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To: IUSY Member Organisations

Cc: IUSY Presidium

Vienna, 8th February 2023

IUSY WORLD CONGRESS 2023

“THE RISE OF POPULISM AND EXTREMISM: A DEMOCRATIC CHALLENGE”

Panama City, Panama

June 22-25, 2023

THE RISE OF POPULISM AND EXTREMISM: HOW CAN WE STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY AND SUPPORT CIVIL SOCIETY

Populism and extremism are not a new challenge for the democratic regimes. Yet, over the past decades their expression has risen and their influence has infiltrated not only the public debate, but also institutions and democratic parties.

As socialist, social-democratic and labor organisations, we often face the challenges of demagogic speeches and actions in our own parties, even though we strongly advocate for strong democratic procedures. Unfortunately, the problem is bigger than our own family: right-wing extremism and populism has proved, over and over again, to grow and disseminate its message in different latitudes.

Filled with hate and divisionism these movements begin their action by setting a clear division between the good and the bad actors of public life. If many times they fail to agree on the root of the problems that distinct societies currently face, it is indisputable that their appropriation of democratic tools to adulterate the democratic will and spirit of the people and institutions is a common strategy.

In a time where fake news, artificial intelligence, big data, target advertising, social media bots and high-tech surveillance threatens the individual access to legitimate information, extremists and populists tend to use them for increased popularity – spreading rumours, conspiracy theories and lies that are proven to be 10 times more shared on social media than information based on science, journalism or other credible sources.

It is therefore essential to debate and discuss how should our movement face populist and extremism movements. The past has shown how alliances with those who do not share our principles and values turn out to work against democracy. But in a time where these parties and movements gain unseen popularity due to the diffusion of the information previously mentioned, how effective can we be? What are the alliances we should consider for democracy? Is there a common root for the problem? Is it permanent, cyclical or temporary? How can young voters be convinced of the importance of democracy even when they haven't experienced dictatorships?

The fact is that democracy indexes show how democratic rule has been decreasing all over the world since 1980, with 2021 reaching the lowest level since there is record. The COVID-19 pandemic has also increased

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both the unpredictability and the misuse of power from bad intentioned governments, but the current economic scenario of spiral inflation does not indicate a brighter future.

That said, it is high-time for our movement to position itself where it has always been: on the side of democracy and peace. It's up to us to define the path to take.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jesus Tapia".

Jesus Tapia
IUSY President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruno Gonçalves".

Bruno Gonçalves
IUSY Secretary General

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hussein Pitty".

Hussein Pitty
FJPRD President

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TECHNICAL INFORMATION

1. Registration of Delegates

All delegates need to be registered through filling in the link (<https://forms.gle/MvNXdAZg1rREpc8J7>) provided in this invitation email. We urge all delegations to register before **the 15th of March 2023** (since this means a better estimate on the number of participants attending the Congress). After this date only a reduced travel reimbursement for all eligible organizations will be available. **The same rules apply for those who are in need of visa (they should register in the 1st deadline).**

The last deadline for registration is the 15th of April 2023. For delegations registering after the second deadline no travel reimbursement will be granted and their acceptance depends on the situation of the registrations before the deadline. To make sure you get a visa, **please register before the first deadline!** In case of any issues, please get in contact with the IUSY Secretariat (congress@iusy.org) immediately.

Deadlines

1st deadline to register - 15th March 2023

2nd deadline to register - 25th April 2023

1.1. Registration of Online Delegates

At this moment, registration of online delegates is possible. As we highly encourage all member organisations to join us in Panama City - and therefore restoring the physical format of previous congresses -, possibility of online delegations has also been considered in case of necessity. This means that, even though we strongly encourage organisations to attend the Congress in Panama City, **there is the possibility of online connection and participation in the congress with full rights.**

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2. Statutory Requirements

2.1. Right to Vote

Full member organizations have the right to **2 (two) votes per organization**. For full voting rights, each organization must have paid their membership fee for the year 2023, as well as any outstanding debt. **The delegation must have a 50% (+1) gender balance for the entire delegation. If an organization 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 organizations membership fee or debt situation contact the IUSY Control Commission through the IUSY Secretariat as soon as possible.

NOTE: IUSY Control Commission will not make any agreement on spot at the day of the Congress under no circumstances. All agreements need to be done in advance by contacting IUSY Control Commission Chair Hend Mgaieth at hend.mgaieth@iusy.org. There will be special spots designated for concrete delegations during the arrival day (you will be notified about it in advance), where organisations will have the last chance to make any agreement. Please note that the later you reach out to the Control Commission, the least time you'll have for a possible negotiation.

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 organizations are entitled to send four (4) participants and two (2) additional delegates paying higher participation fee.

Observer organizations are entitled to send two (2) delegates.

Invited organizations (guests) are invited to send one (1) delegate.

Presidium members and Control Commission members are not counted as participants of their delegations for the IUSY World Congress; they will take part in addition to the total number of delegates of their organisations.

2.4. Committees (Important message for Mediterranean Committee Organisations)

The last IUSY Congress approved the following amendment to our Statutes:

"Member Organizations (full, observer and also associate members) have to choose their main regional committee in case their member organization belongs to more than one regional or subregional committees. The choice can be changed with officially informing the Secretary General, but the decision will have in force only after the closure of the next Congress"

This means that organisation belonging to two or more regional committees - **as it is the case of organisations belonging to Mediterranean committee** - need to **inform IUSY Secretary General by the 15th of March** (in the case they haven't done such yet). You can do it [here](https://forms.gle/7PFiOg2UPUDZvJDm8) (<https://forms.gle/7PFiOg2UPUDZvJDm8>).

Please note that organisations can only present candidacies for the representatives of their main committees.

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3. Nomination of Candidates

All full member organisations of IUSY – that have fulfilled the obligations to IUSY (paid their membership fee) – have the right to make nominations. More information about nominations will be sent out on **15th of March 2023** and deadline for nominating is the **21st of May**.

After the deadline and after the verification of the applications validity by the Control Commission, all nominations will be made public in the IUSY webpage.

3.1. The applications for nomination needs to be sent to congress@iusy.org and hend.mgaieth@iusy.org

NOTE: If application do not respect deadlines or do not include both emails, it will not be considered valid.

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4. Resolutions & Amendments to the IUSY World Congress documents

All organisations will receive the preparatory documents and templates for the Congress latest on the **10th of March**.

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 **10th of April**.

Latest from the **25th of April**, all proposals received will be made available on the IUSY website at www.iusy.org.

Urgent proposals for Resolutions and Amendments - except amendments to IUSY Statues - can still be presented at the Congress if sent to the IUSY Secretariat (congress@iusy.org) by the 15th of June 2023.

To ensure enough time for all Member Organizations to study your proposals we kindly ask you to send your proposals before the **10th of April**. Deadline for amendments to resolutions is the **5th of May**.

Deadlines for Resolutions

10th of March - Sending out the templates (by secretariat)

10th of April - Sending resolutions, statements, others (by Member Organisations)

20th of April - publishing documents at IUSY Website

5th of May - deadline for amendments of the published documents

25th May - publishing amendments at the IUSY Website

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.

5. Participation fee

Every delegate and guest must pay a fee to cover part of his/her costs for the World Congress. In the spirit of international solidarity, the fees are different according to world regions.

The participation fee (expressed in Euros, €) for registrations before the 1st deadline, **15th of March**, will be the following:

- a) Participants from organisations belonging to the European Committee (organisations from European Union's member countries, from Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Norway or Switzerland): €170.
- b) Participants from other organizations: €150.
- c) Extra delegates from organisations belonging to the European Committee (organisations from European Union's member countries, from Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Norway or Switzerland): €190
- d) Guests/Extra delegates from other organisations: €170.

The participation fee for registrations before the 2nd and last deadline, **25th of April**, will be the following:

- a) Participants from organizations belonging to the European Committee (organisations from European Union's member countries, from Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Norway or Switzerland): €200.
- b) Participants from other organizations: €170.
- c) Extra delegates from organisations belonging to the European Committee (organisations from European Union's member countries, from Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Norway or Switzerland): €220
- d) Guests/Extra delegates from other organisations: €200.

Please send a confirmation of the participation fee payment to the Secretariat (congress@iusy.org with the email subject '[Name of Member Organisation] Participation Fee Congress Confirmation'. Kindly note that all delegations (head of delegation) must present the original bank transfer receipt at registration upon arrival to the Congress.

The participation fee covers all costs for meals and accommodation during the days of the event. With the participation fee, each participant directly contributes to making the IUSY World Congress truly global and to ensuring a broad participation. The participation fee secures the possibility for IUSY to give financial support for travel costs to delegations coming from outside of Europe.

The fee has to be transferred by the **20th of May** to the IUSY bank account. In case of exception needed, please get in touch with the IUSY Secretariat as soon as possible.

IUSY bank account details:

Bank:	BAWAG PSK
Account Number:	05310660380
BLZ Code:	14000
SWIFT Code:	BAWAATWW
IBAN Code:	AT 41 1400 0053 1066 0380

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Your delegation will be considered registered for Congress only once the participation fee is paid.

!! Please note that the delegates entitled to travel reimbursement must pay the participation fee in advance like all other delegates unless a special agreement has been made beforehand with the IUSY Control Commission through the IUSY Secretariat. !!

6. Logistics

6.1. Travel and Transfers

The World Congress will take place in Panama City, Panama. We encourage you to arrive as early as Thursday, 22nd of June, as the **Congress starts on Friday morning**. Departures are foreseen on Sunday, 25th of June.

You need to arrive to Tocumen International Airport (PTY). Transfers will be provided ONLY from this airport and ONLY on the day of arrival and ONLY on the day of departure.

6.2. Accommodation

Accommodation will be provided for the dates of the Congress at the hotel El Panama (<https://www.elpanama.com/>).

IMPORTANT: To avoid problems we would like to make it strictly clear that hotel rooms and other assistance will only be provided for those delegations that have informed the IUSY Secretariat on their travel details by the designated deadlines. Organisations confirming their participation and not showing up for the Congress will be requested to pay the hotel expenses and this sum will be added to the debts of the organisation. Please note that the hosting organisations are not responsible for covering any travel expenses.

Should you require accommodation before or after the actual congress, please let us know. The hosting organisations can assist you in making additional reservations for your delegates. Kindly note that costs of additional accommodation in Panama will not be covered by the hosting organizations or by IUSY.

Please note that our hosting organisations are not responsible for any cost outside of those strictly indicated as part of the Congress. Therefore, the hosting organization or IUSY will not account for any personal costs incurred by the participants at the hotel such as phone calls, room service or the use of mini bar.

Please note that the typology of the rooms depends on the hotel availability. Double and triple rooms have been the best practice over the past events, yet this is something we cannot guarantee at the moment. Should you have any special request regarding the hotel, please write it in the registration form before the first deadline.

6.3. Venue

Congress will be hosted at hotel El Panama (address: Calle Eusebio A. Morales 111, Panamá, Panama).

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6.4. Meal requirements

Food will be provided for the days of the Congress, starting from the dinner on the arrival day and finishing with the breakfast on the departure day.

If you have any dietary requirements please do not forget to mention it in your application. In case of changes you need to inform the Secretariat immediately sending an email to congress@iusy.org.

7. Travel Reimbursement

We are kindly advising all organizations to start booking flights immediately in order to get the best possible price. IUSY will be able to support your travel costs for delegations not from Europe* with a fixed maximum amount per delegation depending on the date of the registration as mentioned above.

A list with reference prices will follow for each region. Please note that the full amount of travel reimbursement listed can only be given to the delegations registering before the **15th of March**.

After this date only a reduced travel reimbursement for all eligible organizations will be available. For delegations registering after the last deadline (**25th of April**) no travel reimbursement can be guaranteed. In case the organization has not paid its membership fee for the year 2023 or has some debts from previous years, membership fee and all debts should be paid or will be automatically deducted from travel reimbursement. To claim Travel Reimbursement, the delegations must respect gender balance and must attend 100% of the programme, with no exception!

All travel reimbursements will be made in Euro by bank transfer after the meeting. Exceptions will **ONLY** be made for those who contact the IUSY Secretariat before the second deadline for registrations. Please send the attached travel reimbursement form with complete bank information to the Secretariat (congress@iusy.org).

8. Visa

8.1. Application

We ask all delegates to ask at the nearest Consulate, Embassy or High Commission of Panama if they need visa to enter the country. All delegations needing visa **MUST** make the necessary arrangements with sufficient time in advance, and follow the application procedure, requesting regular information on its development, in order to resolve any problems that may arise. Please make sure that you apply for your visas well in advance and that you follow the procedure regularly.

8.2. Letter of Invitation

All those that require visa will need a letter of invitation from the hosting organizations. For this reason, we are asking you to fill in the registration form correctly with **ALL** information in it. The hosting organizations will send an invitation to your organization and a copy to the respective consular authorities, which will help you obtain the visa. It will **NOT** be possible to obtain visa on arrival from the airport, land border or seaport. Please take this information seriously in order to avoid any problems.

8.3. Deadline

Please note that the deadline for sending visa requests is the **15th of April**. In order to be able to assist the delegates of your organization the IUSY Secretariat needs to receive the passport details immediately! **Please do not overlook this.**

9. Security and insurance

Kindly note that neither IUSY nor the hosting organizations will be responsible for any health costs incurred during your stay in Panama. We would recommend that you make travel insurance before your departure from your own country. There are special policies that cover unforeseen expenses such as hospitalization, theft and costs deriving from loss of flight.

10. Additional Information

10.1. Currency

USD

10.2. Time zone

GMT-5

10.3. Electricity

In Panama, the power plugs and sockets are of type A and B. The standard voltage is 110 V and the standard frequency is 60 Hz. In Panama, the power plugs and sockets are of type A and B. Please do not forget your adaptor in case you need one to plug your devices.

10.4. Climate in Panama

The average temperatures you'll face in June would be between 26.0°C and 29.0°C, with exceptional possible peaks as low as 20°C and high as 36°C as observed in previous years. Please consider this weather indications when thinking about packing your luggage! In any case, online softwares will also have a better estimative closer to the date.

11. Contact the IUSY Secretariat

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

12. All the deadlines

Deadlines for Congress

10th of March - Sending out the templates (by Secretariat)

15th of March - 1st Deadline for Congress registration (by Member Organisations)

15th of March - Sending out Travel Reimbursement

15th of March - Information on nominations (by Secretariat)

10th of April - Sending resolutions, statements, others (by Member Organisations)

15th of April - VISA request deadline (by delegates/participants/guests)

20th of April - Publishing documents at IUSY Website

25th of April - 2nd Deadline for Congress registration (by Member Organisations)

5th of May - Deadline for amendments of the published documents

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20th of May - Deadline for transfer of participation fees (by Member Organisations)

21st of May - Deadline for Nominations

25th May - Publishing amendments at the IUSY Website

15th of June - Deadline for Urgent Resolutions

Additional contact info:

Bruno Gonçalves, IUSY Secretary General

bruno.goncalves@iusy.org

Claire Fuchs, IUSY Project Manager

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