

**Vannino Chiti:** I thank you very much for inviting me here, Fassino would have liked to be here but he is right now in Milan participating in a converging meeting: the *Global Progressive Forum*. I know that you have scheduled a link between the events, the European socialist parties and the socialist international are discussing the same themes you are discussing: new policies against poverty. Tomorrow they will be here with a delegation for the Peace March. I think the role of the people it is of the utmost importance, “diplomacy from below”, citizen participation because the participation and the awareness of the citizens really changes things and can move mountains. I think it is necessary that we confront ourselves with the people’s UN; Therefore I think I support the proposal made by the delegates of the “sinistra Giovanile” of Perugia to create a permanent council of the peoples’ UN and of the young peoples’ UN. I think that we cannot continue this way. I don’t think anyone of us can say that he is satisfied of the current situation of the world. The numbers the UN prepared for the summit say that during the last 15 years there has been an increase of poor people by 460’000; There is a steady increase in the weapon’s market, nuclear weapons, but also the equally disastrous conventional weapons. Those kids to whom the international agencies refuse funds for education and healthcare, are given the possibility, in many parts of the third world and of Africa, to have the arms to kill and to be killed. When I was president of the Tuscany region I met with a bishop from Congo who talked to me showing me the dramatic condition of children who were forced to kill or to be killed. We are getting used to the normality of war. Recently, of the many disasters, the one that happened in New Orleans told us that there are still tens of millions of poor people in the first industrial power of the world and therefore that the actual form of development is not only distorted and unjust, destroys the life of the planet, but also that doesn’t give us any future, doesn’t give us any future anyway. We cannot continue like this. We cannot continue like this. We have seen the years of the wild globalisation, of neoliberalism: we have to change this because the market can only be a mean not a purpose. The purpose has to be the human being. We, everyone of us, every person, regardless of his religion or the colour of his skin is unrepeatable and have the right to, everywhere, to have a just, decent and one of relationship with others. If those are the great objectives (priority to the human being, fight against poverty, Unitarian vision of development) what can we do? Maybe some small things, maybe some bigger. We have to make commitments. And if we will be in government, we the centre left coalition we commit ourselves to making the 0,7% of the GIP available to the least developed countries. We will respect our commitments. We will work so, and we have written it in the Charter on the Principles of the European Union, that article 11 of the Italian constitution, which refuses war as a solution to international controversies, guides the foreign policy of Italy. We commit ourselves to cancel the debt of the poorest countries, We will work for the Mediterranean and Africa to become of central importance for Italy, because I believe that Italy has to make the European Union aware of the centrality of the Mediterranean and the importance of the collaboration with Africa. We will work so that the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy lift the tariff barriers for the countries of the third world and we will not quarrel with Germany for a seat in the UN security Council, but we want to convince Germany that radical reform of the UN is necessary, that the EU needs a seat in the UN security council, that the role of the less developed countries that represent the great continents of the world is of great importance and that there needs to be a council for sustainable development and for the environment. I will conclude by saying that I believe there is also a primary role that we are already able to play in the regions and in the towns – which in great part today are governed by the centre left coalition, we need to change the twinning system. The times of La Pira or of Capitini that created great twinning that had at their centre the No to nuclear weapons, the no to the disaster of war have to be relaunched, extended and changed. This is possible if we put the work and collaboration against poverty at first place. With 5 millions of Liras it is possible to bring water,

build primary schools in the least developed countries. If a region decides to work together with another area or region of the world positive results can be built, there is no interference, because between regions and between towns the foreign policy of the states has no importance. We have to , at the national level, work together in this direction and we have to work on the issue of migrations. We are not believable if we tell the world that we want a new policy of citizenship, we want that people be treated like people, if immigrants that are treated as second tier citizens, as people without political rights, that don't have the social rights we have. That is why we during the primary elections, that are a voluntary act (during those elections we will choose the prime minister candidate of the centre left coalition) we let immigrants vote. Those are our commitments. I know that to defeat the logic of war, to go beyond violence, to beat terrorism we need a new course. It is certainly difficult but it is possible, because the technologies we have today would allow it. We need to have a political will and a cultural change; there is one point in our favour: this thing that was once considered a utopia is today political realism; following down the path we are on today is an absurdity that will destroy the planet. Thank you.