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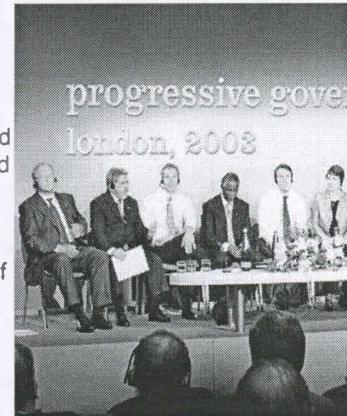
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PROGRESSIVE GOVERNANCE NETWORK

How it began...

The Progressive Governance movement came into existence almost two years before the establishment of the *Policy Network*. Progressive Governance, for which the *Policy Network* acts as a secretariat, was initiated by former president Bill Clinton in 1999. On 25 April 1999, Bill Clinton hosted and led a roundtable discussion in Washington on progressive governance for the 21st Century with the participation of the British Prime Minister Tony Blair, the German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, the Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok, and the Italian Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema. The necessity of tackling the challenges and opportunities of the 21st Century in common was first recognised, as well as the mutually beneficial aspects of exchanging views and sharing best practice.



The initial goal of the Progressive Governance movement was to enhance co-operation and links between key progressive policy-makers at various levels and academics as well as to provide a meeting place for strategic discussions on different political levels and concrete policies and practices in daily government. In contrast to discussions since the end of the Cold War left, or even the end of politics, progressive leaders wanted to show that progressive politics had been liberal attitudes and practices. They wanted to demonstrate that it was the left of centre parties which had brought social finances, tackled social exclusion, pioneered both reform and investment in public services, and were now engaged in reconstruction of the social models. The network of progressive thinking across the world came into existence fulfilling these goals.

Following the discussions that took place in Washington, and in connection with the Millennium Summit of the network for Progressive Governance met in New York on September 6, 2000. During the informal working discussions political issues were discussed and it was decided that the next high-level summit of the network would take place on September 14-15, 2000. In connection with the Millennium Summit, Prime Minister Tony Blair, Federal Chancellor Schröder, Prime Minister Wim Kok and Prime Minister Göran Persson wrote an article, **Europe's contribution to progress in the new century**, which was published in *The New York Times*. In this article the authors called for a need for education and human capital, for a strong civil society, for renewal of international cooperation and a coherent system to promote global development and justice.

The first large high-level summit of the network in its current form took place in Berlin on June 2-3, 2000. Member and national delegations of experts met for two days to discuss global strategies for progressive governance on the agenda:

- 1) The new economy, globalisation and the need for international co-operation and national responsibility;
- 2) Modernization to decrease unemployment, promote education and strengthening welfare;
- 3) The civil society and the public sector, the balance between rights and responsibilities and the need for just entrepreneurship.

The common political base for the network was formulated and adopted at the Berlin Summit in 2000, and is **Berlin Communiqué: Progressive Governance for the 21st Century**.

The work of the network was continued with a high level summit held in Stockholm in February 2002. At this participants discussed current political issues with a special focus on democracy and global justice and exchanged experiences from daily governance. The conclusions of these discussions are outlined in the **Stockholm A progressive agenda for democracy and development**.

In October 2002, Policy Network was charged with the intellectual, political and logistical planning **Progressive Governance Conference**, which brought together 12 world leaders, former heads of government, and over 600 progressive politicians, thinkers and strategists from more than 30 countries. Hosted by Tony Blair, the conference was the largest ever international gathering of international policy-makers and thinkers.

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London 2003 was the culmination of a long process of intellectual and political organisation, including a seminar in 10 Downing Street, a series of seven working groups held at the London School of Economics Preparatory Conference held at Warren House. Bill Clinton, Pascal Lamy, Javier Solana, Lula da Silva, Romano Prodi, Nastese, Vladimir Spidla, Aleksander Kwasniewski, Peter Medgyessy, Helen Clark, Thabo Mbeki, and many more attended the 48 hours of discussion and debate on both domestic and global issues.

In the final Communiqué, the Heads of State and Government of 14 countries from five continents committed to the principles of progressive governance and to exchanging their experiences in applying these principles in practice. The new progressive agenda that was adopted was two-level: at the domestic level, progressive governments committed themselves to address a series of common challenges: progress for growth, equity, public services, a child-friendly society, community safety, social cohesion, good governance, democracy, and employment. In every area of domestic policy underlying causes as well as symptoms were tackled, using evidence of what works rather than dogma; promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in close partnership with business, non-profit organisations and the wider public. At the global level, opportunities and risks, including the widening gap between rich and poor that globalisation has brought, were mentioned. The priority should then be to ensure that globalisation works for all and not just the few. Integration within Europe, South America and Africa is the only valid response to an era of unprecedented interdependence, and to the opportunities and the dangers that it brings. Global institutions and processes also be revitalised and strengthened, pressing forward with fair and open trade, and contributing to development. Promoting prosperity and its necessary pre-condition, security, through deepened international cooperation. Innovative solutions appeared crucial in the context of the renewal of the progressive tradition.

At the Budapest Summit in 2004, *Policy Network* was commissioned to prepare a series of reports for the forthcoming summit to be held in South Africa in 2005. Following a sherpa meeting held during the PC Annual Spring Retreat in 2005, it was agreed the three working groups would be convened (Social and new economic paradigm; Migration, integration and diversity; Demographic challenges of the 21st century) to prepare the agenda of the summit.

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