



PROGRESSIVE ALLIANCE **ALLIANCE**
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Progressive Alliance Activity report

September 2020 – September 2021

Since last year the evolution of the pandemic has conditioned the political agenda of our members around the world. « We are only safe, if everybody is safe » has been our motivation to launch a larger campaign on vaccine solidarity where we managed to unite globally our political family. However we have to state that we are still far away from guaranteeing that every citizen on this global has the equal opportunity of access to quality vaccines.

National egoisms and Northern protectionism have prevented the temporary opening of licensing rights for a global vaccine production and as a result the pandemic is not everywhere under control. In the same time undemocratic and authoritarian regimes like in Russia and China have used the opportunity to couple dissemination of their vaccines in geo-strategic interests.

In the global South or in the global North the pandemic has increased inequalities between and within continents and countries. The social impact and the impact on gender inequality is raising whereas in many countries the division of societies is progressing. Against this backdrop we have organised a series of webinars on resilient democracies and we will commit with a statement on the issue in our upcoming board meeting.

The picture is not gloomy, but our political family has had and still has the opportunity to seize the momentum, not only in Europe where our members our the Party of European Socialists and the S&D group



in the European Parliament developed the contours and orientation of the recovery programme.

In many countries regimes have used the pandemic to reduce even more fundamental and civic rights. As international solidarity is in our DNA we stand firm on the side of our comrades and friends being in Nicaragua, the Philippines, Thailand, Myanmar, Belarus, Turkey or elsewhere.

The recent floods in parts of Europe, Asia and the Americas have reminded us that global action against climate change has become urgent and needs to ensure fair transition of our societies so that again no one is left behind.

The coalition's withdrawal from Afghanistan and the victory of the Taliban after 20 years shall invite us to reconsider the impact and credibility of military interventions for nation building based on democracy. The global and regional conflicts invite us to rebuild a narrative and strategy inspired by our progressive values for new era of renewed and inclusive multilateralism as we stated one year ago in our last Board meeting and to relaunch the debate around disarmament, security and peaceful conflict resolution.

1. PA in virtual times

The activity report illustrates that we managed not only to maintain our cooperation within the Progressive Alliance network in these very special times, but intensified regional and global cooperation around the most relevant political challenges.

2. Vaccine solidarity

It is commonly agreed now that nobody is safe if not everybody is safe. The pandemic has raised again the importance of health and care as a public good, but has in the same time give evidence to the unequal access worldwide where the vaccine rate is globally only 32% of the World's population. The urgency of the pandemic has accelerated medical progress and within a relatively short time vaccines have been produced. As global network we focussed on the vaccine solidarity calling for :



- Global solidarity and global partnership against the poison of vaccine-nationalism
- Safeguarding COVID-19-vaccines as a global public good, not a tool for profit-maximization
- Binding obligation for partnerships and building production capacities with manufactures in developing countries in all vaccine supply contracts with manufactures by industrialized countries.
- Increasing the production of vaccines globally through adequate measures including reassessing the TRIPS agreement to see if it is fit for purpose and investigate how technology transfer can be enabled
- Ensuring accessibility to vaccines for all, in particular for vulnerable people, front-line workers and healthcare workers worldwide and in particular in the global South. Industrialized countries should supply the Global South with doses from their over-capacities
- The obligation of vaccine manufacturers, laboratories and producers to sell their products to the Global South and to COVAX at the cost price only and to allow licensing at low cost
- Reject all contractual agreements limiting exports, sharing, and donations of vaccines, which put an end to the global suffering.
- Introduce wealth and financial transaction tax schemes to ensure closing of the funding gaps of COVAX
- Continue and upscale public investment in medical research and public health systems especially in the Global South

More than 70 parties and organisations including ITUC and NGO networks have signed the call showing a clear positioning of the Progressives helping to increase the impact through a global campaign and to unite our political family.

3. Resilient Democracies and World Democracy Forum

With the pandemic Democracy has also become more and more under threat at a time when our fundamental values and freedoms, our democratic institutions have become under attack in many countries sometime by a narrative of so called “liberal democracies”. In times of pluri-crisis too many citizens consider



that democracy is not « delivering » and they feel left behind paving the way to reight wing populists and authoritarian leaders.

As Progressive Alliance we have launched a larger conference series in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe giving evidence of the divergence and convergence of these developments and helping to formulate a common position which is submitted as proposal for a statement the board meeting.

Progressive Alliance was also present in the World Democracy Forum organised by National Democratic Institute and presenting our political family in the debates with other political families.

As US President Biden will call for a Democracy Summit, we can build on our campaign and defend our vision, values and proposals.

4. New Social Contract and new forms of social protection

The pandemic has still an importance impact on employment and social protection worldwide. We were keen to join the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) for a joint seminar on a New Social Contract for a New Normality.

Building on this Progressive Alliance has also contributed to regional seminars on recovery and new resilience.

5. International Solidarity and Country focus: Chile, Paraguay, Mexico, Nicaragua, Central African Republic

Taking into account the developments in countries whith particular developments PA has organised together with our member parties from the respective countries webinars on the situation in Chile (plebiscite on new constitutional process), elections in Mexico, politcal pressure in Paraguay and persecution in Nicaragua.

In the frame of the High Level Event of the Party of European Socialists in June in Berlin we organised a solidarity campaign on Belarus. Statements have been published also on Israel and



Palestrine, persecution of HDP in Turkey and more. It translates and gives evidence to the fact that international solidarity is in the DNA of our members and that we can offer a global platform like Progressive Alliance.

6. Regional cooperation and bilaterals

The global coordinator has been solicited by our regional coordinations for either seminars or consultations. All in all the pandemic environment has taught us to make better and more intensive use of virtual communication platforms which has helped even to intensify the internal cooperation.

The future development as well as thematical issues have been the main agenda items. The Americas and SocDem Asia have been particular active. The PES has offered participation in its working settings (Social Europe, Financial and Migration) as well as Presidency meetings.

7. Statutory

As we had to focus on remote activities we have not convened for steering committee meetings. This will be revitalised from the moment on that we can meet in hybrid settings. Taking into account that the mandate of the global coordinator ends in 2022 as he was elected in Stockholm for a 3 years term, and considering that we have to evaluate our positioning in the light of the internal structure, the proposal is to create a high level working group on the future development of Progressive Alliance developing the next orientation and structural issues.

8. Partnerships and cooperation

For the reporting period we have to thank our partners in the Trade Union Movement, ITUC and ETUC in particular, the Think Tanks FEPS and others and the FES for their support and cooperation.



9. Communication

Regarding communication, we have adapted to COVID by strengthening our digital communication. We have increased the number of online events and our live broadcasts on Facebook. We have expanded our presence on social media: Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and a new Youtube channel. We have developed video production and graphic design capacities. We also managed to create a proactive digital campaign for global vaccination #GlobalVaxSolidarity. This resulted in a 25% increase in our Facebook audience (3800 followers).

The data tell us that we need to continue on this path by strengthening: the collaboration with international figures and the production of videos and graphic design. This strategy is justified by the fact that the majority of our audience is under 45 years old (57% on Facebook) and is familiar with audio-visual communication, which is why we are considering the production of podcasts and our presence on Instagram, which focuses more on visual communication. Finally, as our audience is 75% male, European, North and South American (on Facebook), there is a need to reach out more to women, as well as to our Asian and African audience (despite language and internet connection limitations)

However, the key point of our communications strategy is to achieve a better sharing of our content on the social media of our members, through a better collaboration with your communication departments.