



PRESS RELEASE

World Social Forum 2021

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021

Nearly 10,000 participants from 144 countries are gathering at the virtual 2021 World Social Forum to reaffirm that Another World is possible, urgent and necessary.

The 20th edition of the World Social Forum 2021 officially started on January 23, 2021. The opening of this very first virtual edition was marked by a global [virtual march](#), a political and cultural act that brought together hundreds of people from all around the world during 24 hours. 9115 participants, 1280 organizations from 144 countries, are registered at the WSF 2021, motivated by the ideals of justice, democracy, fundamental rights and the *buen vivir* for everyone.

A rich multidisciplinary and intersectional program

The World Social Forum is celebrating its 20th anniversary in the context of a pandemic, inviting its participants to take stock of the current situation and the actions to undertake in the future, from the local to the global. Global civil society has once again proven its strength by offering a [rich multidisciplinary and intersectional program](#) (739 self-organised activities and 74 initiatives).

So far, the dialogues have been structured around the [thematic areas](#) of [War and Peace](#), [Economic Justice](#), [Education, Communication and Culture](#) and [Feminisms, Society and Diversity](#). The large panels will continue with the themes of [Indigenous and Ancestral Peoples](#), [Democracy](#), [Social Justice](#) (January 28) and [Climate, Ecology and Environment](#) (January 29).

It is expected that this unprecedented edition will ensure a conscientious and committed articulation between social causes and political approaches. The convergence of the organizations and movements participating in the WSF will be concretized notably through [the Convergence Assemblies](#) on January 30th. The following day (January 31), [the Agora of the Futures](#) will offer a space for the carriers of concrete action initiatives, which will contribute to a Calendar of common actions for the coming year. Finally, the [closing act](#) will launch the process, leading to the next edition of the WSF, to be held in Mexico in 2022.

The first online WSF: challenges and opportunities

Even if this edition is facing the restrictions of the virtual, the organizers of the WSF are determined to overcome this challenge and even use this new situation to explore new ways of sharing and acting. Thus, this edition takes up the challenge of dealing with new technologies and forms of international participation. It is an excellent learning exercise on the modes of organization and virtual meetings, which can be used in the future WSF editions. This process will have to, among other things, guarantee an inclusive and equitable access to the processes and dialogues, whether online or in person, and optimize the visibility and convergence of the actions and initiatives of resistance and transformation carried out by the participants.

For more details about the complete WSF program:

<https://wsf2021.net/programa-evento/>

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