

Speaking Note

I will raise three issues which I consider crucial for our efforts towards progressive governance:

First, globalisation turns many issues which hitherto could be solved at the national level, into matters requiring supranational coordination. Such matters arise in the field of economics, but also in other, highly diversified fields, extending from justice to science, or to culture. This development is certainly not new: In the past similar concerns gave rise to initiatives such as the Bretton Woods conference, or the institution of international organisations such as the WTO or UNESCO. The formation of tighter supranational entities such as the European Union or other kinds of regional cooperation, was also due to similar factors. Thus, *the key issue of international progressive governance is how to find supranational answers to national problems*. In doing so, it is imperative to adapt to the international context and to answer the kinds of concerns which are common in domestic policy: Among them are democratic accountability, social justice, protection of individual rights.

Second, globalisation, perhaps paradoxically, appears in certain cases to be associated with an increase in petty nationalism or even xenophobia. The tragedy of the Balkans is a case in point. The international community ought to present a unified front against these kind of nationalistic excesses, and to secure the respect of international law. Our network for progressive governance can add to this process by adding an authoritative voice on the side of sanity.

Third, of key importance to citizens of all our countries is the issue of employment and the organisation of work. Unemployment is a nightmare for many of our citizens, while it is linked to other crucial matters of social justice, such as securing a viable social protection system, or guarding against poverty. The countries represented in our network can show a variety of approaches to these complex problems. None of these solutions is perfect in the sense of offering complete answers. On the other hand, no solution is without merit, in the sense of not shedding valuable light and not creating precedents which can be used in designing new policy initiatives. Our

network can play a role in allowing experiences to be compared and combined to serve our common goals, which are economic development and social justice.