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To all PSI affiliates
All members of EB/SC and WOC
All staff

File Reference: RP/pc

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Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In few days, we will turn another year and as usual, we will look behind us to take stock of the last 12 months.

From PSI's perspective, this year will end with important achievements which are the result of a renewed commitment by all of you to our global activity.

For the first time in years, the balance of PSI membership is positive and that will help us to have a more stable financial situation and encourage us to pursuing our growth objective.

Only two years after the Congress in Durban, PSI has become one of the important players not only in the defence of quality public services and workers' rights, but also as a fundamental actor in the global campaigns such as the fight against the proliferation of free trade agreements in services and for tax justice.

I want to thank you all for those important achievements, as it is the collective effort and commitment of all PSI affiliates that has allowed us to reverse the critical situation confronting us. The dedication of PSI staff at the head office and in the regions has contributed to strengthen the relationship with our members and to making PSI more relevant for affiliates.

Nevertheless, we still have to face several threats. The economic crisis has not yet finished producing its negative impact on workers and their families.

Cuts in public spending and privatization are affecting the living conditions of millions of people around the world, while the rich and the speculators are getting fatter and fatter.

Injustice and inequality are growing to a dangerous level, which even the international financial institutions have finally recognised.

This injustice is dramatically represented by the situation faced by many PSI affiliates in West Africa, fighting against and dying because of the Ebola epidemic. It is a tragic but realistic paradigm of the social and economic contradictions which the neo-liberal side of globalization is producing.

In this sense, the need to be close and help our members in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea is not only a matter of humanitarian support, of solidarity. It is above all a matter of exposing the effects of exploitation and lack of investment in common goods and public services. It is a matter of dignity for people who are denied their fundamental rights. It is a matter of workers' rights and working conditions.

All these issues are the reason for our work and we need to be able to fight with even more cohesion, more arguments and more strength, to be able to influence the global institutions that are preparing the new global agenda for the post- 2015 agenda.

I am sure I am interpreting your heartfelt feelings if I dedicate my wishes for the New Year especially to our members and to all the health workers of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

And to all of you, the wish to continue our fight for a world of peace, dignity and solidarity.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Rosa Pavanelli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Rosa Pavanelli
General Secretary