Kia ora koutou (greetings to everyone) and dear comrades,

I’m Tess from New Zealand Young Labour (NZYL) and I am excited to be nominated as a candidate for IUSY Vice-President from the Asia-Pacific Region.

Across the world, the need for strong, progressive, and aspirational politics is only increasing. In the Asia-Pacific Region, the impacts of climate change, authoritarianism and geopolitical conflict are being felt acutely. IUSY’s role in promoting action on climate change, and in the pursuit of socially democratic ideals is a key antidote to these worrying trends.

Since joining the New Zealand Labour movement aged 16, I have held a number of positions across our youth sector and wider party. Through these roles, I have been involved in volunteer recruitment and training, event organisation, external communications and internal lobbying. It would be an honour to put these skills to work by helping to lead IUSY’s work in the Asia-Pacific region.

If elected, my focus would be on supporting and growing the Asia-Pacific region, including areas in which IUSY currently has no member organisations (such as much of the Pacific). I would also like to facilitate campaign training for existing member organisations, to encourage them to be active in IUSY, to help share best practices, and to upskill volunteers across the region in their important work fighting for our values.

I would welcome the opportunity to speak with each of you before and during IUSY Congress. If I don’t manage to get a hold of you, please feel free to contact me using the details below.

Ngā mihi maioha (thank you with appreciation),