To: IUSY Member Organisations
Cc: IUSY Presidium

Vienna, 15 March, 2021

IUSY WORLD CONGRESS 2021
“DIGITALIZATION: CHALLENGE OR THREAT?”
Hybrid - Panama City, Panama
June 18-19, 2021

THE DIGITALIZATION AND THE DEMOCRACY: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

We, as socialist, social-democratic and labour organisations, have tremendous challenges to address the impact of new communication technologies on democracy. As young people, we have witnessed how the internet has penetrated into the human life. The process of digitalization of public conversation is critical - in deliberative societies - for the quality of the democratic political process. Although the internet was initially associated with the positive impacts of increased participation, today those benefits begin to be weighed: less optimism, network impacts on politics, even hacker interventions in elections.

Social bots, bubble filters, fakes news, artificial intelligence, big data, targeted advertising, data privacy, large digital corporations, among others, are relevant issues in times of social networks, where the messages are adapted to the tastes of each user and communication is filtered by algorithms. The information is tremendously valuable for anyone who accesses it and can process it, in the construction of social imaginary and the search for control of these spaces.

Additionally, as leftist organisations which have as one of our core values the principle of equity, there is the need to pay attention to the high cost of data or internet usage to less-privileged communities. To ensure that the large number of people at the bottom of the social strata have access to affordable internet, there is the need for governments, through their power of regulation, to ensure that the service providers do not engage in exploitative business models that renders internet costs to remain at its present unaffordable state.

That is why it is important to discuss the democratization of information technology and the potential impact of the upsurge of these technologies on representative democracy in general, and on political parties in particular, within the context of multiple challenges confronting us presently. The renewal of links with the social base, the conservation of its
central place as intermediary actors between the State and society, and the ability to offer alternatives for social, community and participatory interaction are relevant.

As organisations that fight against inequality, we have to put this issue at the top of our priorities. We have to fight for a world where the power of technology is not above the power of democracy, through our individual and collective actions. We need to think globally and act locally to generate positive change for our societies!

In Solidarity,

Johanna Ortega  
IUSY President

Ana Pirtskhalava  
IUSY Secretary General

Bernardo Meneses  
FJPRD President
Format of the Congress

Due to the current situation of global pandemic and after thorough discussions and consideration that was based on the membership survey about congress format, work of task force, Control Commission’s recommendations and presidium’s decision, we at IUSY Presidium decided that IUSY World Congress 2021 will take place in Hybrid format, with only secretariat and IUSY leadership on spot in Panama. The congress will still be kindly hosted by our member organisation FJPRD Panama.

There was a necessary process to adopt the technical information to the online format. We kindly ask you to check below provided rules and instructions very carefully and please follow and respect the deadlines we provide.

Only with solidarity, mutual respect and understanding we can organise a fruitful IUSY congress together!

If you need more information regarding the process described above please never hesitate to contact IUSY leadership and Presidium members.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

1. Registration of Delegates

All delegates must register by filling out the registration form either by clicking HERE or following link: https://forms.gle/YDq14DKy6TdzHpu76

We kindly ask all delegations to register before the June 1st 2021. After that registration will be closed.

2. Statutory Requirements

2.1 Right to Vote

Full member organisations have the right to 2 (two) votes per organisation. For full voting rights, each organisation must have paid their membership fee for the year 2021, as well as any outstanding debt (all member organisations have received their 2021 invoices with all details already by the end of 2020). The delegation must have a 50% (+1) gender balance for the entire delegation. If an organisation does not satisfy this last requirement it will lose one vote.

If more information is needed, or if you have any questions, regarding your member organisations membership fee or debt situation contact the IUSY Control Commission through the IUSY Secretariat as soon as possible.
2.2 Gender Balance
All delegations must respect the statutory requirement of 50% gender balance in the entire delegation, including additional delegates and Presidium members.

2.3 Size of Delegations
Full member organisations are entitled to register four (4) participants and two (2) additional delegates.
Observer organisations are entitled to send two (2) delegates.
Invited organisations (guests) are invited to send one (1) delegate.
Presidium members are counted as participants of their delegations for the IUSY World Congress; they are included in the total number of delegates of their organisations.

Note: Every participating Member Organisation should nominate one person who will hold the voting rights for the MO. This person needs to upload their ID in the registration form until the 1st June 2021, as identity checks will be conducted before voting sessions.

3. Nomination of Candidates

We - IUSY leadership and presidium decided to reopen the procedure of nominations. Deadline is set to 1st May 2021. Candidacies will be uploaded on IUSY website until the 7th May 2021.

All full member organisations of IUSY – that have fulfilled the obligations to IUSY (paid their membership fee) – have the right to make nominations.
All candidates already nominated for a position will be requested to reconfirm that they will
- maintain their candidacy and
- get the possibility to update submitted documents until the 1st May 2021

Control Commission in its role as Nomination Committee will reconfirm the compliance with the application rules and the rules set by the Statutes.
More information about nominations will be sent out on **31st of March** and deadline for nominating is the **1st of May**.

The applications for nomination needs to be sent to congress@iusy.org and roland.gur@iusy.org

Note: If applications will not be sent respecting deadlines or it will not include both emails, it will not be considered valid.

4. **Resolutions, Amendments and Speaking Time Request to the IUSY World Congress documents**

All organisations will receive the preparatory documents and templates for the Congress on the **31st March**.

Deadline for submitting statutory amendments is the **17th April**.

If you wish to present proposals for resolutions and declarations to the Congress for adoption, all organisations are kindly asked to send these to the IUSY Secretariat (congress@iusy.org) in advance, but no later than **1st May**.

From the **15th May**, all proposals received will be made available on the IUSY website at www.iusy.org.

Deadline for Amendments to the Resolutions: **1st June**.

If you would like to speak at the congress regarding the resolutions, the speaking time requests need to be submitted until the **11th June via this link**: https://forms.gle/D9Voo5r723DdHn6AA

All documents (resolutions, declarations) should be submitted at least in one of the three official languages of IUSY, namely in English, in Spanish or in French. Delegations are also entitled to submit documents in more than one official language which helps the work of the Secretariat.

**NOTE:** All submitted documents should be in the templates provided otherwise the submission will not be valid.

**NOTE:** No urgent resolution can be submitted for Congress approval, but all such requests will be transferred directly to the next Presidium to decide whether they approve it as a Resolution of the Presidium or not.
5. Participation fee

We decided to suspend the participation fee payment for this Congress. The organisation that has paid it already in 2020 can contact IUSY Secretariat and we will transfer it back to the account you will indicate in the email within two weeks’ time. Please include in your email the following information: account holder name, IBAN or bank account number, bank name, BIC/SWIFT code.

6. Venue

IUSY leadership and secretariat will be on spot in Panama. Rest of the delegates will be following and participating in the congress via the online platform.

Online platform: information about the online platform will be sent out in the beginning of June.

7. Internet accessibility

If a member organisation faces any internet issue and thinks that it will be obstacle for them to participate at online/hybrid congress format, then you can fill out this form: https://forms.gle/Jb6KZCNV1a6i94CZ8
And IUSY Presidium will try to provide help and support in the spirit of international solidarity.

8. Contact the IUSY Secretariat

All inquiries related to the Congress should be sent to: congress@iusy.org.

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