



PRESS RELEASE

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES TO DELIVER WELCOME REMARKS AT THE BUSAN DEMOCRACY FORUM 2018 (#BuDF2018)

Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett will meet with high-level officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss their continued leadership in the Community of Democracies.

WARSAW, JANUARY 19, 2018 – Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett will travel to the Republic of Korea to deliver welcome remarks at the **Busan Democracy Forum 2018**, which will be held in Busan on January 22-24, 2018.

The Forum, co-organized by the **Permanent Secretariat of Community of Democracies (PSCD)**, **Asia Democracy Network (ADN)**, and the **Asia Development Alliance (ADA)**, will address the “UN Sustainable Development Goals and Democracy: *Promoting Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*”. The event is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, the Metropolitan City of Busan, and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

On the importance of achieving the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, Secretary General Garrett said, “The 2030 agenda requires a true collective effort between governments, private sector, civil society and citizens to ensure a sustainable future for the planet. It’s a great honor to take part in this discussion in Busan, which has a special place in the heart of Korean democracy.”

The Busan Democracy Forum will gather together high-level policy-makers, international organizations, governments, civil society and academic institutions from around the world who are engaged in the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies.

The event will provide a platform for sharing of experiences and best practices of **democratization and democratic governance in Asia** and beyond.

The Republic of Korea – Continuing its leadership role as a member of the Executive Committee of the Community of Democracies (CoD)

Following the Busan Democracy Forum, Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett will travel to Seoul to meet with Ms. Oh Youngju, Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, to discuss current issues and initiatives supporting democracy.

The Republic of Korea, which has been a member of the Community of Democracies since its inception in 2000, and hosted the 2002 Ministerial Conference in Seoul, has always played an important leadership role in the global promotion of democracy. The Republic of Korea is a current member of the Community’s **Executive Committee** and **Governing Council** and has long supported the Community’s efforts.

About the Community of Democracies

The Community of Democracies is an intergovernmental organization that drives the global democratic agenda through common action. Since its establishment in 2000, the Community has brought the world’s democracies together to advance and promote the democratic principles and standards enshrined in the Warsaw Declaration Toward a Community of Democracies that was signed by 106 countries.



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