



Online conference organized by the Foundation for European Progressive Studies
within the framework of the Global Progressive Forum 2021

Wednesday, 17 November, 15:00-16:45 CET

After a year of unprecedented change and disruption, 2021 has emerged as an equally crucial moment for our global governance system, continuing to be deeply marked by COVID-19. While the pandemic's full impact is still being determined and assessed at the global level, this year presents a significant opportunity to reflect, rethink and promote an equitable and sustainable post-COVID-19 recovery of our economies, societies, and environment.

Against this backdrop, the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) is organizing its 4th annual 'UNited for' conference focusing precisely on this topic. **'UNited for a People-Powered Recovery'** will be held on **Wednesday, 17 November 2021 (15:00-16:45 CET)** and will aim to deliver progressive proposals for a citizens-centric recovery, guided by the values of fairness and well-being for our people and planet. The 4th edition of this flagship initiative of FEPS, which has been held since 2018 in New York ahead of the United Nations General Assembly, will feature high-level speakers for a timely discussion on how progressives can lead the global discussion for positive change.

The focus and importance of the 2021 'UNited for' conference is elevated further since it forms a **key part of the Global Progressive Forum (GPF) 2021**, a flagship global progressive initiative that will bring together progressive leaders, prime ministers, mayors, civil society representatives and activists from all over the world to develop a global progressive agenda on topics ranging from climate to economic governance, social justice, and digitisation. Taking place more than a decade after GPF 2009, a momentous gathering of global progressives in Brussels including the current UN Secretary-General António Guterres and former U.S. president Bill Clinton, the 2021 edition will once again aim to discuss how to better channel globalisation for the benefit of everyone.



15:00-15:45 **Session I: An opportunity for global change**

A conversation between:

Madeleine Albright, Former U.S. Secretary of State; Chair, Albright Stonebridge Group and Albright Capital Management

and

Josep Borrell, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission

Moderated by **Maria João Rodrigues**, President, Foundation for European Progressive Studies

Message by:

Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Former President of Chile

With the renaissance of geopolitics and the return of great power competition firmly at the centre of international relations, the COVID-19 pandemic has served as a powerful reminder of the fragility in our global governance system but has also offered an opportunity for reflection and recalibration of action. This ‘in conversation’ session will allow for a broad and frank discussion on the state and dynamics of international affairs and on the role of forward-looking forces on both sides of the Atlantic in steering global change to a more progressive direction. EU High Representative Josep Borrell and Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will focus on the profound global challenges that exist and the opportunity the moment presents for positive global change.

15:45-16:00 *Break*

16:00-16:45 **Session II: A fair post-COVID world**

As the world slowly and unevenly transitions to a post-pandemic future, this session will bring together different global perspectives on how this future can be fairer and more inclusive. Featuring a number of high-level participants from across the world, the discussion will focus on the challenges involved in achieving an equitable post-COVID recovery with citizens at its centre, and the need for a forward-looking progressive response.

Scene-setting message

Guy Ryder, Director-General, International Labour Organization



High-level panel

Helen Clark, Former UNDP Administration; Former Prime Minister of New Zealand

Camilla Brückner, Representative of the UN Secretary-General to the EU and Director of the UN Office in Brussels

Howard Lee Chuan How, Former State Youth and Sports Minister for the State of Perak, Malaysia; Former IUSY President; State Legislative Assemblyperson for Perak State, Malaysia

Merav Michaeli, Minister of Transportation and Road Safety of Israel; Leader of the Labor Party of Israel

Arancha González Laya, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain

Moderated by **László Andor**, Secretary General, Foundation for European Progressive Studies