Letter of Motivation
As Candidacy for IUSY Vice President

Dear comrades,

At the upcoming IUSY World Congress, April 23rd-26th 2020 in Panama City I will run for a second mandate as IUSY Vice President. I am deeply honored to be nominated for this position by Jusos in der SPD.

The day I decided for a second mandate, was the day Recep Tayyip Erdogan started a new line of highly aggressive military offensives against the Kurds in Northern Syria. It was the day, the international community again failed to organize against an authoritarian ruler; in fact the whole concept of international law has failed at this day.

The increasing number of escalations within very few days reveals a frightening instability of the international structures that has emerged throughout the recent years. The long and promising phase of ongoing international harmonization since the second half of the 20th century seems to be replaced by the premise of “nationalism first” of more and more state leaders. These times we have to pose the question: What is the consequence for the international left movement? How can we be the voice of reason that presents the opposite? It is about time to return to the roots of the worker’s movement that had prioritized international networking before national interests long before the nations had followed. International division is not inevitable. Let us face it by dauntlessly closing the ranks; by connecting our fights to become one voice of the progressives. It is time for a new movement of international solidarity!

Alongside the progressive protests

What was most remarkable to me during the last year as IUSY Vice President, is to experience the very different circumstances under which our member organizations are doing politics in the different regions of the world. For example, in Chile where our comrades have been risking their lives, even facing the military.
Nonetheless, it is mainly young people that remain in the streets to fight anti-democratic governments, oppression and for a better life for everyone. Autonomous grassroots movements have become the phenomenon of our times. Be it Fridays for Future school strikes or the South American feminist marches – young people are mobilizing in an informal and yet internationally connected way.

As party youth organizations we have to find ways to define our role in view of these new, antihierarchical formats. In the following mandate I want to establish a “double strategy” for the IUSY connecting the party youth organizations not only to institutions as for example within the United Nations ECOSOC, but also to reach out to the civil society movements and be the link between these factors.

**IUSY as platform for answers of solidarity**

As party youth organizations I consider it our duty to point out that all these grassroots movements in the streets – in Chile, in Ecuador, in Argentina, in Lebanon, Sudan, Iran and many other places - are connected looking for answers in a world built on unbalance and exploitation. Most of these answers can only be found jointly and in the way of international exchange. How can we distribute resources in a just way? How can we build economy to work for the people and not the other way around? How can we guarantee democratic participation, freedom and justice for everyone?

The socio-ecological transformation for instance affects everyone and is being discussed in most of our member organizations. Let’s take a look at Uruguay, where 99% electricity is gained from renewable energies or to the Great Green Wall around Sahara. We need to carve out the many approaches and ideas, evaluate them and connect them to the political answers, the grassroots movements are demanding.

Let’s use our networks to demonstrate that climate change and international economy are linked. Let’s learn from each other where concepts have been successful and start a working process that goes beyond exchange of best practice, but enters into international campaigning.

In order to transform from best practice exchange to international campaigning also the IUSY has to reform. In the upcoming mandate I want to help strengthen the campaigning structures of the IUSY. Therefore, it is also necessary to reach out to the local members and activists of our regions and connect them.
Of course, we also have to be aware of the fact that all our parties struggle with difficulties these days, which also affects us – the youth organizations. Fighting for a society of freedom and justice internationally nevertheless is our potential. Not often before people have been able to pressure politics in so many places at the same time. I want to contribute to an IUSY making use of this potential and implementing the responsibility of the international left.

I believe in the possibility of a new international left movement. I therefore ask your support for the IUSY World Congress 2020 in Panama City.

Socialist and internationalist regards,
Mia