MOTIVATION

In our work and strive towards a fairer and more equal world, bolstered by our commitment to the promotion of equality, freedom, justice and democracy, we are consistently challenged by the growing influence of fascist and right-wing extremists in recent times. These political factions have led us into the worst socio-economic state in the past century and have mostly been characterized by their impact of marginalization and discrimination against minority groups and interests.

We have witnessed the growing impact of their extreme capitalist policies on the lives of citizens and the global whiplash inspired by various youth movements and civil society against such policies and governments. Unfortunately, these actions of reproach by progressive forces still face unyielding results due largely to the divergence of ideas and opinions of the various leftist groupings on the issues and values fundamental to our collective fights and shared vision.

The problem has not been with the stance of the public, particularly the youth, the problem in finding solutions has been the too-soon lost of hope in the fights that we put up against those that undermine our human rights and the democratic principles.

Our Union stand in a greater position, as the largest political youth organization in the world, to remind global powers, world leaders and governments of the role they play in shaping the world, in ensuring equality, justice and the advancement of rule of law. With our history of resistance and campaign for our leftist ideals, we are well positioned to present a force that can protect the future and development of the world’s populations. These challenges in the next decade will test our resolve on the fight against fascism and far-right political actors suppressing social justice and inequality, free speech and the protection of our environment.

I am confident of the experiences gained so far as a Vice President and Coordinator of the Africa Committee of our great Union. These experiences have reinforced my believe that together we can achieve a lot more. Whether Socialist, Social Democrats, or Democratic Socialist, we have to unite around our shared values and visions to fight poverty, inequality, injustice, and divisiveness in our world politics and people development.

VISION AND POLITICAL PROJECTS

As President of IUSY I intend to champion a political agenda that projects the organization as the proactive and dynamic youth movement that we know it to be. I intend to focus on the projects outlined below.

POLITICAL PROJECT
With the current challenges faced by our movement around the world, we as campaigners of justice, equality and fundamental human rights, must take pragmatic steps to increase our advocacy efforts. As IUSY President I intend to actively engage the Secretariat and Regional Coordinators to report on political issues arising in their respective regions. We must strive to become the voice of reason and must continue our advocacy for the respect of fundamental human rights, equality and justice around the world, and this must be done having in mind the importance of timing.

I intend to focus on a number of issues, particularly:

1. **Democracy and Human Rights**
   Democracy present important political systems that guarantees that the will of the people remains supreme. This include the protection of and respect for human rights and the rule of law. As IUSY President, I intend to participate bring these issues to the fore our global campaigns.

2. **Climate Injustice**
   The global force towards safeguarding of our climate cannot be looked down in the next decade of IUSY. While we are confronted with the effects of rising sea levels and the burning of our forests, it is the poor and disadvantaged who face the unthinkable effects of these changes, ranging from displacement to hunger, poverty and death in many cases. I intend to actively engage our members at the grassroots level to essentially drum home the need to continually pursue the task of protecting our environment from actions of corporations that cause considerable danger to our lives.

3. **Economic Inequality**
   Equality is the core value of democracy. High levels of economic inequality pose significant threats to democracies all over the world. As IUSY President I propose to undertake a project focused on the fight for equal opportunity and economic justice.

**INCREASE IUSY’S WORLD PRESENCE**

It is my intention to work with the Presidium and member organisations to work on projects in a collaborative manner within the home countries of a number of member organizations. IUSY is the international organization it is because of the work of its member organizations. I strongly believe that IUSY’s activities must not only be at the level of leadership meetings but must also involve some grassroots events to advance our work while also encouraging the development of our member organisations.

In particular, I intend to:

1. Extend to other Regional Committees the concept of Youth Policy Networks as introduced in the Africa Committee to encourage and support member of develop a youth think tank within their organization. This will go a long way to building capacities of the youth for leadership as well as ensure grassroots engagements on issues.

2. Work with secretariat in raising funds toward the reintroduction of Political Training Schools in the various regions to promote the training of young leaders and activists while boosting the capacities of member organisations in mobilizing the youth towards our shared values and vision.

**PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDRAISING**

The value of collaborative efforts cannot be overemphasized. I strongly believe that IUSY must consolidate its existing partnerships with other international organizations as well as rekindle working relationships with other international bodies to advance our work. Partnerships must be fostered in all regions where IUSY is present. With membership and partners on all continents i.e. Asia-Pacific, Africa, Europe and the Americas we can extend IUSY’s work and influence to all parts of the world. I am of the opinion that IUSY’s
engagement in regions such as Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Americas is yet to meet its full potential and we must utilize our platform to expand our reach to young people and impact the world.

The next decade presents the world with tremendous challenges. We at IUSY have what it takes to make better the world we live in and to make the lives of the marginalised better than it is now. In the end, it is the unflinching solidarity of member organizations and their members and the world at large that will lay bare the fruits of our work. The work that will make our Union stronger.

With these hopes for an engaged and a proactive Union, I entreat you all to support my candidacy as President of IUSY.

*With Socialist Regards,*

**BENEDICTA LASI, ESQ.**