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## **For Democracy and Internationalism: A Progressive Call for Collective Debate and Political Action**

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### **Introduction: Democracy at Risk**

The world stands at a historic crossroads. For decades, democracy was a shared horizon, institutions guaranteeing political freedoms, social rights, and a minimum of equity in the distribution of resources and opportunities. Today, that promise is eroding. Far-right and authoritarian projects question democracy's value. In many countries it persists in form, with elections, parliaments, and constitutions, but loses substance. Pluralism weakens, checks and balances are neutralized, and the rights of the most vulnerable are curtailed in the name of "security," "national identity," or "growth." V-Dem estimates that more than 70% of people now live under authoritarian or hybrid regimes, a systemic "third wave of autocratization" spanning North and South. Our duty is twofold: stop the authoritarian advance and renew democracy so it again enables freedom, equality, and justice.

### **The Authoritarian Wave and the Far Right**

The far right operates transnationally, sharing playbooks, money, and narratives. In the Americas, Trumpism and Bolsonarism normalized systematic falsehoods and delegitimized elections. In Argentina, Milei has combined an ultraliberal, anti-system discourse with authoritarian practices. In Hungary, authorities have hollowed out the rule of law and captured institutions. In India, there is political and religious persecution of minorities and tight control of civil society. Across parts of Europe, neofascist and ultranationalist currents have moved from margins to government and weaponized migration fears. The toolkit is consistent: delegitimize institutions, polarize with disinformation, scapegoat minorities, instrumentalize "tradition" to roll back women's and LGBTQI+ rights, and align with oligarchic interests seeking deregulation and resource control, producing illiberal democracies that keep elections while draining pluralism and justice.

### **The Status Quo Fueling the Crisis**

Far-right growth feeds on structural failures: decades of neoliberalism concentrated wealth and weakened states; social precarity and identity anxiety primed publics for xenophobia; the pandemic deepened inequality and distrust; wars and great-power tensions justify



militarization and permanent emergency; digital platforms amplify hate while accruing unaccountable power; and the climate crisis drives displacement that is met with harsher borders as denialism stalls transition. Naming these roots is the precondition for defeating the symptoms.

### **Fighting Back with Progressive Resistance**

Democracy survives wherever people organize. Latin American feminist and diversity movements advance rights; Indigenous and peasant communities defend the commons. Across Africa, a digitally savvy generation confronts corruption and fights for climate justice. In Asia, democratic movements resist military and ultranationalist repression. In Europe and North America, broad coalitions oppose racism, digital authoritarianism, and social rollbacks. These struggles keep democracy alive in streets, schools, parliaments, communities, and online.

### **Strategic Agenda for Progressive Movements**

#### **1) Political Democracy**

- Independent institutions: Courts, electoral bodies, and oversight free from executive capture.
- Protect the democratic opposition: Constitutional and legal safeguards recognizing opposition parties as essential to democracy.
- Participatory instruments: Consultations, referendums, and participatory budgets to complement representation.
- Digital transparency: Regulate major platforms, require algorithmic accountability, protect privacy, and ensure pluralism online.

#### **2) Economic Justice**

- Beyond neoliberalism: Mixed economies where the state guarantees rights and civil society helps decide.
- Progressive taxation: Fair taxes on great fortunes, inheritances, and multinationals to fund health, education, and a just green transition.
- Decent work: Collective bargaining, living wages, universal social protection.
- Fair digital transition: Bridge the digital divide; protect workers amid AI and platform shifts; ensure worker voice.
- New financial architecture: Reform global institutions to strengthen the Global South's voice and reduce IMF and World Bank dependency.

#### **3) Social & Gender Rights**

- Universals: Health, education, pensions, and care as universal rights with free, quality access.



- Equality & parity: Gender-balanced representation, leadership pipelines, and zero tolerance for gender-based violence, including online.
- SRHR: Safeguard sexual and reproductive health and rights and bodily autonomy.
- Care economy: Recognize, reduce, and redistribute unpaid care; invest in childcare and paid leave; adopt gender-responsive budgeting.
- Inclusion: Remove intersectional barriers for marginalized groups, including LGBTQI+ persons and gender minorities.

#### 4) Environmental & Climate Justice

- Right to a healthy environment: Enshrine and make justiciable.
- Just transition: Public and community-led renewables, no “green monopolies,” protections for workers and affected communities.
- Polluter pays: Finance adaptation and climate justice, prioritizing the most vulnerable.
- Protect the commons: Water, forests, minerals, and biodiversity under democratic and social control, not extractivist logic.

#### 5) Solidarity-Based International Cooperation

- **For a movement and world order that advance shared prosperity and deliver peace:** Avert wars and address ongoing conflicts by prioritizing diplomacy, ceasefires, and civilian protection.
- Progressive internationalism: Rebuild networks among parties, unions, think tanks, feminist, LGBTQI+, environmental, and youth movements.
- Democratic global governance: Reform the UN, IMF, and WTO and other multilateral institutions to meet today’s crises and rebalance North–South representation.
- **North-South dialogue and values-driven regional cooperation:** Acknowledge historical injustices, including colonialism, slavery, debt, and environmental degradation; pursue fair reparations; rebuild trust and cooperation among peoples; and advance regional integration that prioritizes democracy, rights, solidarity, and sustainability over transactional market logics.

#### Working for a Global Alternative

The far right offers false certainties of order through exclusion and violence. Progressives must offer feasible hope: a fairer, more democratic, sustainable world, propelled by renewed political will and broad cooperation. We need a new global democratic pact centered on human dignity and internationalism. This means rewriting the rules of the international economy, democratizing digital and technological power, recognizing environmental and Indigenous rights as pillars of sustainability, building universal social protection, and making gender equality structural, not accessory. Crises have historically opened democratic horizons. This is our moment.



### **A Call for Collective Debate and Political Action**

Democracy is at risk, yet it can be renewed and deepened. The far right advances with transnational coordination, corporate finance, and hate speech; our response must be cooperation, solidarity, and progressive internationalism. This is not a closed program but an invitation to a common process across our meetings, streets, schools, and institutions, wherever democracy is threatened.

The urgent question is this:

How do we turn resistance into a global project of democratic renewal capable of guaranteeing dignity, equality, and freedom for all?

The answer will not come from one party or one region, but from the collective construction of progressive movements worldwide. That is our challenge and our historic opportunity.