

Press Release, October 14, 2025, Prague

Forum 2000 became a key venue for the future of democracy for three days

The twenty-ninth annual Forum 2000 international conference, titled ***Facing the Odds: Democratic Resilience in Action***, held from *October 12–14, 2025* at the *Prague Congress Centre*, concluded today.

This year's conference, focused on the growing need for global cooperation among democracies and their actors in today's complex international environment, welcomed over 800 leading politicians, diplomats, writers, activists, civil society representatives, dissidents, experts, and entrepreneurs from 103 countries.

More than eighty discussions and workshops took place with the participation of Czech President **Petr Pavel**; the fifth President of Georgia, **Salome Zourabichvili**; Nobel Peace Prize laureate **Oleksandra Matviichuk**; Czech Foreign Minister **Jan Lipavský**; His Beatitude **Metropolitan Ephiphaniy** of Kyiv and All Ukraine; Stanford University Professor **Larry Diamond**; President of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile **Penpa Tsering**, and many others.

A significant part of the conference's opening was the Sunday evening presentation of the fifth annual [Forum 2000 International Award for Courage and Responsibility](#). This year, the award was presented to the Georgian resistance movement against the country's gradual autocratization, and to one of its symbols – **Mzia Amaglobeli**, an unjustly imprisoned journalist and director of the independent Georgian media platforms Batumelebi and Netgazeti. *"We see around the world how fragile democracy can be and how much courage it takes to preserve it,"* said Deputy Mayor **Zdeněk Hřib**, expressing the City of Prague's support for activists, political leaders, and the brave people of Georgia.

"You cannot imprison the truth by imprisoning journalists. Brave journalists today stand at the heart of resistance. The truth is our only weapon, and we fight with truth," said **Tamar Rukhadze** from the Georgian resistance movement, accepting the award on behalf of the imprisoned journalist. The award was presented by Venezuelan human rights advocate **Tamara Sujú**. A short video about Mzia Amaglobeli and photos from the award ceremony can be found [here](#).

On Monday morning, Forum 2000 Foundation Executive Director **Jakub Klepal** opened the first panel discussion, reminding that *"we cannot blame Beijing or Moscow for the state of our own societies, that is our responsibility"*. Furthermore, during his speech, Klepal emphasized that: *"We, however, cannot overlook how eagerly these two (Russia and China), as well as some other authoritarian regimes, use and exploit our imperfections to pursue their interests and undermine our sovereignty"*.

*“Support for Ukraine is not just an act of solidarity; it is a way to show that truth will prevail over lies,” declared Czech President **Petr Pavel** in his opening speech, adding: “When lies become the language of politics, they poison entire nations. We must not allow lies to drive out the truth.” Salome Zourabichvili also joined the opening panel, and in relation to the current situation in Ukraine, said: “We must speak clearly – this is not just an ordinary military conflict. It is a clash of two opposing systems. Russia uses authoritarianism as a tool of power. It is an imperialist state, and it will remain one as long as it occupies foreign territories, because Russia still does not know where its borders end.”*

On Monday afternoon and throughout Tuesday, the conference continued with dozens of further discussions, in which participants sought ways to restore international democratic unity. The program focused on global democracy and human rights “hotspots”, from Ukraine and the Western Balkans to Latin America, Africa, and the Indo-Pacific region. Several panels also addressed the economic consequences of the tense geopolitical situation.

The final panel featured recent Nobel Peace Prize laureate and leading Venezuelan opposition figure **María Corina Machado**, who said: *“First of all, on behalf of the Venezuelan people, I want to thank all those around the world who have been celebrating with us the Nobel Peace Prize that was awarded to the people of Venezuela. It was given to a society that is determined to live in freedom and democracy, and that has been facing the worst of all tyrannies for 26 years. This award is proof — a testimony — of how resilience, strength, and determination can be transformed into civic action, into a powerful movement that ultimately leads to victory.”* She sent her remarks to conference participants from an undisclosed location in Venezuela.

An important element of the conference was the signing of an [appeal for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners in Myanmar](#). **Aung San Suu Kyi**, the 80-year-old Nobel Peace Prize laureate and leader of the democratically elected National League for Democracy (NLD), has been unjustly held in solitary confinement since the military coup in February 2021. She is imprisoned in a specially designed facility in Naypyidaw, where conditions are extremely strict. As her son Kim Aris reminded attendees in a video during the opening panel, his mother has only minimal access to legal assistance and no contact with her family. Despite suffering from worsening heart disease, she is denied adequate medical care. *“Aung San Suu Kyi is not only a symbol of the democratic struggle in Myanmar, but she was also a close friend of President Václav Havel, founder of Forum 2000, and a member of its International Advisory Board. Her lifelong commitment to democracy embodies the values on which this conference stands. With this appeal, we want to send a strong message of support to Aung San Suu Kyi and to the people of Myanmar,”* Jakub Klepal reminded.



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Recordings of selected panel discussions will be made available to the public on the official [Forum 2000 Foundation](http://forum2000.cz) website, where the “5 BIG IDEAS” summarizing the main themes of this year’s conference will also be published.

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