

**Press Release, October 14, 2023, Prague**

**Cooperation between democracies, the growing influence of authoritarian regimes in Africa and Latin America, or the future of Ukraine will be among the topics of this year's Forum 2000 Conference**

The 27th edition of the Forum 2000 International Conference, entitled *For a Democratic World Order*, will take place from October 15-17, 2023, at the Prague Congress Centre. The conference will be attended by Maia Sandu, President of the Republic of Moldova; Petr Pavel, President of the Czech Republic; Jan Lipavský, Czech Foreign Minister; Ivanna Klymush-Tsintsadze, Chair of the Committee on Ukraine's integration into the European Union, Parliament of Ukraine; Larry Diamond, Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, and dozens more. The conference is organized by the Forum 2000 Foundation, founded by Václav Havel in 1996.

The title of this year's conference underlines that the main focus of the discussions will be to find ways in which democracies can face common challenges in the context of the global rise of authoritarianism, and how best to strengthen mutual cooperation. Global security, the influence of Russia and China in Africa, local extremism, and the impact of the latest technologies on the functioning of democracy will be on the agenda of nearly five dozen discussions and workshops.

*"Democracy is facing several internal and external challenges, and the international rules-based order is also under pressure. Participants in the conference will discuss these challenges and look for ways to address them. This year, we are also putting even more emphasis on making the conversation inclusive: the Chinese and Russian influence in Africa will therefore not be discussed by Western experts, but by experts and activists from African countries; similarly the possible expansion of NATO will be discussed by analysts and parliamentarians from the Eastern Partnership countries; and so on,"* says Forum 2000 Foundation Director **Jakub Klepal**.

Space will again be devoted to the situation in Ukraine. The second edition of the "**Forum for Ukraine**", organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, will be held. The forum, welcoming a number of participants from the ample and thriving Ukrainian civil society, expert community, and politics, will deal with the post-war future of Ukraine in the heart of the European and world democratic community.

There will also be an analytical panel on the consequences of the Slovak elections and a debate focused on Olympic ideals in the shadow of authoritarian regimes, which will be attended by **Kryscina Cimanouska**, a Belarusian sprinter and critic of the regime of President Alexander Lukashenko. This year - and especially during the October conference - Forum 2000 is also focusing on a new project on the direction and European future of the **Western Balkans region**. Its purpose is to prepare a roadmap for the countries of this part of Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia), outlining a path to strengthen their democratic resilience, support democratic institutions and increase the involvement of civil society - a key but currently undervalued, and sometimes deliberately undermined, actor. The conference will feature several discussions on this topic with experts from countries in the region and from the European Union.

In addition to the guests mentioned above, speakers at this year's conference will also include **Markéta Pekarová Adamová**, Chair of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech



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Republic; **Oleksandra Matviichuk**, a representative of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Center for Civil Liberties; **João Gomes Cravinho**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal;; **Miroslav Wlachovský**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia; **Joan Chirwa**, Founder of the Free Press Initiative in Zambia, economists **Danuše Nerudová** and **Jan Švejnar**; and **Luis Almagro**, Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS).

The main conference program can be viewed on the Forum 2000 Foundation website [here](#)

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