

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Movements and activists from around the globe come together to launch Progressive International at inaugural Summit this month**



On 18-20 September 2020, the Progressive International (PI) will host its inaugural Summit to formally launch the organization by convening members from across the planet to confront the central dilemma of our time: Internationalism or Extinction. The Summit was originally planned to take place in Reykjavik, Iceland, following PI's soft launch in May 2020 with a mission to unite, organize, and mobilize progressive forces in a common front. "The Covid-19 pandemic has postponed the plans for a physical gathering but it has also accelerated crises of democracy, climate, and economic inequality, calling on progressive forces everywhere to act quickly and decisively. These are the issues that our inaugural Summit will confront head on, using the knowledge across our movements to build up practical plans for progressive forces to work together on a planetary scale," says Renata Avila, a Guatemalan human rights lawyer and member of PI's cabinet.

The Summit will bring together for the first time [PI's Council](#), whose members include: Rafael Correa, Noam Chomsky, Naomi Klein, Yanis Varoufakis, Arundhati Roy, Wang Hui, Katrin Jakobsdottir, Keeanga-Yamahatta Taylor, Achille Mbembe, Carola Rackete, John McDonnell, Vijay Prashad, Vanessa Nakate, Alicia Castro: and around 70 member organizations from over 40 countries to plan collective actions and formally launch the Progressive International.

PI has announced the initial programme of speeches and discussion events, which are [open to the public upon registration](#), for Friday 18 September including keynote speeches from Noam Chomsky, Naomi Klein and Yanis Varoufakis and a discussion on reclaiming democracy in Latin America, co-hosted by Wiphalas Across the World, between Ecuadorian presidential candidate from Union for Hope (UNES) Andres Arauz, Bolivian presidential candidate Luis Arce from the Movement Toward Socialism (MAS-IPSP) and Argentinian political and labour activist and diplomat Alicia Castro.

Additional speakers will be announced in due course.

**Commenting on the announcement of Progressive International's inaugural Summit to formally launch the organization, US philosopher, political activist and incoming PI council member Dr Cornel West said:**

"The Progressive International is one of the few last hopes for truth and justice in our catastrophic age of escalating neofascisms, ecological collapse, militaristic buildups and xenophobic resurgence. Without principled multinational and multiracial solidarity to empower the wretched of the earth this planet has no human or humane future."

**Ece Temelkuran, Turkish novelist and political commentator and PI council member said:**

"Those who came before us to defend human dignity left behind the knowledge that each of us is at our most beautiful when we stand tall against oppression. We are here to transmit this principle to those who will come after us. I hope Progressive International will be one of our generation's great works, so that when our children grow up to ask "What have you done then?" we have a proper answer. The Summit marks the beginning of this work, a gathering from across the planet to craft our answer to the next generation."

**Nanjala Nyabola, Kenyan writer, lawyer and political activist and PI council member, said:**

"This summit is about bringing together movements and activists from around the world to start thinking about our global problems at a planetary level. We all have to work together on these challenges or else we will fail. The current historical moment demands a new politics of generosity and inclusiveness for all the peoples of the world, and this Summit will kickstart a bigger process of planning a sustainable, just and democratic future."

Further information about Progressive International and its work is available on our website [progressive.international](http://progressive.international).

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