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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Albert II, Prince of Monaco, to attend the 21st Forum 2000 Conference

The 21st Annual Forum 2000 Conference, entitled “Strengthening Democracy in Uncertain Times” will be held 8 – 10 October 2017 in Prague and other cities around the Czech Republic.

The aim of the Forum 2000 Conference is to discuss the current challenges of the democratic world, which seem to be at a crossroads. Trust in institutions is declining. Belief in democracy is weakening. Democratic processes around the world suddenly – and quite paradoxically – seem to be turning against their very foundations. Liberal ideals are losing traction in a global ideological environment that seems to value competition more than resolution. Has democracy, as we know it, expired? Are we facing a systemic change? Has it not been able to reflect societal changes and technological developments? These crucial issues and many others will be discussed and debated by more than 100 distinguished personalities from around the world during the Forum 2000 Conference this year. Confirmed participants include: **Albert II** Prince of Monaco; former Austrian President **Heinz Fischer**; professor of Islamic and Interreligious Studies, **Mona Siddiqui**; Secretary General of the Organization of American States, **Luis Almagro**; professor of History and Cultural Studies, **Habib Malik**; former Mayor of Reykjavík, **Jón Gnarr**; former President of Maldives, human rights & environmental activist, **Mohamed Nasheed**; President of Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), **Thomas Kent**; political scientist from the Harvard University, **Yascha Mounk**.

The Conference will take place in Zofin Palace and Goethe Institute in Prague. *“As we do every year, we would like to welcome to the Forum 2000 Conference anybody who is interested in public affairs. This year we will not be focused simply on threats to democracy coming from authoritarian regimes like those ones in Russia, Venezuela, or China, but also on weakening of democracy from within. If we want to keep democracy, we must look after it and do something for it,”* said Jakub Klepal, Director of Forum 2000 Foundation.

By tradition, the conference is **open to the public**. It is necessary to register in advance to participate in all the discussions held in Prague. Registration, which is free of charge, is **only possible through the online registration system from 1 August through 29 September 2017** or when capacity is reached. More information on the conference themes, speakers, and practical aspects is available at www.forum2000.cz.

Notes for editors:

Forum 2000 Foundation was established in 1996 as a joint initiative of Czech President Václav Havel, Japanese philanthropist Yohei Sasakawa, and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel. The Forum 2000 Foundation pursues the legacy of Václav Havel by supporting the values of democracy and respect for human rights, assisting the development of civil society, and encouraging religious, cultural, and ethnic tolerance. It provides a platform for global leaders, as well as thinkers and courageous individuals from every field of endeavor, to openly debate and share these critical issues.



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Forum 2000 Conference is the flagship project of Forum 2000 Foundation. It was originated in 1997, when Václav Havel, Yohei Sasakawa, and Elie Wiesel invited world leaders to Prague to discuss the challenges humanity was facing on the threshold of a new millennium. Since then, Forum 2000 has evolved into a successful and renowned conference series and has addressed issues of freedom, rule of law, globalization, urbanization, environmental challenges, and many other challenging topics.

Festival of Democracy is an associated program of the Forum 2000 Conference. The Festival includes lectures, discussions, exhibitions, and other cultural and educational activities that complement or further develop the conference topics. Events at the Festival of Democracy are organized by non-profits, universities, and many other partners of the Forum 2000 Foundation. They take this opportunity to introduce their activities to the Festival attendees and offer a different perspective on the issues debated during the main Forum 2000 Conference program.

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