

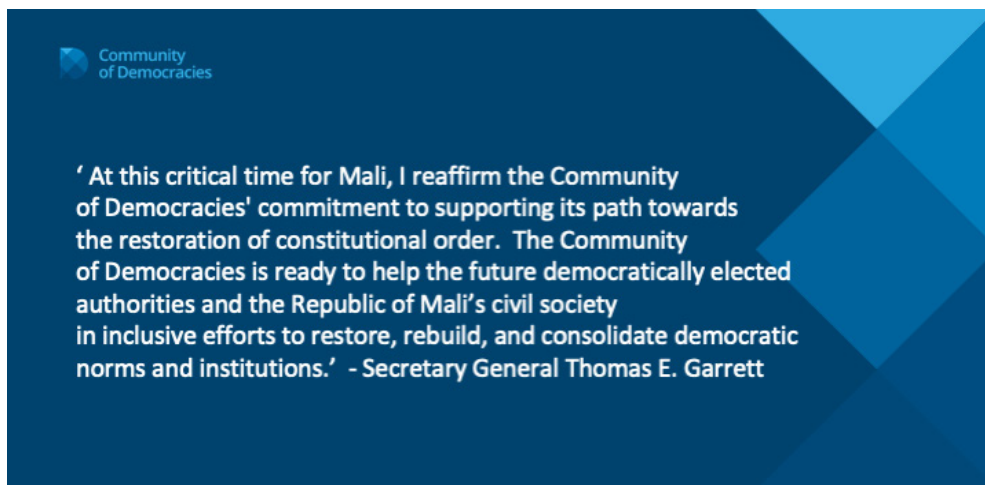
# Activity Brief

2021

Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies

## Activities

[Statement by the Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett on the situation in the Republic of Mali](#) | January 18, 2021.

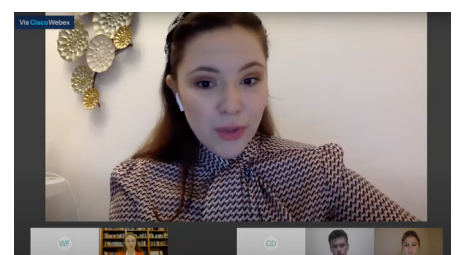
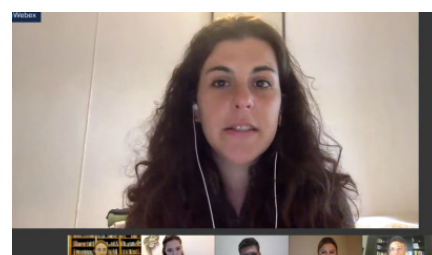
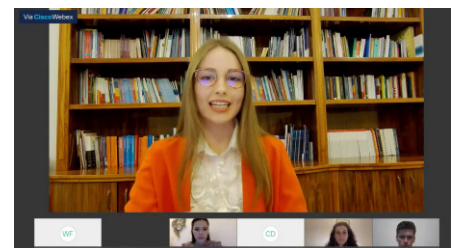
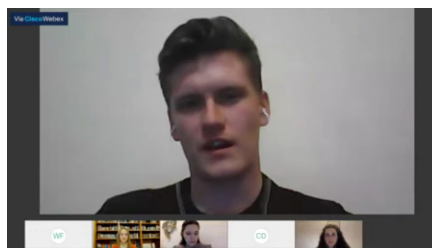
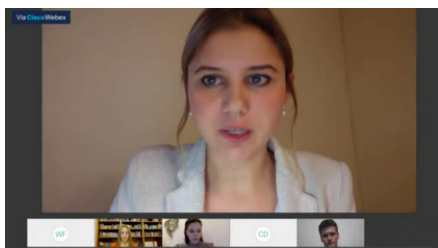


[Statement by the Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett on the events in the USA on January 6, 2021.](#)

[Statement by the SG on the inauguration of U.S. President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris](#) | January 21, 2021.

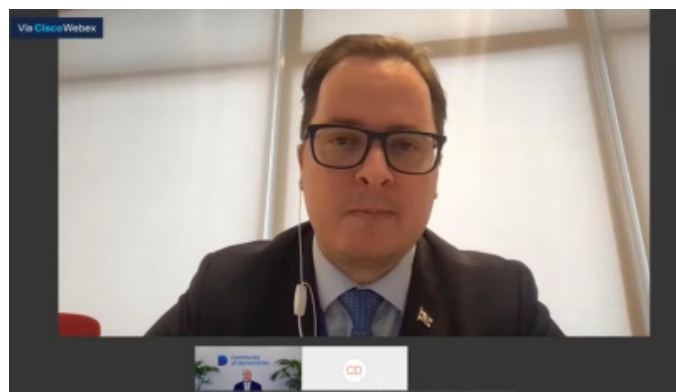
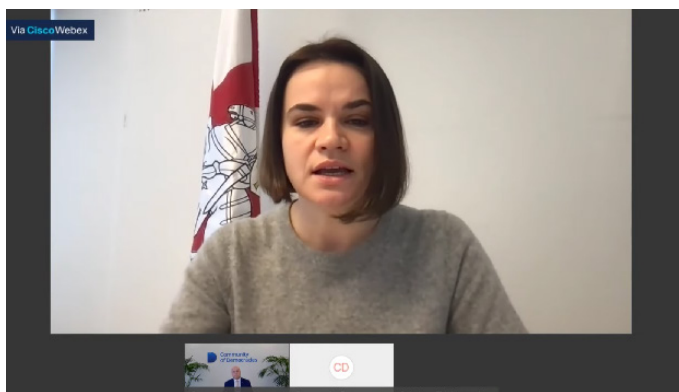
### CoD Event "In Solidarity with Belarus: Youth for Democratic Change" | February 4, 2021

The event discussed the central role of youth in the democracy movement with presentations by young Belarusian democracy activists, Vika Andrukovič and Daniła Łaūreŭski. The discussion also featured interventions from CoD YouthLeads from Haiti, Portugal, Romania, and South Africa who addressed the presentations and shared experiences from their countries on youth activism and political participation. [Watch the event](#) and [read the summary](#).



## CoD Event “Six Months of Protest: An Update from Belarus” | February 9, 2021

In the discussion, the Secretary General of the Community of Democracies, Thomas E. Garrett, spoke to the leader of democratic Belarus, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, and her Senior Advisor, Franak Viacorka, on the current situation in Belarus and the way forward. [Watch the event](#) and [read the summary](#).



## CoD activities following the military coup in Myanmar:

- In his [statement](#) on February 2, 2021, **CoD Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett** called for the immediate release of unjustly detained Myanmar political leaders and for the November 2020 vote of the people to be honored.
- On February 12, 2021, **CoD Governing Council Members** Canada, Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania (CoD Presidency 2019-2021), Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States of America [released a statement](#) in which they expressed grave concern for the Myanmar military's removal of the democratically elected civilian government; for the arbitrary detention of civilian government leaders, civil society members, human rights activists, and journalists; and for restrictions on telecommunications services since February 1, 2021.
- The Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies also shared a [statement by the Australia-Myanmar Constitutional Democracy Project \(AMCDP\)](#), in which the academics from UNSW Sydney condemned the unconstitutional attack on democracy in Myanmar. The Secretary General signed the statement which also outlined the Community of Democracies-supported AMCDP work supporting the building of constitutional democracy in Myanmar.
- On March 2, 2021 the [Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett released his second Statement](#) on the Situation in Myanmar.

## [Statement on International Women's Day by the Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett](#) | March 8, 2021

CoD #YouthLeads joined social media campaign [#ThisIsDemocracy](#) led by Member State United Kingdom with messages on International Women's Day | March 8, 2021. Please click on YouthLeads pictures below to watch their messages.





### Training sessions for the CoD YouthLeads on public speaking (online) | February 24 and March 2, 2021

The #CoDYouthLeads continued a series of capacity building trainings organized by the PSCD. In February and March young leaders had the opportunity to prepare for their numerous speaking engagements at youth conferences, UN, World Bank, CoE events and other international gatherings by exploring “15 Rules for the Road” by distinguished trainers Deb Sofield and Nancy Bocskor.



### CoD project “Strengthening Civic and Political Participation in The Gambia”

Twenty current and emerging women political leaders completed the capacity building project implemented by the PSCD and Westminster Foundation for Democracy in Banjul. The training was aimed at improving leadership, advocacy and communication as well as self-esteem building skills. Women leaders participated in two workshops and follow-up coaching sessions in which they developed individual projects. [Read about the certificate ceremony and project in Gambia's media outlet.](#)





### CoD event “Feminist Foreign Policy in 2021” | March 9, 2021

The event featured representatives of Governing Council Member States Canada, Lithuania, Mexico, and Sweden who presented the main objectives and priorities of the Feminist Foreign Policy of their countries and emphasized the value of applying a systematic gender equality perspective across the foreign policy agenda. The event was organized in cooperation with the Working Group on Women and Democracy. [Watch the event here.](#)



**Community of Democracies**

## Feminist Foreign Policy in 2021

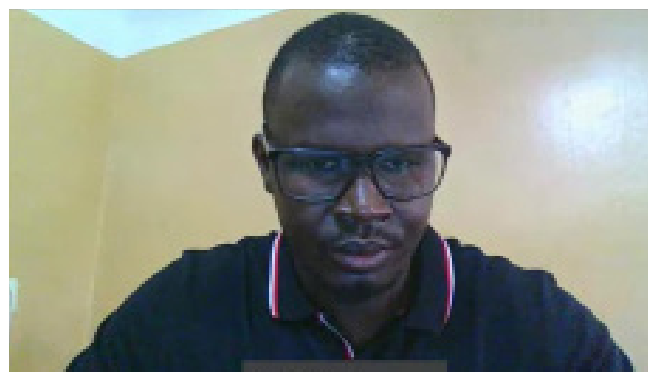
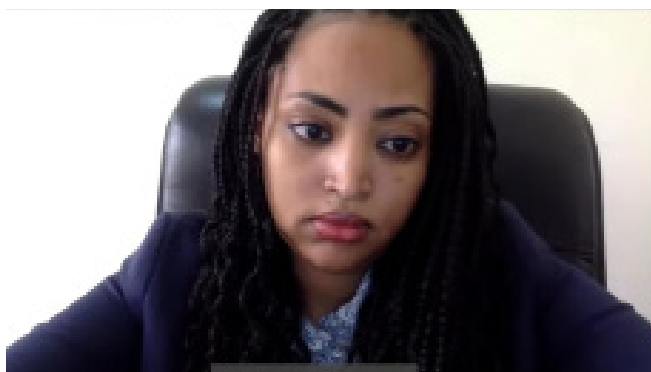
Tuesday, March 9, 2021  
4 PM CET | 10 AM EST

 <b>Moderator:</b> <b>Thomas E. Garrett</b> CoD Secretary General	 <b>Laima Jureviciene</b> Working Group on Women and Democracy Chair, MFA of Lithuania	 <b>Patricia Pena</b> Director General Foreign Policy Bureau Global Affairs Canada	 <b>Ann Bernes</b> Ambassador for Gender Equality MFA of Sweden	 <b>Ana Paula Lavalle</b> Director for Human Rights Cases MFA of Mexico
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@CommunityofDem @CoD\_Women #FeministForeignPolicy

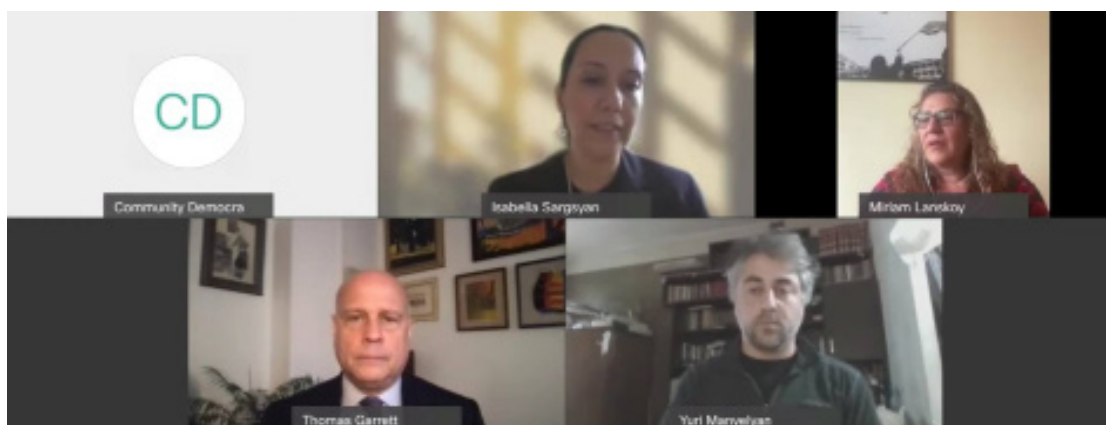
### CoD event “Update on the Transition in the Republic of Mali” | March 10, 2021

At the event Mali civil society representatives Mr. Moussa Kondo and Ms. Fatima al Ansar provided an update on the status of country's transition and the inclusion of women in the return to democracy. [Watch the event here.](#)



### Enabling and Protecting Civil Society in Armenia, March 25, 2021

The event was an opportunity for representatives of Armenian civil society, the Civil Society Pillar of the CoD and the National Endowment for Democracy to discuss the evolving situation in the country with particular focus on challenges to democracy and civic space in the aftermath of the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. [Watch the event here.](#)



## Activities

### The 33rd Session of the Governing Council | April 20-21, 2021

This virtual, two-day meeting, chaired by CoD Presidency Romania, covered current and future activities of the Community of Democracies such as the upcoming Tenth Ministerial Conference while also discussing democracy in a world still struggling with the Covid-19 pandemic.

The session featured a guest speaker, Mr. Robert Oliphant (M.P.), Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, who presented Canada's initiative on "Declaration Against Arbitrary Detention in State-to-State Relations".

Member States adopted an Outcome Statement affirming that promoting representation of women and girls is crucial for human rights and fundamental freedoms and urging the integration of a gender perspective across all sectors of government and society. Read the full statement [here](#).



« Democratic institutions flourish when all groups of society are represented. **The full, equal and meaningful participation and representation of all women and girls**, including those from traditionally marginalized and non-elite groups, **is crucial for democracy**; their leadership and inclusion in decision-making at all levels contributes to strengthening government accountability and transparency. »

Outcome Statement of the 33rd Governing Council Meeting  
of the Community of Democracies

Community of Democracies

CoD Women

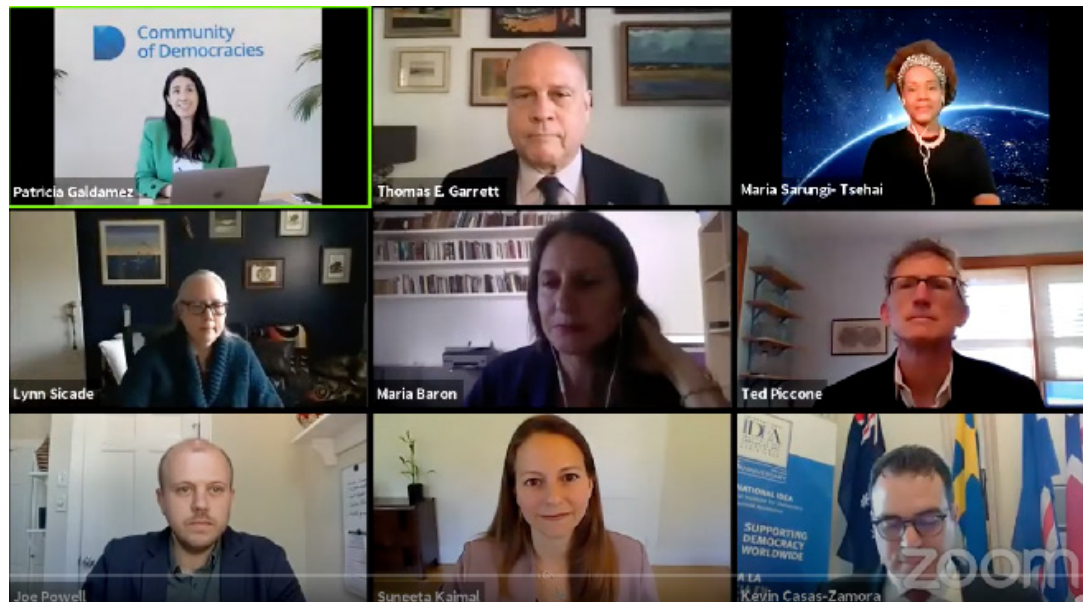
### [Statement](#) by the Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett on World Press Freedom Day | May 3, 2021

The statement discussed the role media plays in a democracy, especially in times of global crisis. Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett said that media freedom is "the key to support transparent, accountable democratic governance, highlight vital issues of public concern, and protect people's rights and freedoms" and noted that "press freedom and freedom of opinion and expression are among the 19 democratic principles of the Warsaw Declaration."

### CoD Event "Towards a Summit for Democracy" | April 23, 2021

By bringing together high-level representatives of democracy groups and civil society, this event discussed potential goals and implications of the U.S.-proposed Summit for Democracy. Chief Engagement Officer of the World Justice Project Ted Piccone, who was a member of the U.S. State Department policy staff under Madeleine Albright which planned the original CoD June 27, 2000 gathering, spoke from a historical and current context, and mentioned that the "Covid-19 crisis is an opportunity not only to repair but truly to build forward by addressing the root cause of problems that existed long before the pandemic." Watch the full event [here](#).

The event was organized in cooperation with International IDEA and the Open Government Partnership.



### Secretary General's Visit to Romania | May 24-26, 2021

Meetings in Bucharest touched upon the recently extended mandate of the Romanian Presidency as well as the upcoming Tenth Ministerial Conference, planned for September 2021 during the high-level week of the UN General Assembly in New York. Discussions with civil society and Romanian CoD Youth Lead touched upon the current situation in Belarus and detention of Raman Pratasevich and Sofia Sapega. Read the press release [here](#).



### CoD activities following the second military coup in Mali on May 24, 2021:

- In his [statement](#) on May 26, CoD Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett condemned the detention of the President, Prime Minister, and other transitional government officials by the military and called for their immediate, safe, and unconditional release. He also called for the democratic transition process to resume and reiterated continued CoD support towards the rebuilding of democratic norms and institutions in Mali.
- On June 11, CoD Presidency Romania convened an Extraordinary Governing Council session to discuss the situation in Mali.
- On June 22, following a week-long virtual voting process, the Community of Democracies [suspended](#) the Republic of Mali's membership in its Governing Council due to violations of the core democratic principles outlined in the Warsaw Declaration and subsequent Ministerial Declarations. In announcing the suspension, the Secretary General pledged renewed efforts by the Community of Democracies to support the return to democracy in Mali.

### CoD Series of Interviews - Women Leading in Crises

Launched in May 2021, the initiative presents stories of women leaders working at the frontlines of crisis, including in the pandemic, political and economic crisis, and conflict. The first interview featured former Mongolian Foreign Minister and M.P. [Dr. Oyun Sanjaasuren](#), currently Director of External Affairs at the Green Climate Fund. The discussion was facilitated by Ms. [Stephenie Foster](#). Watch the interview [here](#).



The second interview was conducted with the Leader of Democratic Belarus, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, on the day of her husband's conviction facing clearly political charges including "inciting social hatred" and "organizing mass disorder." Among other topics, she talked about the recent hijacking of the flight to Vilnius, as well as her decision to run for President and experiences as a fledgling political advocate. Watch the interview [here](#).



### Anniversary of the CoD – reception at the Romanian Embassy | June 25, 2021

The Embassy of Romania in Poland hosted a [reception](#) on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of the Warsaw Declaration, the founding document of the Community of Democracies. The reception was attended by the Warsaw-based Governing Council diplomatic representatives.



### "Global Crises and the Community of Democracies" - Article by Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett

In his article for *the Cambridge Journal of Law, Politics, and Art*, Secretary General noted "Moving forward, the new or transformed democratic blocs should work together on equal footing, bound together by the principles and aspirations of the Warsaw Declaration." Read the full [article](#).

### Secretary General's visit to Governing Council Members Georgia and North Macedonia

#### Georgia | June 21-24, 2021

During his visit, SG met with high-level officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Georgian Parliament, and Central Election Commission. The meetings discussed current opportunities and challenges for democracy, the role of digital technology in election management, and youth involvement in Georgian democracy. Read the press release [here](#).





The SG also travelled to Odzisi, where he observed Russian military positions in the area of Georgia under occupation. "I am grateful for the opportunity to visit the Occupation Line and witness for myself the ongoing, decades-long Russian aggression against Georgia, even though the accounts I heard about the abduction of Georgian citizens and the harsh repression of Georgian villages in the occupied areas were painful. I wish for their day of liberation and a return to the sovereign and territorial integrity of this democratic nation"- he said.

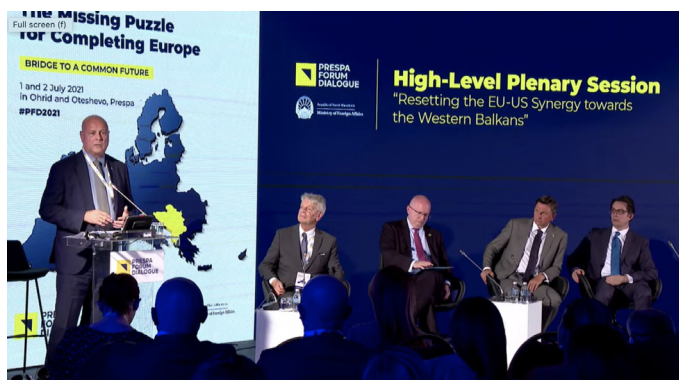


#### North Macedonia | June 29-July 2, 2021

In Skopje, the Secretary General met with civil society organizations active in youth engagement, education and the rights of marginalized groups. Topics discussed included the digital divide which had emerged over the last year for children in marginalized communities and the need for increased financial and capacity building support to civil society.

The SG then participated in the Prespa Forum Dialogue, speaking to the session, "Resetting the EU-US Synergy Towards the Western Balkans." Explore SG [full remarks here](#).

The travel also provided an opportunity for the SG to meet H.E. Bujar Osmani, Minister of Foreign Affairs.



#### CoD YouthLeads

##### Virtual event: Youth Participation, Voice and Active Citizenship: Navigating the New Normal | May 6, 2021

During this event, Generation Democracy Members and the CoD YouthLeads from Guatemala, Nigeria, Morocco and Portugal discussed the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on youth participation and leadership in public life, as well as how youth are using innovative solutions to manage the risks of the pandemic as active community members and global citizens.



Rita Saias



Walter Corzo



Timi Olagunju



Khadija  
Amihal

Participatory exercise with answers from the audience as part of the event.

## How should young leaders prepare to address the future impact of COVID-19 on youth participation and leadership in public life?

Mentimeter

Develop tech (digital skills) that align with policymaking because many government are now forced by COVID to embrace digitalization

I believe we should appreciate and maintain our international cooperation and learn from the best international experience.

We need to learn more about what is happening in our communities and to design initiatives that support these communities. We also need to collaborate in making the impact we seek to have on our societies

Youth would have to be more flexible and dynamic.

increase digital literacy and find alternative solutions to adapt new normal situation

It is a great chance to redefine social activism & widen our scope of the act.

As leaders we should highlight and put more value to youth efforts and achievements during the pandemic to gain reliability and credibility. The public sphere when proceeding to gain more rights

### New Additions to #CoDYOUTHLeads | May 11, 2021



Tomas currently serves as the Deputy Mayor of the Akmene District Municipality in Lithuania. He completed studies in Political Science and International Relations.



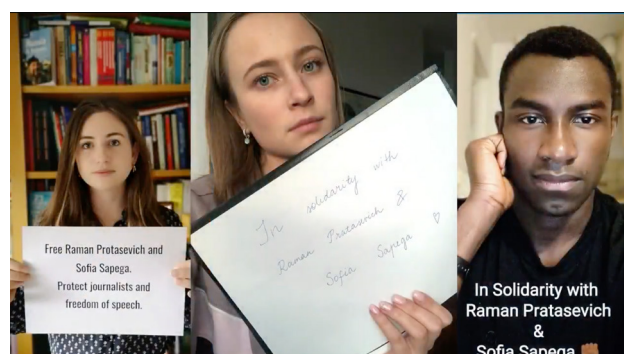
Bold has an academic background in Political Science, Business Administration, and International Relations. He also has an impressive list of publications on governance and youth.



Nidal holds a Bachelor and Master's Degree in Public Law and is studying International Relations and Diplomacy. Nidal has been the President of Asilah's city Local Youth Council in Morocco since 2013.

### Campaign in Solidarity with Raman Pratasevich and Sofia Sapega | May 25, 2021

Following the criminal hijacking to Minsk of the plane traveling from Athens to Vilnius and the seizure of opposition blogger Raman Pratasevich and his traveling companion Sofia Sapega, many world leaders – including CoD Governing Council states – condemned the action and referred to it as an “act of piracy”. The CoD YouthLeads joined in condemning this action and expressing their support of Raman, Sofia, and the Belarusian pro-democracy movement. Watch the video [here](#).





## Activities

### Secretary General visits France | July 12-13, 2021

During the trip, the Secretary General and the Permanent Secretariat's Senior Advisor met with representatives of the Senate, UNESCO, think tanks and the *Fondation pour l'innovation politique* (Fondapol). The discussions centered around democracy, multilateralism and education issues, and transatlantic relations between the U.S. and Europe.



### CoD capacity building project in Morocco: Inclusive Democratic Participation to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism | July 14-18, 2021

Two in-person training sessions for twenty Moroccan youth and civil society participants from different regions took place in Rabat. With generous support from Romanian AID (RoAID), the sessions focused on Human Rights and Education for Democracy and Countering Narratives to Prevent Radicalization. The training was organized by the Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies and the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Rabita Mohammadia of Ulemas, and the National Human Rights Council of Morocco.

The Secretary General traveled to Rabat to open the training sessions and welcome participants. Please read the press release [here](#). During his visit, the SG held meetings with Morocco's Minister of Foreign Affairs, the CoD YouthLead from Morocco, and civil society partners.



## CoD YouthLeads activities

### #CoDYouthLeads Event: Youth Participation in Political Processes: Voters, Candidates, Elected Officials

The virtual event held on July 1, 2021, featured young activists and elected officials from Andorra, Estonia, Lithuania, and Morocco who shared their experiences and practices utilized in their countries to increase youth participation in electoral processes, including in pre-and post-electoral periods. Download the [summary paper](#).



### New Addition to #CoDYouthLeads



#### Aoi Horiuchi, Japan

Aoi is Senior Advocacy Officer at Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation and primarily focuses his work on implementing Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 16.

#### Deeptha Naha, India

Deeptha is the Co-Founder of Hackergram, a network based on social equity exchange that includes individuals, groups, and communities. She has been studying and experimenting with various paradigms, processes, and practices that make a space unsafe and eliminating those through different approaches of Human Centered Design, Innovation Labs, propagating sustainable behaviors that build cohesive communities, and hosting residents at Hackergram Safe Spaces for life skills training programs.



#### Luciana Caccianini, Argentina

Luciana has over six years of experience in planning, coordination, monitoring, and management control in the government and NGOs. She has held positions of State Director, Director of Research, and Principal Researcher. Currently, she leads the Future of Work initiative in Argentina for an NGO and provides public policy recommendations to include disadvantaged populations.

#### Martyna Kryzstofńska, Poland

As a lawyer, the topics of democratization, upholding human rights, and encouraging civic (youth) participation are very close to her heart. At United Nations Association (UNA) Poland, she coordinates the Poland 3D: Dialogue, Debate, Diplomacy program, which organizes meetings with diplomats and officials for UNA members.



[Statement by the Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett on International Youth Day](#) | August 12, 2021

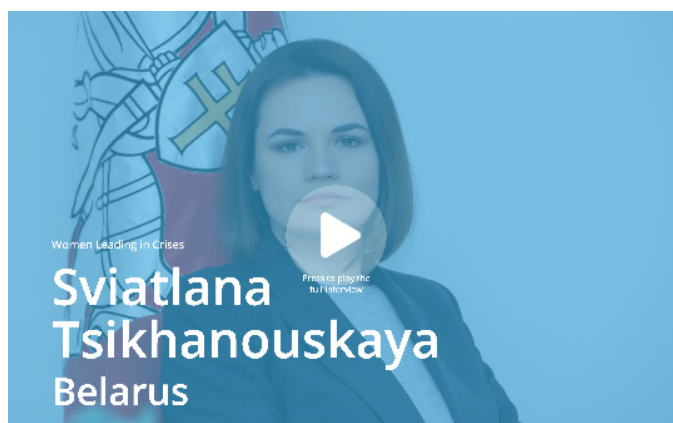
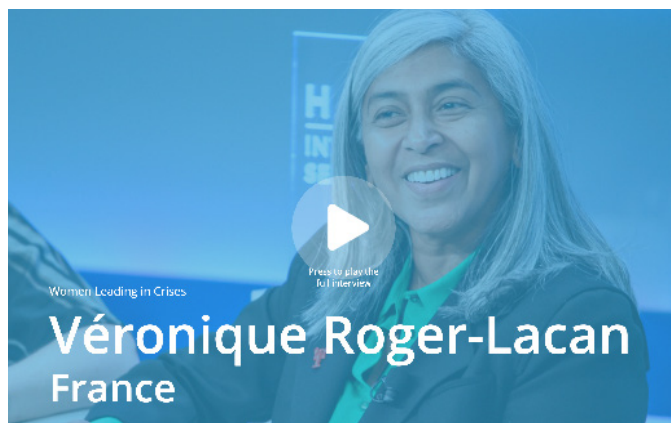
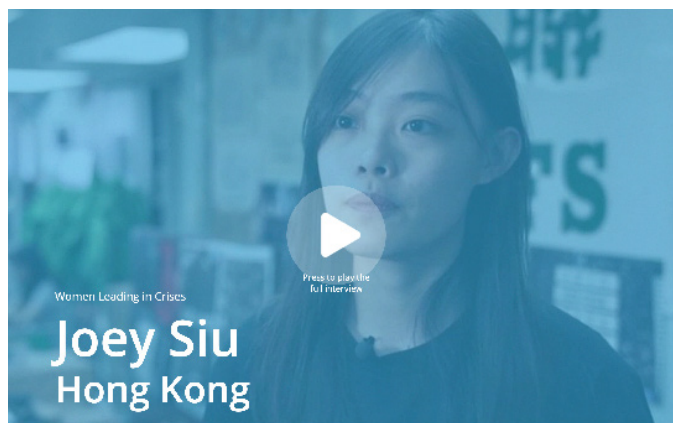
[Statement by the Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett on the situation in Afghanistan](#) | August 17, 2021

[Statement by the Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett on Cuban Civil and Political Rights](#) | September 1, 2021

[Statement by Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett on International Day of Democracy](#) | September 15, 2021



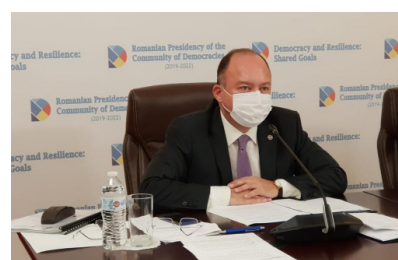
**“Women Leading in Crises” series of interviews** (please click on the images to watch/read the interviews)



#### **CoD 10th Ministerial Conference: in the margins of 76th U.N. General Assembly in NYC | September 22, 2021**

Foreign ministers and high-level officials from democratic states, civil society representatives, and youth gathered at the 10th Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies to discuss Democracy and Resilience: Shared Goals. The event host was the CoD Presidency of Romania and chaired by Romanian Foreign Minister H.E. Bogdan Aurescu and offered in a virtual format due to ongoing COVID-19 related restrictions. Please find the full [press release](#), [remarks of the Secretary General](#), and the [YouthLeads Call to Action](#) to the Tenth Ministerial Conference.

The [Bucharest Ministerial Declaration](#) of the Community of Democracies was adopted as an outcome of the event. “The Ministerial Declaration underlines the CoD’s determination to remain fully engaged in continuing to advance the common global efforts to consolidate resilient democracy all over the world, including by supporting the upcoming Summit for Democracy organized by the U.S. Administration,” said Foreign Minister Aurescu.





## Virtual CoD Youth Forum | September 27-29, 2021

A companion event to the CoD Ministerial Conference, the Youth Forum brought together youth activists, experts, and leaders from 27 countries to share good practices between the regions regarding youth participation in politics and civic life as well as their role in the implementation of the U.N. 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and advancing peace and security.



At a regional session on “Challenges to Democracy in the Americas: Youth Perspectives,” Luciana Caccianini, YouthLead from Argentina, spoke to issues important to youth, “There is no sustainable development without youth inclusion. In 2020 the International Labor Organization reported that high unemployment, informality, and inactivity rates affected nearly 110 million young people in Latin America and the Caribbean.”

Apart from dynamic regional sessions, Youth Forum hosted YouthLeads Conversations with the Permanent Delegate of Romania to UNESCO, the Secretary-General of International IDEA, and the Director of USAID Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance. The Forum partnered with regional organizations and networks, such as European Democracy Youth Network, Asia Democracy Network, Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy, and Building Block for Peace Foundation.

## Virtual event: Enhancing Peace Through Women’s and Girls’ Education | September 21, 2021

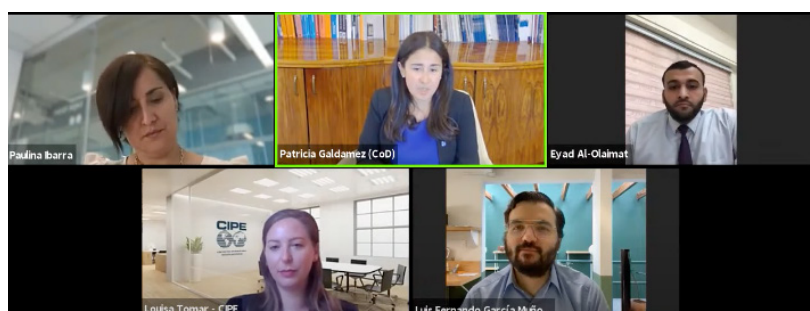
This virtual side event on the margins of the Tenth CoD Ministerial Conference discussed the critical value of education of women and girls for peacebuilding processes and conflict resolution. The event was organized in cooperation with the CoD Working Group on Women and Democracy and highlighted the disproportionate impact of war or conflict on women and girls, their education, and self-development.

“Education is good for peace; the greater education quality between male and female students decreases the likelihood of violent conflict by as much as 37 per cent,” underlined speaker Dr. Kathleen Kuehnast, Director of Gender Strategy at the United States Institute of Peace. Watch the entire event [here](#).



## Virtual event: Developing safeguards to prevent the abuse of new technologies and the growing influence of digital authoritarianism | September 28, 2021

The event discussed the growing influence of technologies that enable authoritarianism and the development of safeguards and multi-stakeholder models that can be put in place to prevent the abuse of new technologies. The event was organized by the CoD Working Group on Democracy and Technology. It featured speakers from Member State Georgia,



the Center for International Private Enterprise, OLIMAX Technology, the CoD Civil Society Pillar, Andreessen Horowitz, and Red en Defensa de Los Derechos Digitales. Watch the whole event [here](#).

## Activities

### New Security Leaders Program of the Warsaw Security Forum | October 1-4, 2021

The Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies hosted participants of the New Security Leaders program in its premises in Warsaw for two sessions discussing the Eastern Flank and Women, Peace and Security.



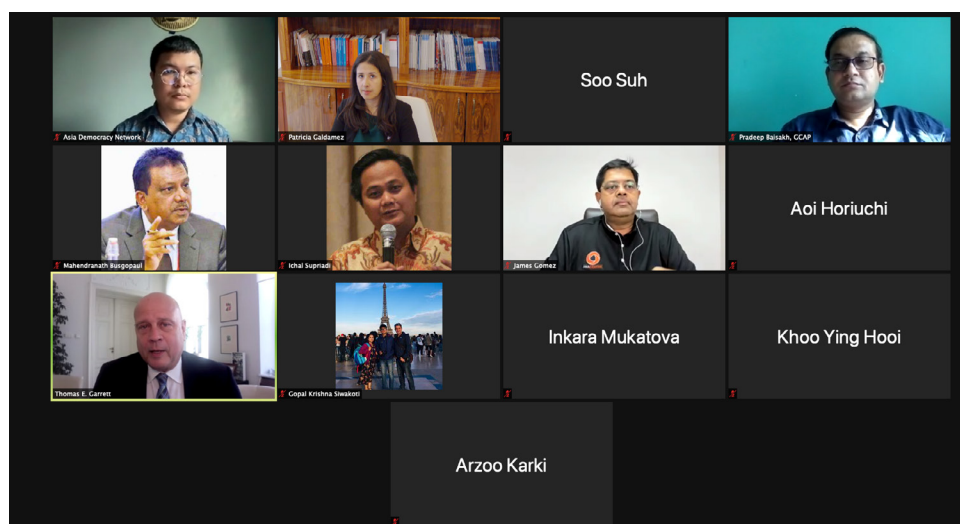
### The Forum 2000 Conference, Prague | October 10-12, 2021

The Secretary General participated in the panel discussion “Malign Foreign Influence: How Should Democracies Respond?,” joining speakers from Poland’s Gazeta Wyborcza and the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

### Virtual event: Asia/Africa Democracy Forum | October 26-28, 2021

Civil society organizations from Asia were joined in 2021 by their counterparts from Africa, to look at the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals and human rights in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It is no means an exaggeration to say Covid-19 poses a critical test to the worlds democracies and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030”- Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett opened the Asia/Africa Democracy Forum organized by Asia Democracy Network and the Community of Democracies. Read [full remarks](#).





## Secretary General and International Steering Committee joint mission to Finland | October 27-29, 2021

The Chair of the International Steering Committee and the Secretary General conducted a joint mission to Helsinki as part of Finland's decision to renew its membership on the CoD Governing Council. The mission met with high-level representatives of Finland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Finance, the parliament and civil society. In 2022, Finland and eight other nations will be considered for membership renewal.

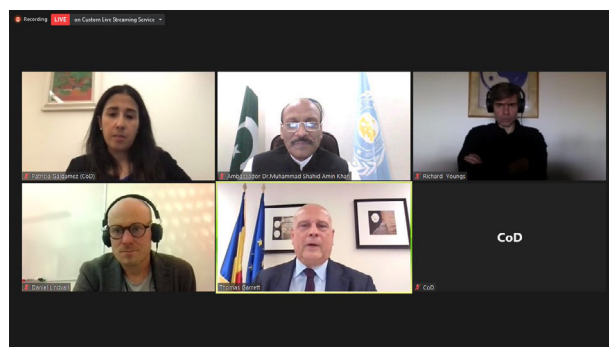


## Statement by the Secretary General of the Community of Democracies Thomas E. Garrett on the Situation in the Republic of Sudan | November 2, 2021

## Statement by Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett on Nicaragua's presidential elections | November 8, 2021

## Hybrid event: Climate Change - a Critical Test for Democracy | November 15, 2021

This global discussion looked at key recommendations from the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26). The event was opened by the Permanent Representative of Romania to UN Offices in Geneva and examined how democracies can address climate change and its consequences. Moderated by the Secretary General from the Offices of the Permanent Mission of Romania in Geneva, speakers from Carnegie Europe and Sweden's Uppsala University outlined various threats to democracy resulting from climate change as well as tools for democracies to better and more effectively address climate change. Watch the [full event](#).



## Remarks by the Secretary General to the UN Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law | November 16, 2021

The Secretary General spoke on the rule of law as promoted in the Warsaw Declaration to the hybrid Forum, following interventions by Romania, Italy and India. (read [full remarks](#)).

## Meeting of the Secretary General and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights | November 16, 2021

The Secretary General met with H.E. Ms. Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, in her offices in Geneva. The discussion looked at means of speaking more frequently to issues of democracy in Human Rights Council deliberations and the possible role of the Member States of the Governing Council of the Community of Democracies.





**Global Conference “Inclusive Democratic Participation to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism” | November 24-25, 2021**

Building on training sessions organized in July 2021 for Moroccan youth and civil society, the Global Conference provided a platform to discuss challenges and good practices preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) through inclusive democratic participation. The two-day hybrid event was held in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Morocco, under the patronage of CoD Presidency Romania. More than twenty expert speakers presented interventions on preventing youth radicalization through inclusion, the role of women in P/CVE and the importance of religious freedoms, among others. Read the SG’s [closing remarks](#).



**Future of Democracy Forum, Vilnius | November 19-20, 2021**

The Secretary General participated in the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ High-Level Forum on Defending Against Authoritarianism. During the Forum, he held bilateral meetings with Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Kara McDonald and with H.E. Dorde Radulovic, Foreign Minister of Montenegro.



**CoD engagement in the Summit for Democracy**

**Youth Assembly on the margins of the Summit for Democracy | December 6, 2021**

Championed by the CoD YouthLeads, the virtual Youth Assembly for the Summit for Democracy brought together 18- to 35- years old representatives from across the world.

The Assembly was kicked off with a conversation with USAID Administrator Samantha Power. During the event, youth participants focused on the three main areas of the Summit as well as voiced their democracy priorities. Ms. Lu Argueta, CoD YouthLead from El Salvador spoke to the issue of corruption, noting “The current generation of young people are finding creative and collective ways to push back against the damages given by corruption and the lack of transparency.” Watch [the full event](#).

YouthLeads and youth representatives also sent a [welcome message to the Summit for Democracy](#).



### Young Democratic Leaders Conversation | December 8, 2021

As part of the Summit for Democracy, on Day 0, the U.S. Secretary of State hosted an online discussion with young leaders from Zambia, Ukraine, Chile and the Philippines to explore what democracy means to youth, their critical role in promoting democracy, and ways to increase the participation and representation of young people in decision-making processes. The PSCD Program Officer and the CoD YouthLead from the Philippines took part in the discussion and provided highlights from the CoD Youth Assembly. [Watch the event](#) and [read full remarks](#).





[Statement by the Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett following the Summit for Democracy](#) | December 13, 2021

[Secretary General's Statement on Myanmar](#) | December 7, 2021 [link]

[CoD YouthLeads Call for Release of Activists in Belarus](#) | December 7, 2021 [link]

[SG Statement on International Anti-Corruption Day](#) | December 9, 2021 [link]

[Statement by the Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett on 2021 Human Rights Day](#) | December 10, 2021 [link]

The SG participated in the Warsaw Dialogue for Democracy | December 20, 2021 ([see remarks](#))

