

London, 24 August 2026

Memorandum concerning the theme resolution of the 65th congress of Liberal International

In consultation with our host parties, the Democrat Party of Thailand, and the Democratic Progressive Party Taiwan, for the 65th Congress of Liberal International, the bureau issues the following memorandum regarding the congress theme *Building Resilient Democracies for a Secure Future*.

In recent years, liberals have witnessed a profound shift in the global landscape. Authoritarian actors have become ever more emboldened, geopolitical rivalry between countries is now more pronounced and taken new forms, and democratic institutions in many regions face renewed efforts to suppress them.

Since the last LI Congress in Chile, liberal democracies have faced growing geopolitical instability, with countries utilising disinformation, cyber operations, economic coercion, political extremism, and conflict to destabilise our world and the democratic societies which are crucial to our liberal network. Conflicts in several regions, including the continuation of Russia's war against Ukraine, and the 2026 US-Israel-Iran war have exposed vulnerabilities that threaten the resilience of democratic societies worldwide. These crises have reinforced the key role that liberal societies must play in order to build towards a peaceful, prosperous, and progressive future.

Nearly eighty years after the founding of Liberal International in the aftermath of the Second World War, liberals from around the world will be meeting again to assess this new reality. Guided by our theme rapporteur, the Congress will identify the challenges we must confront and the opportunities available to ensure that democratic and liberal societies remain resilient in an age of increased uncertainty dominated by the major global powers.