



ADVANCING TOWARD A MORE JUST WORLD ORDER WILL ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY PARTNERING WITH AFRICA

Elena Valenciano, Jesús Caldera and Ebrahim Ebrahim noted in a press conference that the African Progress symbolizes a firm bet by the PSOE and the IDEAS Foundation to strengthen relations with the region and create a working relationship between the PSOE and progressive African parties.

The first to intervene was the Vice-president of the IDEAS Foundation and the Secretary of Ideas and Programs of the PSOE, Jesús Caldera, who called the “African Progress” Conference the “most important meeting held in Europe with progressive African leaders.” He also stated that “this time, it is clear that we cannot recover from the crisis without Africa, an essential actor today.”

Caldera reminded those present that Africa is continent “full of natural resources which has been colonized, exploited and impoverished. It has a tortured history, but it also has enormous capacities. In fact, it is exporting talent to the entire world. We need to work so that this “brain gain” benefits every citizen of the Planet.”

On this note, and having assured that the world owes Africa, Caldera underscored education and formation as the “authentic agents of change and development in Africa and the world.”

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“Together” is the theme of the Conference”-assured the Secretary of International Policy and Cooperation of the PSOE, Elena Valenciano. “We are going to do it together; we are going to share the progressive agenda for the next years, radically modifying the perspective toward Africa in order to become working colleagues both on this continent and the rest of the world. There is no challenge on the global agenda that will be resolved without Africa’s participation.

In this sense, Valenciano insisted that the purpose of the Conference “is not to develop policies for Africa, but with Africa, equal to equal. This is an opportunity



to “advance toward a more just and equal world order that will only be accomplished with the participation of Africa.”

The *African Progress* Conference, which is held at Ferraz and organised by the PSOE, IDEAS Foundation and the African National Congress of South Africa is, according to Valenciano, “an unprecedented event in the long international trajectory of the PSOE and a reflection of the firm endorsement of the PSOE to strengthen its relations with the region. Also, it marks the starting point of a working network between progressive parties that can take advantage of Spain’s role as a bridge between two continents very close and far apart: Europe and Africa.”

Africa needs a “solid progressive agenda that puts an emphasis on social cohesion, education, healthcare, sustainable development, democratic governance and institutional consolidation.” This has been one of Spain’s priorities “since José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero became Prime Minister. Spain has substantially intensified dialogue and cooperation with the countries of that continent. Now”, Valenciano concluded, “the progressives of the world and especially the Europeans, have in Africa their biggest ethical and morally urgent challenge.”

The Vice-minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Government of South Africa and Secretary of International Relation of the African National Congress (ANC), Ebrahim Ebrahim, noted that Africa is experiencing very important changes and registering notable advances in terms of peace and stability. He thanked the PSOE “for all the help it is giving us in fomenting and implementing a progressive agenda for the future of Africa.”

Ebrahim insisted that “in Africa, the progressive parties are looking for partners with which to establish international relationships based on equality and respect.” Ebrahim spoke of the “importance that we progress together, for it is not about discussing the progress of Africa, but of the planet.” Lastly, he encouraged the progressives of the world to act jointly and to have a single voice to confront the international crisis, but also to demand the reform of international and financial institutions.