)

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN TWO DISTINCT SECTIONS:

1) Statement of Action:

BRIEF STATEMENT OF THE ACTION MANDATED BY THE RESOLUTION: What organizing and tactics would carry out the resolution (how do we organize around this concern)?

DSA will decide its relationship to the Socialist International at the 2017 convention, after a thorough democratic discussion within the organization.

In the next two years, DSA will engage in a structured organization-wide discussion about how best to do foreign policy and international work and whether or not it benefits that work to stay in the Socialist International.

The discussion should include ideas from all tendencies in the organization about how to do international work either while staying in the SI and/or working with alternative international networks. These proposals should be grounded in reality and concrete, feasible (and fundable) plans of work and should strengthen DSA's greatest internationalist responsibility: to build a strong socialist movement in the United States.

2) The Rationale:

STATEMENT OF WHY THIS RESOLUTION IS BEING PROPOSED (MOTIVATION FOR THE RESOLUTION):

Whereas the 2015 convention should focus primarily on our most immediate political and organizational priorities: completing DSA's strategy discussion and building DSA through our Sanders work, the NPC recommends that the organization take a final decision on our relationship to the Socialist International at the 2017 DSA convention.

And, whereas, our future relationship to the Socialist International and other international movements and organizations should be informed by a concrete plan as to how DSA should engage in foreign policy and international work

And whereas DSA members would benefit from using the next two years to discuss how DSA can best do work around U.S. foreign policy and international affairs and how much of our limited resources we should devote to such work:

The NPC's Motivation for Bringing this resolution to the convention:

The NPC does not see the urgency of resolving our status within the SI, particularly given that we have yet to discuss this question throughout the activist base of the organization. To be clear: DSA is not currently paying its dues to the SI. We are in negotiations with the global association for a lower membership rate. Leaving the SI tomorrow would not resolve any budgetary problems for DSA.

Furthermore, we observed that this year's caucus statements around the SI led to heavy debate but few concrete proposals about how DSA can do foreign policy and international work. Absent the development of a strategy for DSA foreign policy and international work – as well as an

evaluation of how much of our limited national resources should be devoted to that work -- it is unclear what would be the implications for DSA if we left or stayed in the SI.

Not everyone in DSA will be happy with the final determination on SI membership. But as socialists, our commitment to democracy means respecting the democratic will of our members. We also want to build a democratic organization with the most informed electorate possible. Given the time devoted to the strategy discussion and the unique opportunity for DSA growth brought about by the Sanders campaign, the NPC proposes that convention delegates vote to table any SI discussion (and a broader discussion of our international work) until the next convention.